

**FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
MARCH 8, 2022**

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

ABSENT: J. Woods.

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Craver, District Director; Lee Jackson, Zoo Director; Mike Petersen, Illiniwek Ranger; Ben Mills, Loud Thunder Ranger(via Zoom); Todd Collins, Club House Manager(via Zoom); April Palmer, Auditor(via zoom); Louisa Ewert, Treasurer(via Zoom); Kurt Davis, Information Systems Director.

President Swanson called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Executive Committee to order at 8:34 AM on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, in the third floor chambers at the Rock Island County Building in Rock Island, Illinois.

K. Swanson, D. Cremeens, A. Normoyle, E. Sowards, L. Moreno. [R. Simmer arrived at 8:42am.]

TOTAL PRESENT 6

J. Woods.

TOTAL ABSENT 1

President Swanson called for a motion approving the February Committee meeting minutes.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to approve the February Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Cremeens seconded the motion.

Roll was called:

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

TOTAL YES 5

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$755,676.62.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$755,676.62. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the District and the Foundation.

MOTION: Ms. Normoyle moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the District and the Foundation. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Ms. Normoyle asked how this MOU is different from past arrangements with the previous organization in order to help avoid the issues that the District had with the relationship with the previous organization.

Mr. Jackson stated that it was a pretty standard agreement to work together, and the agreement with the previous organization was not a standard agreement. Niabi has been working very closely with the development of the new foundation to work as a professional organization.

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

Motion carried.

President Swanson made three calls for public comment.

There were no requests for public comment.

President Swanson stated that the next item was an update on the naming of the new East Moline Preserve. There's been a lot of interest and support for the new Preserve. There will be a summary of the suggestions in April, though there is a handout of the suggestions so far for those who are interested in taking a look. In other news, there have been seven Amur Leopards born in the country this year, and two of those at Niabi.

President Swanson asked Mr. Petersen to speak on the grant was recently awarded to Illiniwek.

Mr. Petersen stated that an application was submitted two years ago for the bike path, road and restrooms. The District was recently notified that Illiniwek was awarded this grant. It's a reimbursable grant of \$200,000.00.

Dr. Simmer asked if the old bathroom would be torn down.

Mr. Petersen stated that it would. Also, there was a grant for trees that was recently awarded to Illiniwek.

Mr. Craver stated that the Committee should be aware that with fuel costs rising, and predicted to get as high as \$7.00 per gallon, that Indian Bluff may need to charge a fuel fee for cart rentals. The fee would only happen if fuel costs get up enough to need compensation. Once fuel costs came back down, the fee would be removed.

There was a brief discussion on how comparable the District was on cart fees.

President Swanson asked Mr. Jackson to speak on the grant that Niabi was recently granted.

Mr. Jackson stated that around two and a half years ago an application was submitted for a prairie dog grant. Niabi has recently been awarded that grant.

Dr. Simmer asked if the grant would cover the entire cost of the project, and where the exhibit would go.

Mr. Jackson stated that it should come close to the covering the project if not completely covering it. The exhibit will be located between the cat exhibit and the train tracks.

Dr. Moreno asked where the two Amur Leopard cubs will go.

Mr. Jackson stated that the cubs will be with Niabi for about two years. Then one will go to the Toledo Zoo, and the other will be sent to the Brookfield Zoo. When another animal is born it will become a part of Niabi's collection. Also, regarding the Painted Dog exhibit, that will be in the old lion exhibit. In the master plan the new lion exhibit would go in a different area of the zoo. In regards to the concessions at Niabi this year, as some know the company that has been running concessions is no longer doing concessions. Niabi is working with a local coffee house to provide box lunches and sandwiches for guests. There will be a smaller offering this season for concessions, and will hopefully bring the coffee shop fully onboard in 2023.

President Swanson asked Mr. Craver if there was anything from his report that he would like to bring attention to.

Mr. Craver stated that he and the Auditor were watching the zoo's cash balance very closely. For the grants that were discussed earlier, those are reimbursable grants. The District will be responsible for paying the initial costs, and then be reimbursed by the grant. Will likely need to loan Niabi those initial costs for the painted dog exhibit. The DFCI Fund will be a great help in getting these projects done. Will likely be waiting a few months before the District gets the grant agreements in place. There is still an outstanding grant application that Niabi is waiting to hear back about. In the packet there are t-shirt designs that MindFire designed for Illiniwek and Loud Thunder to sell in their camp offices. Staff is also looking into stickers and keychains.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the routine reports of the District Department heads.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to approve the routine reports of the District Department heads. Ms. Normoyle seconded the motion.

Roll was called:

K. Swanson, D. Cremeens, A. Normoyle, E. Sowards, L. Moreno, R. Simmer.

TOTAL YES 6

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

President Swanson called the meeting adjourned at 9:18 AM.

Submitted by:

Cassie Sullivan

Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant