

**FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
NOVEMBER 09, 2021**

PRESENT: Committee members - K. Swanson, E. Sowards, D. Cremeens, A. Normoyle, L. Moreno, J. Woods.

ABSENT: R. Simmer.

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Craver, District Director; April Palmer, Auditor(via zoom); Louisa Ewert, Treasurer; Kurt Davis, Information Systems Director.

President Swanson called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Executive Committee to order at 8:32 AM on Tuesday, November 09, 2021, in the third floor chambers at the Rock Island County Building in Rock Island, Illinois.

K. Swanson, D. Cremeens, A. Normoyle, J. Woods, L. Moreno, E. Sowards.

TOTAL PRESENT 6

R. Simmer.

TOTAL ABSENT 1

President Swanson called for a motion approving the October closed session and Committee meeting minutes.

MOTION: Mr. Cremeens moved to approve the October closed session and Committee meeting minutes. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Roll was called:

K. Swanson, D. Cremeens, A. Normoyle, J. Woods, L. Moreno, E. Sowards.

TOTAL YES 6

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$253,279.50.

MOTION: Ms. Normoyle moved to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$253,279.50. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

MOTION: Ms. Sowards moved to adopt the previous roll call. Ms. Normoyle seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the transfers of appropriation in the General Fund.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to approve the transfers of appropriation in the General Fund. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to adopt the previous roll call. Ms. Normoyle seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Resolutions pertaining to the Niabi Zoo Fund appropriation amendments for Animal Experiences and Rhinoceros Shade Structure.

MOTION: Ms. Normoyle moved to approve the Resolutions pertaining to the Niabi Zoo Fund appropriation amendments for Animal Experiences and Rhinoceros Shade Structure. Mr. Cremeens seconded the motion.

MOTION: Ms. Sowards moved to adopt the previous roll call. Ms. Normoyle seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the abatement ordinance pertaining to ordinance #11-01-17.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to approve the abatement ordinance pertaining to ordinance #11-01-17. Ms. Normoyle seconded the motion.

MOTION: Ms. Normoyle moved to adopt the previous roll call. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the abatement ordinance pertaining to ordinance #2016-0401.

MOTION: Ms. Normoyle moved to approve the abatement ordinance pertaining to ordinance #2016-0401. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

MOTION: Ms. Sowards moved to adopt the previous roll call. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson asked if anyone wished to make public comment.

There were no requests for public comment.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Illinois Clean Energy Foundation Pollinator Bluff Acquisition Grant Award Agreement.

MOTION: Ms. Normoyle moved to approve the Illinois Clean Energy Foundation Pollinator Bluff Acquisition Grant Award Agreement. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Mr. Craver stated that, as the Committee is aware, staff has been pursuing properties in East Moline to purchase for the purpose of restoration and conservation. This grant was applied for, and was rewarded 80% of purchase price and some of the closing costs. Plus \$10,000.00 for restoration activities. The three specific properties that the District applied for are Miller Holding property, Erie State Bank property, and a private land owner. In the grant application we did put in that District would be receiving \$75,000.00 from the conservation fund. In total the District was able to get a little over \$1.1 million to purchase these properties. The private land owner has indicated that he is willing to sell, but theirs is no agreement with him at this point in time. The District still needs a concurrence from the City of East Moline, and staff will be attending the East Moline City Council meeting on December 1st.

President Swanson asked if the "Pollinator Bluff" name was the actual name of the property, or if it is just a stand in for the agreements.

Mr. Craver stated that the name is just a stand in for the agreements.

President Swanson asked the Committee to consider "Âmôwaki." That's the Sauk word for bees. This is not something that needs to be considered right now, but certainly something to keep in mind as this moves forward.

MOTION: Ms. Normoyle moved to adopt the previous roll call. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the contingent land acquisition of approximately 89.38 acres from Miller Holdings, LLC.

MOTION: Ms. Woods moved to approve the contingent land acquisition of approximately 89.38 acres from Miller Holdings, LLC. Ms. Normoyle seconded the motion.

Mr. Craver stated that there is a verbal tentative agreement. The price is listed in the handout, which is an updated copy from what is in the packet. The District is responsible for paying the realtor fees at 6% and the taxes on the sale. There is a lease

that will need canceled before the final sale. The remaining 20% could come out of the Loud Thunder Endowment, as that money was donated with the expressed purpose of buying land. There are also some funds in the Marvin Martin Trust Fund that can be put towards the remaining amount not covered by the grant. The Marvin Martin Trust will also receive disbursement funds in early 2022. There is also General Fund as a possibility.

President Swanson stated that it would nice to limit the amount that was taken from the Loud Thunder Endowment Fund.

Mr. Cremeens asked to confirm that the remaining amount that the District would pay from its own funds was around \$200,000.00.

Mr. Craver stated that he estimated the District would need about \$250,000.00 - \$300,000.00 to meet the amount not cover by the grant. Also, please keep in mind that this acquisition will affect Illiniwek's budgeting as the property will need restored and maintained.

Ms. Sowards stated that she believed it would be best to leave General Fund off the table of possibilities for contributing to the amount not covered by the grant.

There was consensus from the Committee that the General Fund not be utilized in this way.

MOTION: Ms. Woods moved to adopt the previous roll call. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve contingent land acquisition of approximately 82.2 acres from Erie State Bank.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to approve contingent land acquisition of approximately 82.2 acres from Erie State Bank. Ms. Woods seconded the motion.

Mr. Craver stated that this agreement was similar in nature to the Miller Holdings agreement. There is no lease on this property, but there is a building. That building would need taken down and removed from the property within thirty days of purchase.

Ms. Normoyle asked if the building would leave a significant footprint to deal with.

Mr. Craver stated that there shouldn't be any lasting impact from the removal.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to adopt the previous roll call. Ms. Normoyle seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Dr. Moreno inquired about the damage to the restroom door at Loud Thunder Forest Preserve that was vandalized.

Mr. Craver stated that there were swear words painted on the door. There is a vandalism challenge going around on the popular social media site TikTok that is encouraging people to go out and vandalize restroom. Blackhawk State Park closed their restrooms, and there have been other places that have dealt with this issue as well.

Ms. Palmer added that this is not the only negative and harmful challenge going around TikTok. The Rock Island School District has had several issues with challenges as well.

President Swanson called the meeting adjourned at 9:08 AM.

Submitted by:
Cassie Sullivan
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant