

**ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION
APRIL 19, 2022 – 6:52 PM
PRESIDENT KAI SWANSON PRESIDING**

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

D. Adams, D. Beck, K. Bogdonas, L. Boswell-Loftin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, M. Burns,
D. Cremeens, 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 23

D. Clevenger, J. Woods

TOTAL ABSENT 2

2. President Swanson stated, "Thank you very much. Thanks for being here this evening. I am pleased we have a chance to learn a little bit more about the District this evening. I think anybody who talks to folks that golf at Indian Bluff can tell you it's one of the most beautiful courses. You are going to see some of the loveliest landscapes. And, the person largely responsible for that is the Superintendent there for all of the grounds. And that is Jay Verstraete. So, Mr. Verstraete, I am turning the floor over to you."

Mr. Verstraete stated, "Thank you, Mr. Swanson. Um, like said, my name is Jay Verstraete. I am the Superintendent of Indian Bluff Golf Course Forest Preserve out there. I have been out there for...this is my 18th year anniversary on April 8th. So, I am still plugging along and doing what we do. The last couple of years have been interesting as everybody knows. It's the first time seeing some of these faces in some time, but fortunately, if anything came out of the last two years...there is a big uptick in the game of golf. So, we've been a lot more busy and seen many new faces; which is a good thing. Things kind of stagnated for a while with the game itself. And, fortunately, with everybody kind of anxious to get back out and explore the worlds again. We see a lot of new faces and you know...some increased business. That's definitely what we are about to the core. But, three years ago now was the last time I was in here talking to everybody...we had started the cart path installation project that we completed phase I of last year. And, it's actually paid off several times. It's helped us keep the golf course open under conditions that we would have otherwise closed. And so, ya know...going forward that's going to eventually pay for itself. It's not overnight, but it's definitely going to help. Um, I think food for thought in the future we've got phase II in the works. It will probably be a little less expensive than the first one because several holes on the back nine have already had newer cart paths; which is due to construction over the years. Uh, we put a little money into the concession stand on hole number four and eleven there...put a new roof on it and refurbished the bathrooms addressing some of our customers concerns from a survey from a

couple of years ago. We were just kind of poking at the customers to see what they want to see changed about the facility or improved. That was one of the things...some of the infrastructure was fallen by the wayside of disrepair over the years. So, we addressed that and they wanted to see some changes with the golf course. We built new tee's...both longer ones and shorter ones to accommodate better players and newer players. That's been well received. We took down the last of our ash trees thanks to the emerald ash bore. We definitely got some different looks on some of the holes out there. But, fortunately, for some of the situations...it worked out really well. Um, there were some trees that needed to go anyway...they were out-grown where they were. So, we didn't really lose anything out of that deal. We have plenty of firewood to burn in our shop thanks to the cold winters. Uh...going forward we are probably going to have to put some money in the next five to ten years in a new parking lot resurfacing. It's getting pretty bad...it's old. It was built on fill from the airport over the years. It is what it is...an asphalt parking lot just kind of settles out over time. So, it's probably going to be on the list of things in the coming years. But, all in all...it's been pretty good. Um, the customers coming out there and if mother nature would cooperate, I think we would have a really good season coming up in a month or so. So, you know...I just think if we could maybe make a couple of tweaks in the customer service department as far as amenities or things that we offer concession-wise. Maybe better food and drink offerings or try to put together some in-house sponsored events to attract a little bit more people using the facility. We have a great private area out there, you know...that will hold 250-300 people. It's not very well known but we've been doing a little bit more to get that out there and getting people using it and promoting that. So, I think going forward, we've got a really nice facility and as I said, if it would ever green up, it would be really good. You know, eventually...hopefully, the guy who owns the farm field to the South of the property would sell it to us...but other than that, you know, it is what it is. It's an old golf course, but we've made some really positive changes and it's been well-received. So, we'll keep doing us."

President Swanson stated, "Thank you, Mr. Verstraete. Do you have any questions for Jay while he is here with us this evening? Ms. Normoyle...make sure your microphone is active."

Commissioner Normoyle was recognized.

Ms. Normoyle asked, "Thank you for the report. That's very helpful but I would say you are optimistic about the parking lot from the last time I was out there. Are you really thinking it's going to go another five to ten years?"

Mr. Verstraete answered, "Probably not...maybe five."

(Group laughter)

Ms. Normoyle added, "Yeah...obviously, we need to be prepared for that."

Mr. Verstraete added, "Yeah...it's at the top of the list of what needs to be changed and you know how that goes. Our bathrooms on hole number ten...the floor in there has cracked and it's giving because of the frost heave. It's getting to be probably less than safe...for you know, people just walking in and out of there. So, that is something that needs to be addressed in a couple of years as well. But, the parking lot is definitely at the top of the list. It's failing fast."

President Swanson stated, "Thank you, Ms. Normoyle. Dr. Moreno."

Commissioner L. Moreno was recognized.

Mr. L. Moreno stated, "Let the folks know about the cool trail that is out there that is natural from the Native Americans."

Mr. Verstraete stated, "Yeah. Um, we have actually one of the last remaining sections...in this area anyway, of Sauk Fox Trail out there on the golf course. It is kind of an unassuming little dent in the ground if you didn't know what it is. But, it is quite a neat...it should probably have a historical marker on it somehow. I don't know if that is something that we can contact the State or somebody in that department to bring out there. To the best of my knowledge, it's one of the last sections of it that's still identifiable here in this area. And, it's...so, we've got at least a quarter mile of it out there, it meanders along a few of the golf holes. If you don't know what it is or you know what it is...I think it's really neat. Um, like I said...it's an unassuming little dent in the ground to the untrained eye, but it is very historical. Some of that ground has been undisturbed for thousands of years."

Mr. L. Moreno stated, "Can you tell how it was formed?"

Mr. Verstraete answered, "Um...really it's from hundreds and hundreds of years of humans (Indians) and animals walking along the same spot over and over again between the highlands and the lowlands...the natives would spend the summers at the times of the year when there weren't any floods around the Rock River Valley. And, then the waters would rise and come back up to the top of the hillsides and whatever. So, basically, it is an ancient road. Obviously, the golf course wasn't a golf course a thousand years ago when it was all forest and timber area. They had formed that little path that was a part of their trail system. There are old maps that exist that show the entire known Sauk Fox Trails that meandered up to Wisconsin and down to Nauvoo and all of that. And, unfortunately, I don't have any of that out at the golf course anymore. When I first started there, we did have an old newspaper from the 40's that did a pretty cool writeup on it and time took a toll on that and so. But, we would definitely like to get a historical marker to identify the area. It's pretty cool. Yeah, come out and see it. I am here eight days a week and so."

(Group laughter)

President Swanson stated, "Mr. Deppe...wait until we get your mic on."

Ms. Kinney stated, "It's on."

President Swanson asked, "Oh, it is on...okay."

Mr. Deppe stated, "Would this path be something that we could bring the Blackhawk kids out there...since I sit on the Board?"

Mr. Verstraete replied, "Thank you for reminding me about that, yes."

Mr. Deppe stated, "Okay."

President Swanson added, "We've had a tremendous partnership. Thank you, Mr. Deppe, for bringing that up."

Mr. Deppe added, "Saving labor."

Mr. Verstraete added, "They have done a few projects for us out there. And, that's right in their wheelhouse. The guys at work were just talking about that a few days ago. And so, thanks for reminding me about that...yeah. Mr. Craver sent out an email a few weeks ago that I was copied in with Mr. Fessler...is that his name?"

President Swanson confirmed, "Paul Fessler."

Mr. Verstraete added, "I do need to reach out to him because like I said, that's right in their wheelhouse. It's something that they do."

Mr. Deppe added, "And, we'll get those kids golfing too."

Mr. Verstraete stated, "And, we need it too."

President Swanson stated, "And, it's not just about saving labor...we are investing into tomorrow's labor."

Mr. Verstraete replied, "That's right."

President Swanson asked, "Are there any other questions or comments? The historian in me wanted to point it out it's not the Sauk Fox Trail...it's actually...that's been walked before the Cahokia, the Peoria, the Kaskaskia...yeah, the Ottawa's, the Potawatomi's. I mean, that goes way, way back. It was like an Interstate 80. Yeah."

Mr. Verstraete stated, "Yeah."

President Swanson stated, "Thank you very much. Are there any other questions for Jay, while we still have him here? Very well...Jay, thank you. I know this extends your day quite a bit but it helps us make better decisions."

Mr. Verstraete stated, "Absolutely."

President Swanson added, "It puts us on notice about parking lots."

Mr. Verstraete replied, "Thank you."

President Swanson stated, "Thank you, Jay...we appreciate it. Alright. Back into the Agenda here."

3. Commissioner Adams moved to approve the March 15, 2022, Forest Preserve Commission meeting minutes, as presented. Commissioner McNeil seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

TOTAL YES 22

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

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

5. **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:**

President Swanson stated, "Just briefly, the two amur leopard cubs have been named...Mura and Antine. These are names from the Ukrainian language and tradition. Mura refers to one with great grace. Antine refers to one deserving of praise. So, those are some pretty regal names for some awfully cute little cubs. I just want to thank the staff. I went out on Monday...there weren't many of us, it was kind of cold. But the staff did an extraordinary job in the off season. We are just waiting for that warm weather. There is so much to greet you out at the zoo. I hope you get out there as soon as you possibly can. All of the preserves have a bit of a slow start due to the inclement weather but we hope that spring is coming. You hear that spring...you ARE coming!! So, we can get people out to enjoy the preserves. Just one little word and most of you know...we accepted input on names for the new Forest Preserve. We are still working through that process. I

want to thank everybody who made a nomination. And, just because it was mentioned in the past...we had several names that were submitted in Native languages. Uh, there is a distinction, of course, between Meskwaki and Sauk. And, we've been in touch with the Sauk Nation; headquartered in Oklahoma about names that they would feel are appropriate...because we wouldn't want to give it a name that they would not feel is appropriate. And that process continues and maybe in a month or so, we'll have a more detailed report for you on that. That's it for my comments...and a little bit later in the agenda, if you have questions for me, I am more than happy to address them. Let's move on."

6. Commissioner Sowards moved to approve the Claims and Forest Preserve Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$954,035.93, as presented. Commissioner Adams seconded.

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

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

TOTAL YES 22

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

7. Commissioner L. Moreno moved to waive the reading and approve the Transfers of Appropriation, as presented. Commissioner Enburg seconded.

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

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

TOTAL YES 22

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

8. Commissioner Normoyle moved to waive the reading and approve the Resolution regarding the Appropriation Amendment in the Niabi Zoo Fund - Concessions, as presented. Commissioner Thompson seconded.

RESOLUTION

RE: Fiscal Year 2022 Niabi Zoo Fund Appropriation Amendments for Zoo Concession Operations

WHEREAS, Niabi Zoo was not able to acquire a concessionaire for the 2022 operating season after requesting proposals from the public, and

WHEREAS, management and oversight of the concession operations at Niabi Zoo will be conducted by District staff, and

WHEREAS, funds are required for staffing and concession operation expense for the FY 22 Niabi Zoo Fund, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Forest Preserve Commission of Rock Island County, Rock Island, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION 1. An emergency exists as outlined above.

SECTION 2. Revenues in the amount of \$23,452.00 shall be increased from the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$23,452.00	131-32 362.59	Zoo Concessions

SECTION 3. Expenditures in the amount of \$23,452.00 shall be increased from the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

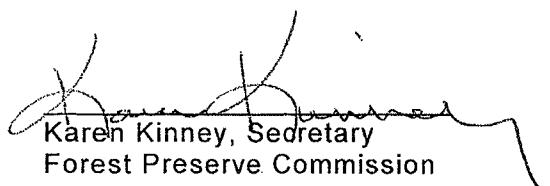
AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$11,952.00	131-32-10 411.10	Seasonal Salaries & Wages
\$10,000.00	131-32-10 526	Food Purchase
\$1,500.00	131-32-10 522	Operating Supplies

SECTION 4. This resolution to become effective immediately.

ADOPTED by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 19th day of April, 2021.



Kai Swanson, President
Forest Preserve Commission



Karen Kinney, Secretary
Forest Preserve Commission

Commissioner Beck moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Adams seconded.

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

TOTAL YES 22

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

9. Commissioner Vyncke moved to approve the Hutchinson Engineering Agreement for engineering services for improvements at Illiniwek, as presented. Commissioner Normoyle seconded.

(Note** The Agreement is in .pdf format and begins on the next page.)

AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

THIS AGREEMENT made this _____ day of April, 2022 by and between

Rock Island County Forest Preserve District

19406 Loud Thunder Road, Illinois City, IL 61259

hereinafter called the OWNER and **Hutchison Engineering, Inc.**,
1801 W. Lafayette Avenue, P. O. Box 820, Jacksonville, IL 62651, hereinafter called the ENGINEER.

WITNESSETH: That whereas the OWNER desires Professional Engineering or Land Survey Services as follows:

Design and construction engineering services for Iliniwek Park Improvements

See Exhibit A – Scope of Services

NOW THEREFORE:

The ENGINEER AGREES to provide the above-described services in accordance with the generally accepted engineering practices.

The OWNER AGREES to compensate the ENGINEER for the actual time spent in providing the above-described services in accordance with the ENGINEER's attached Schedule of Hourly Charges in effect at the time the services are performed, unless otherwise provided herein. **The Not-to-Exceed amount is \$125,000.**

IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED:

Payment for the services rendered shall be made monthly in accordance with invoices issued by the ENGINEER. Invoices not paid within thirty (30) days from the date of the invoice will be considered delinquent and shall bear interest at the rate of 12% per annum from the date of invoice until fully paid and OWNER shall be liable to ENGINEER for any reasonable attorney's fees, court costs or related expenses incurred in connection with the effort to collect said delinquencies. Services may be suspended by ENGINEER if payments are not paid within thirty (30) days of OWNER's receipt of invoice. In the event that the ENGINEER deems that a lien or other legal action is necessary to enforce collection of services rendered, the OWNER shall bear all lien fees, legal expenses and court costs.

Either the OWNER or the ENGINEER may terminate this agreement at any time by giving the other party five (5) days written notice thereof, in which case, the ENGINEER shall be paid in full for all services performed to the date of termination.

The OWNER agrees to limit the ENGINEER's liability to the OWNER and to all construction contractors and sub-contractors on the PROJECT, due to the ENGINEER's negligent acts, errors or omissions, such that the total aggregate liability of the ENGINEER to all those named shall not exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) or the ENGINEER's total fee for services rendered on this PROJECT, whichever is greater.

IT IS FURTHER MUTUALLY AGREED:

The OWNER and the ENGINEER each binds himself, his partners, successors, executors, administrators and assignees to each other party hereto in respect to all the covenants and agreements herein and except as above, neither the OWNER nor the ENGINEER shall assign or transfer any part of his interest in this AGREEMENT without the written consent of the other party hereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have made and executed this AGREEMENT as of the day and year first above written.

OWNER:

Rock Island County Forest Preserve District

By: Karen

Title: President

ENGINEER:

HUTCHISON ENGINEERING, INC.

By: W. Sean L.

Title: Vice President

Commissioner Westpfahl was recognized

Mr. Westpfahl asked, "What is it...the improvements you are making? It doesn't say."

President Swanson asked, "Mr. Craver? Do you want to elucidate us?"

Mr. Craver stated, "It's for the recreation trail program grant that... we received at Illiniwek Forest Preserve for the road, to amend the trail and the restrooms."

President Swanson reiterated, "For those at home if you didn't hear that...if you remember at the past meeting, we approved a grant we have been awarded thanks to the leadership out at Illiniwek and Mr. Craver to improve the road and trail, and improve the restroom. That will take care of the engineering of that project. Mr. Westpfahl, does that answer your question?"

Mr. Westpfahl answered, "Yes, it does. (Inaudible)...said that."

President Swanson stated, "Thank you...seeing no other questions?"

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

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

TOTAL YES 22

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

10. Comments from Commissioners: (One)

Commissioner Deppe was recognized.

Mr. Deppe stated, "I thought it was really cool when I had seen how many people had responded with that name. I am hoping when it goes forward there is a contest for citizens to pick like we were talking because it really enlightened me to see how engaged the public really is on this. I hope that's where we go with it."

President Swanson added, "Thank you. I appreciate that...that was a suggestion from the executive committee and we are very grateful to have that. So, other comments or questions from commissioners? Okay, we are starting to smell the hay in the barn, I believe."

(Group laughter)

11. Commissioner Adams moved to approve all Routine Reports from the Director and Departments Heads of the Forest Preserve Commission, as presented. Commissioner Deppe seconded.

President Swanson asked, "Are there any other questions about the reports? I hope you get a chance to take a look at it. There is a lot of good stuff going on despite the weather. Seeing none, I entertain a motion to adopt the previous roll."

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

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

TOTAL YES 22

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

12. President Swanson stated, "We will entertain a motion to go into closed session as per 5 ILCS 120/(2)(c)1 for the purpose of contract approval. I'll need a motion to that affect from Mr. L. Burns and Mr. Deppe seconded."

A roll call vote was taken.

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

TOTAL YES 19

R. Morthland, R. Simmer, J.R. Westpfahl

TOTAL NO 3

Motion carried. Time is 7:14pm

Time is 7:16pm

13. Commissioner L. Burns moved to go back into open session. Commissioner Adams seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

TOTAL YES 22

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried. We are back in open session.

14. Commissioner Deppe moved to pass the Local 2025A Bargaining Labor Agreement, as discussed in closed session. Commissioner Vyncke seconded.

Commissioner Adams moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner L. Burns seconded.

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

TOTAL YES 22

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Forest Preserve Commission is Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at 5:30pm, immediately following the meeting of the Rock Island County Board.

President Swanson declared the Forest Preserve Meeting recessed.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

*Nick Camlin - Chief Dep
for Karen Kinney*

KAREN KINNEY
COUNTY CLERK AND SECRETARY
OF THE FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

KK:rw