

**FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
AUGUST 09, 2022**

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

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Craver, District Director; Ben Mills, Loud Thunder Ranger; April Palmer, Auditor; Kayle Ziegenhorn; Crystal Bower.

President Swanson called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Executive Committee to order at 3:33 PM on Tuesday, August 09, 2022, in the Park Office at Loud Thunder Forest Preserve in Illinois City, Illinois.

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

TOTAL PRESENT 7

TOTAL ABSENT 0

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

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

Roll was called:

K. Swanson, A. Normoyle, E. Sowards, J. Woods, R. Simmer.

TOTAL YES 5

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

President Swanson asked if the two members of the public wished to address the Committee at that time instead of waiting until the part on the agenda when public comment is listed.

Kayle Ziegenhorn introduced herself and stated she was here to express the frustration with the trail closures. Also have some solutions. I understand that money is always a factor. There is a website that tracks rainfall at specific addresses. Have been tracking since June 10th. From that date to July 31st the trails have been closed 29 days, and there has been a total of 7.76 inches in that time. The Illinois Horse Council and Back Country Horsemen suggest that every half an inch of rain trails be closed for 24 hours. There is also the option of putting in "geo tech" or a little rock on the trail. The frequency of closure is why horse people don't camp. There should be a way to make the trails more sustainable.

President Swanson thanked Ms. Ziegenhorn for the information, but wanted to remind everyone that nothing could be debated or decided today because the subject isn't on the agenda. Staff is happy to give consideration to this information.

Crystal Bower introduced herself and stated that Mr. Mills had always been great at reaching out to the equestrian community, and keeping lines of communication open. I have had an equestrian tell me that the rangers can get rude when rules are not followed, and wanted to let Mr. Mills know.

President Swanson thanked Ms. Bower for coming out and bringing the staff's attention to possible issues.

Dr. Simmer asked Ms. Ziegenhorn if she had found a sign for the camp ground that she said she would find to address her concerns about mixing equestrians with non-equestrians.

Ms. Zeigehorn stated that she had not found any that seemed appropriate.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$364,457.72.

MOTION: Ms. Woods moved to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$364,457.72. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the transfers of appropriation in District funds.

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

MOTION: Ms. Woods moved to adopt the previous roll call. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

There were no further requests for public comment.

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

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the resolution regarding fiscal year 2022 Personal Property Tax & fiscal year 2022 expenditures. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the resolution regarding the fiscal year 2022 Niabi Fund Prairie Dog Grant Appropriations.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the resolution regarding the fiscal year 2022 Niabi Fund Prairie Dog Grant Appropriations. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to lay on display for thirty days the fiscal year 2024 Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinances for the General Fund, Niabi Zoological Preserve Fund, IMRF Retirement Fund, Liability Fund, FISSA Fund, Audit Fund, and Development of Forests & Construction of Improvement Fund.

MOTION: Ms. Normoyle moved to lay on display for thirty days the fiscal year 2024 Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinances for the General Fund, Niabi Zoological Preserve Fund, IMRF Retirement Fund, Liability Fund, FISSA Fund, Audit Fund, and Development of Forests & Construction of Improvement Fund. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to adopt the previous roll call. Ms. Woods seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson asked Mr. Craver who was presenting at the August Commission meeting.

Mr. Craver answered that Mr. Jackson was presenting at Commission this month.

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

Ms. Palmer stated that the District had until the end of August to back date expenses and revenues into the previous fiscal year. That's why there are more reports than usual. Niabi is starting strong this year, which is great to see.

President Swanson called on Mr. Mills for an update on Loud Thunder.

Mr. Mills stated that there are a few creek crossings on the trails that will need culverts, and many trees need to be removed. The gravel pads in the horse corral campground have settled, and will be getting some fresh rock to level them out. The safety video for the boat rental that the District had to start having people watch this year is going over better than expected.

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

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

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

Motion carried.

President Swanson called the meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM.

Submitted by:
Cassie Sullivan
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant