

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

**PRESENT:** Committee members - A. Normoyle, E. Sowards, D. Cremeens, J. Woods, L. Moreno, R. Simmer.

**ABSENT:** K. Swanson.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jeff Craver, District Director; Lee Jackson, Niabi Zoo Director; April Palmer, Auditor; Nevada Lemke, City of Silvis, City Administrator.

Dr. Moreno called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Executive Committee to order at 3:30 PM on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, in the Administration Building at Niabi Zoo in Coal Valley, Illinois.

D. Cremeens, E. Sowards, J. Woods, L. Moreno, A. Normoyle, R. Simmer.

**TOTAL PRESENT 6**

K. Swanson.

**TOTAL ABSENT 1**

Dr. Moreno called for a motion approving the June Committee meeting minutes.

**MOTION:** Ms. Woods moved to approve the June Committee meeting minutes. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Dr. Moreno called on Ms. Nevada Lemke, City of Silvis Administrator.

Ms. Lemke thanked Dr. Moreno, and stated that she has been the City Administrator for a year. Have been emailing with Mr. Craver regarding support about an extension of the Silvis TIF District #8. Each agency that is affected by the TIF must sign off on the extension. Currently the extension is set to end in 2030, and the city is asking for a twelve-year extension. The area is between Illini Dr. and Ave of the Cities. Developers are looking at that area for multi-family housing and retail space. Silvis is also trying to work with nearby cities in improving the water infrastructure, and the city is wanting to improve the roads around the hospital. So far verbal support has been given from UTHS, EMSD, BHCC, and Hampton Township. Will still need support from Metropolitan Airport Authority, Illini Hospital, Rock Island County, and Metro-Transit Board.

Dr. Simmer asked how much this extension would cost the schools.

Ms. Lemke stated that there was a breakdown of cost on page three of the handout. City of Silvis is aware that this is a big ask for the schools, and the city has intergovernmental agreements with the schools to mitigate the impact. The TIFs that

City of Silvis has are working out very well, and as designed. TIF #4 and #5 just expired and put \$1,400,000.00 on the tax rolls. A developer has just signed a contract for that TIF District, and there are other developers waiting to see how things go with the extension before signing deals for development. In regards to the water line infrastructure needed for that area, the city is hoping to take on that whole cost, and not have to burden the families living in that area with the cost.

Dr. Simmer asked what businesses are currently there.

Ms. Lemke stated that ORA just signed on to open up offices in that area. There are several developers interested in the area near the Dairy Queen and a few other small businesses.

Mr. Cremeens asked if the mines were going to affect the ability to develop that area.

Ms. Lemke stated that they would not affect the development of the area.

Dr. Moreno thanked Ms. Lemke for her time and the information for the Committee to consider in this decision.

Dr. Moreno called for a motion to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$269,519.23.

**MOTION:** Mr. Cremeens moved to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$269,519.23. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Dr. Moreno called for a motion to approve the transfers of appropriation in District funds.

**MOTION:** Ms. Normoyle moved to approve the transfers of appropriation in District funds. Ms. Woods seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

There were no requests for public comment.

Dr. Moreno called for a motion to approve the resolution regarding fiscal year 2022 Personal Property Tax & fiscal year 2022 expenditures.

**MOTION:** Ms. Woods moved to approve the resolution regarding fiscal year 2022 Personal Property Tax & fiscal year 2022 expenditures. Mr. Cremeens seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Dr. Moreno called for a motion to approve the resolution regarding the fiscal year 2022 Niabi Fund Appropriation Amendment – Rhino Yard Improvement.

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to approve the resolution regarding the fiscal year 2022 Niabi Fund Appropriation Amendment – Rhino Yard Improvement. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Dr. Moreno called for a motion to approve the resolution regarding fiscal year 2023 General Fund Appropriation Amendments.

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to approve the resolution regarding fiscal year 2023 General Fund Appropriation Amendments. Ms. Woods seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Dr. Moreno called for a motion to approve the resolution regarding fiscal year 2023 Niabi Fund Appropriation Amendments.

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to approve the resolution regarding fiscal year 2023 Niabi Fund Appropriation Amendments. Mr. Cremeens seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Dr. Moreno called for a motion to approve the resolution regarding Support for the Quad City Convention & Visitors Bureau.

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to approve the resolution regarding Support for the Quad City Convention & Visitors Bureau. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Dr. Moreno called for a motion to approve the service agreement with MindFire Communications for Social Media management for the District.

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to approve the service agreement with MindFire Communications for Social Media management for the District. Ms. Normoyle seconded the motion.

Mr. Craver stated that there was a mid-year report included with the agreement. The amount is increasing, and MindFire has done an excellent job in handling social media for the District.

Motion carried.

Dr. Moreno called for a motion to approve the change to the Procedure Manual – Purchasing Policy.

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to approve the change to the Procedure Manual – Purchasing Policy. Mr. Cremeens seconded the motion.

Mr. Craver stated that there was a change to the Downstate Forest Preserve Act, and the changes to the policy reflect that.

Motion carried.

Dr. Moreno called for a motion to approve the purchase of John Deere tractor & attachments minus trade-in for \$20,422.67.

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to approve the purchase of John Deere tractor & attachments minus trade-in for \$20,422.67. Ms. Normoyle seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Dr. Moreno asked Ms. Palmer if there was anything she'd like to lift up from her report.

Ms. Palmer stated that the fiscal year ended on June 30<sup>th</sup>. There are 60 days that the District is allotted to back-date both revenue and expenses into the previous fiscal year. There will be second close-out reports for the Trial Balance and Fund Balance reports next month. There is nothing of particular note on the reports.

Dr. Moreno called on Mr. Jackson for an update on Niabi.

Mr. Jackson stated that he and research collaborators with the University of Dubuque and University of Kansas are going to be working with the University of Tennessee to produce a world-wide assessment of land use and its effect on conservation of fishes. There will likely be a total of one hundred collaborators on the project. It's a good way to get Niabi's name out there, and it's using data from studies that Niabi has been involved in before. Have been meeting with designers for the Prairie Dog Exhibit, and there is a design now. Staff has re-formed the Safety Committee, and finalized procedures for how that will run. Niabi has also received a grant for updated graphics for the Gibbons exhibit. Mr. Vanderbush has been elected to the Executive Committee chair to the Quad Cities Earth Coalition. As some of you know, Niabi is a member of ZCOG, the Zoo Conservation Outreach Group. It is a group of zoos that focuses conservation effects on Central and South America. There's a new initiative going on where Niabi has been asked to champion some species. By working ZCOG on this project Niabi gains access to funding and grants that we normally wouldn't have. For instance, Niabi could get grants through the AZA which Niabi is not a member of. The animal Niabi is looking at is one that not many have heard of as it was only discovered in 1994. It is a mammal called the tuco-tuco. Painted Dog project is going well. Still

waiting on the disbursement from the state. Currently at \$475,511.49, which is about what is needed for the project.

Mr. Cremeens asked if there had been any issues with the train this season.

Mr. Jackson stated that the train is running well this year. The train is about 17 years old, and staff is still looking to get a second engine. That expense is probably about five years down the line. There are electric engines now that are less maintenance, and more ecological to run. Those engines are around \$300,000.00.

Mr. Craver gave a brief overview of the happenings at the other preserves of the District.

Dr. Moreno called for a motion to approve the routine reports of the District Department heads.

**MOTION:** Ms. Woods moved to approve the routine reports of the District Department heads. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Dr. Moreno called the meeting adjourned at 4:31 PM.

Submitted by:  
Cassie Sullivan  
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant