

**ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION  
MARCH 15, 2022 – 6:30 PM  
PRESIDENT KAI SWANSON PRESIDING**

1. Karen Kinney, County Clerk, called the roll: (Record)

D. Adams, D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loftin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, M. Burns, J. Deppe, C. Enburg, E. Langdon, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, K. Swanson, L. Thompson, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl

**TOTAL PRESENT 21**

K. Bogdonas, D. Clevenger, D. Cremeens, J. Woods

**TOTAL ABSENT 4**

2. Commissioner Simmer moved to approve the February 15, 2022, Forest Preserve Commission meeting minutes, as presented. Commissioner Enburg seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Adams, D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loftin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, M. Burns, J. Deppe, C. Enburg, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, L. Thompson, B. Vyncke, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl

**TOTAL YES 20**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS: (None) Three calls to the public were made.**

4. **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:**

President Swanson stated, "Did you notice, friends...did you notice the world got cuter on February 24<sup>th</sup>? In part, that's because there are two baby Amur Leopards at Niabi Zoo. Kudos to Mr. Jackson and the entire staff for the hard work that goes into just being eligible to be a part of these programs because there are 60...an estimated 60 Amur Leopards left in the wild. Last year...all of last year, only seven successful births took place in captivity and we kicked it off with two. So, that's something that I think everybody in Rock Island County should be proud of. And, especially if you get a chance if you are out there, say thanks to those incredible staff members out at the zoo. This is really exciting. I know that they have had their first couple of 'well kitty' checks...and if you haven't seen the videos, they are just atrociously cute. So, check them out, talk it up and everybody get your memberships for the zoo because we are all going to expect to see you out there. A couple of other exciting things, uh not as cute...but, still very exciting, the outstanding staff have been awarded several major grants. A major grant for

more than \$400,000.00 for the zoo to help propel the Prairie Dogs Exhibit. That'll be going in out there and that's a highly engaging, entertaining and attractive exhibit. We should see more families going to get out there. Also, Mike Petersen out at Illiniwek has attracted a grant that will help with the road reconstruction. A lot of us who love Illiniwek know that the road is overly loved and needs a little fixing. And so, that will happen here soon. These things don't happen without a lot of staff being on the ball. So, congratulations to the staff and their leader, Director Craver, for everything they've done. You might recall, we are still looking for names for the new East Moline Preserve. (Holds up a list) Here...we are getting some good responses. So, we've got three pages of possible responses. We won't get into the specifics now, Ms. Sullivan will have them available if you would like to see them. But, next month Executive Committee will go over these and hopefully make a recommendation to the full Commission for a name for the new Forest Preserve. And finally, one great bit of news...it's quite timely because we are gathering tonight a very welcome email from Loud Thunder, reservations are now being taken for the 2022 camping season. And, if that's not a sure sign of spring...I don't know what is. So, make sure you get out to Loud Thunder and Illiniwek and visit all of these amazing parks and that's it for my report. I will give an opportunity for Commission Members to make a brief comment in just a moment."

5. Commissioner Beck moved to approve the Claims and Forest Preserve Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$755,676.62, as presented. Commissioner L. Moreno seconded.

Commissioner Simmer moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Sowards seconded.

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**TOTAL YES 20**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

6. Commissioner Adams moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the District and the Foundation, as presented. Commissioner Vyncke seconded.

President Swanson added, "Any questions? It's in your packet for review. Yes, Mr. Deppe, please. Can we make sure Mr. Deppe's microphone is on so the folks can hear at home?"

Ms. Kinney stated, "Yep, got it."

Commissioner Deppe was recognized.

Commissioner Deppe stated, "My question is...It says that there is a portal for all of us Board Members so that we can review the documents and go back and forth. Where is that and what's our access?"

President Swanson answered, "I think that's in reference to...well, this MOU is at Forest Preserve, uh... rifpd.org."

Mr. Deppe stated, "So, the Foundation shall keep all financial records, meeting minutes, agendas and legal documents...whereas the District current local Administration often and current documents are stored at an iCloud base which Google documents shall be accessible for all Board Members.

President Swanson stated, "Right. It'll be public too."

Commissioner Deppe asked, "So, I know everyone knows it's there...it's more of where is it at and how do we access it?"

(overlapping talking between Mr. Deppe and President Swanson)

President Swanson answered, "The Foundation will maintain that for their stuff. Thank you and thanks for lifting that up. I appreciate that. Are there any other questions or comments?"

Commissioner Deppe moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Sowards seconded.

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**TOTAL YES 20**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

## **8. Comments from Commissioners: (Two)**

Commissioner Simmer was recognized.

President Swanson stated, "Oh wait...Dr. Simmer, please."

Ms. Kinney stated, "Okay."

Mr. Simmer stated, "Alright...I am just reminding everybody to get your zoo memberships. I just did that this past week with my grand-daughter and daughter.

Also, the summer camp...that's open now too for everybody. I just got her signed up for that thing. There are multiple different sections for ages...early session, late session, morning session and afternoon session. There are plenty of spots available. And, I think that's what I was going to talk about."

President Swanson added, "And also there are opportunities for slightly older young people like teenagers and college kids. I want to thank Ms. Thompson, she connected with an inspiring zoologist, professionally trained and highly educated with the zoo...now there is a position there. He was a kid who grew up here, went away to school and now he's back so thank you. Yeah, there are lots of ways we can support it. So, are you gonna?" (Referenced Mr. Simmer if he had any other questions)

Mr. Simmer stated, "No."

President Swanson added, "So, thank you. Are there any other questions or comments from anybody at home?"

Commissioner Mielke stated, "Yes. This is Drue Mielke. I wanted to let everyone know that we are going to be continuing the Coal Valley newsletter monthly. And one of the things that I am going to feature is monthly updates from Niabi Zoo as they did with the Village. I want to put emphasis on that...it's a grass-roots newsletter, but it also covers a lot of the Village Municipal news, but it's something that's well-read and I wanted to share it with everyone."

President Swanson stated, "Thank you, Mr. Mielke. I appreciate your efforts in that regard. It's just another symbol that we all can do something to help promote the zoo. Is that someone else requesting to speak? I thought maybe I heard somebody else. Okay, I think that's it for Comments from Commissioners."

9. Commissioner L. Moreno moved to approve all Routine Reports from the Director and Departments Heads of the Forest Preserve Commission, as presented. Commissioner Thompson seconded.

President Swanson added, "Check out the packet, there are a lot of cool T-Shirt designs in there. Between me and Dr. Simmer, we are going to get a lot of people to spend all kinds of money."

Commissioner Simmer stated, "That's right."

(Group laughter)

President Swanson asked, "Are there any other questions or comments?"

Commissioner Deppe moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Vyncke seconded.

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**TOTAL YES**                    **20**

**TOTAL NO**                    **0**

Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Forest Preserve Commission is Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at 5:30pm, immediately following the meeting of the Rock Island County Board.

President Swanson declared the Forest Preserve Meeting recessed.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



KAREN KINNEY  
COUNTY CLERK AND SECRETARY  
OF THE FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

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