

**FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES  
APRIL 12, 2022**

**PRESENT:** Committee members - K. Swanson, E. Sowards, D. Cremeens, A. Normoyle, L. Moreno, R. Simmer(Via Zoom), J. Woods.

**ABSENT:**

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jeff Craver, District Director; Ben Mills, Loud Thunder Ranger(via Zoom); 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, April 12, 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(via Zoom), J. Woods.

**TOTAL PRESENT 7**

**TOTAL ABSENT 0**

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

**MOTION:** Ms. Normoyle moved to approve the March Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Cremeens seconded the motion.

Roll was called:

K. Swanson, D. Cremeens, A. Normoyle, E. Sowards, L. Moreno, J. Woods, R. Simmer(via Zoom).

**TOTAL YES 7**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$954,035.93.

**MOTION:** Dr. Moreno moved to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$954,035.93. 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 transfers of appropriation in District funds.

**MOTION:** Dr. Moreno moved to approve the transfers of appropriation in District funds. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the resolution regarding the appropriation amendment in the Niabi Zoo Fund – Concessions.

**MOTION:** Dr. Moreno moved to approve the resolution regarding the appropriation amendment in the Niabi Zoo Fund – Concessions. Mr. Cremeens seconded the motion.

**MOTION:** Ms. Normoyle 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 called for a motion to approve and bring into discussion the Support for extension for Silvis TIF District #8.

**MOTION:** Ms. Woods moved to approve and bring into discussion the Support for extension for Silvis TIF District #8. Ms. Normoyle seconded the motion.

Mr. Craver stated that it is for an extension of the TIF. The city administrator, Ms. Lemke, was not able to make the meeting this morning. If there are questions, they can be forwarded to her, and this matter can be tabled until those questions are answered.

Dr. Moreno stated that his main concern is that the TIF doesn't expire until 2029. They've got plenty of time to try and get someone in there. My issue is that those that receive the taxes from those properties have been waiting for this TIF to expire, so there are reservations about this.

Ms. Normoyle stated that having a map that shows the TIF Districts and when they expire would be helpful so that there is a better frame of reference for what the Committee is looking at. Another thing necessary to know is what the reasoning for the extension of the TIF.

President Swanson stated that in order to get an extension for a TIF, all the taxing bodies affected would have to support the extension. In general, TIFs are setup to expire, and when they expire the tax base is reset. For example, if the TIF is established when the tax base is one hundred, if it is extended, it stays at one hundred even though the value may be two hundred when the TIF is set to expire. If the TIF is allowed to expire, then redone which the city has every right to do, that TIF is at the current property value. Something to keep in mind when considering this matter. I believe Mr. Craver is correct in advising that the Committee table this matter until the Committee's questions can be answered.

Dr. Simmer stated that he supported tabling the issue until answers were available.

Mr. Craver informed the Committee that Silvis has some potential developers for some housing units and small retail businesses. Those folks are asking about the TIFs and possible extensions.

**AMENDED MOTION:** Dr. Moreno moved to table decision on approval of support letter until further information can be provided. Ms. Normoyle seconded the amended motion.

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

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the agreement with Hutchinson Engineering regarding engineering services for improvements at Illiniwek Preserve.

**MOTION:** Ms. Sowards moved to approve the agreement with Hutchinson Engineering regarding engineering services for improvements at Illiniwek Preserve. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried.

President Swanson stated that the next item was discussion for naming the new Preserve. It's been so exciting to see the engagement from the community on the new preserve. The Committee had previously been considering a name in the Sauk language, and I did reach out to the Sauk and Fox Nation as suggested. For clarification, this is not the Meskwaki Nation based in Tama, Iowa. That is a related group, and the language is very similar, but it is distinct. Eventually that lead me to the Director of the Department of Language for the Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma, Katie Moore. Explained what the District was trying to do, and she is very supportive. We can take, if we wish, other names and words to her, can take other names that are seen on

the compiled list of suggestions found in the packet. In the beginning though, the Committee discussed a name meaning, The Home of the Bees. Have been informed that while the pronunciation was correct, the spelling was not. The correct spelling is Âmowakiki. One of the 'ki's is silent. The best way to go about this is probably to work with MindFire. At this point I'd like to open up discussion to Committee. If there were any of the names suggested that jumped out as a great name for the new preserve, then we're happy to hear about it.

Ms. Normoyle stated that there were a few names that jumped out as names that might be confused for other places with the same names. Âmowakiki was really nice because it was distinctive.

President Swanson asked if the Committee wanted to forward the recommendation of Âmowakiki. There is still plenty of time to think on this.

Ms. Normoyle stated that since it isn't a time sensitive issue, and the Committee did ask the public for suggestions, it's likely best to take some time and contemplate the possibilities.

Mr. Craver confirmed that there was no rush. There are still several projects that need to be complete before the official opening of the preserve.

President Swanson stated that the next item up was to discuss the annual tradition of having the summer meetings at the District's preserves. Is that still something the Committee is interested in doing?

There was consensus to continue that practice.

Mr. Craver stated that in years past the Committee has started with Niabi and ended with Illiniwek. The time of the meeting is typically moved to the afternoon just for those meetings that take place at the preserves. The past few years the time has been 3:30pm, since that tends to work out best for staff. Perhaps this year the Committee would like to start with Illiniwek. That would provide opportunity to drive over and get better acquainted with the new preserve.

The Committee agreed to meet at 3:30pm for the on location meetings, and to start with Illiniwek so they could see the new preserve in person.

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.

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Craver stated that he had emailed out the preliminary concept plans for the parking lots for the new preserve. Notice that the parking is split because of the road. Originally, a gravel parking area was planned. However, in the past couple fiscal years the General Fund has managed a surplus. Half of that surplus will be loaned to the zoo fund for the initial expense of the prairie dog exhibit, because that is a reimbursable grant. The other half could also be given to the zoo to boost their fund balance. That would allow an adjustment to the levy, and the District could then use the DFCI fund monies for the projects that were originally intended. The other half can be used on the parking area project in order to have a more durable parking surface. Staff anticipates that this preserve will see relatively heavy traffic year round, since it is in a more populated area. Options for a more durable surface would be chip'n'seal, asphalt, concrete, or permeable pavers. Will need some direction from the Committee on how to bid out the parking area project.

President Swanson expressed interest in making the parking area more durable than gravel.

Ms. Normoyle stated that she was in favor of the permeable pavers. It's the District's responsibility to set a good model in caring for the land that we have. While the pavers would be more expensive, they are also the best option for caring for and preserving the land the District stewards.

Mr. Craver stated that he would put out the bid for the pavers with an alternative option of concrete. The permeable paver has always been a very desirable option especially when doing the parking lot at Niabi Zoo because of the water shed and storm water issues. Currently staff is putting their time and energy into the Miller property, and that's the first bid that will go out.

President Swanson called the meeting adjourned at 9:12 AM.

Submitted by:  
Cassie Sullivan  
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant