

**ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION  
AUGUST 16, 2022 – 6:41 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, J. Woods

**TOTAL PRESENT 23**

D. Clevenger, J. Deppe

**TOTAL ABSENT 2**

2. President Swanson stated, "Thank you. At this time, it would be my great pleasure to call forward Mr. Lee Jackson, the Director of Niabi Zoo, who is going to provide a report on things that are happening. And if you've been following in the media, a lot of things are happening. Uh, hopefully you've also been following your regular reports from Mr. Jackson; which indicate that there is continued progress on the strategic plan that this Commission approved some time ago. We are just waiting for a little technology, here. We get a presentation. Thank you, Mr. Jackson for being with us, the floor is yours."

Mr. Jackson stated, "Thank you. I was asked to come in and give you guys just a quick update on some of the things going on at the zoo. We've got a lot of things happening...a lot of our projects are actually coming to fruition. This first photo that you see...or this first slide, many of you may recall this from our Master Plan. The layout of the zoo with the new enclosures and new exhibits that are being placed. You can see at the top of the slide there...for lack of a better term, is the Prairie Dog exhibit. We charted some artists renditions of that exhibit that we can share with you now. Planning for that exhibit is effectively finished today. We will be working over the next few days on some cost estimates. And then, we'll be ready to send that out for bid. If I can get the next slide...uh, no...another one still...another one still...we should be at one more...I guess that's it. So, let's jump to this. Yeah, Prairie Dog pre-limb...there ya go...there ya go. So, this is our new Prairie Dog exhibit. It will be across from where the cats are...particularly the Amur Leopards. The train, and I don't have a pointer here...but if you go behind that small building there, is where the train tracks are. And so, that's a stretch of grazing grass right there, so the people will be able to see them from the train as they go by. There will be several viewing stations on the main walkway and protected viewing space. That building is a small holding and service area. And, there is another view of that same spot. With the elevations, there is also a planting plan for this exhibit as well. So, we'll be doing prairie planting just short of mimicking the plantings we have at the front of the zoo in the prairies that we have

creates over the last couple of years. This is to view from the viewing shed...and these are just a couple of views as you are viewing the exhibit. We plan on starting with about 30 animals. Go to the next set of slides. As you've read, that we've gotten a large State grant for the Painted Dogs Exhibit. With the grants that we've gotten and the generous donations from the community...we are within about \$30,000 of reaching our goal of \$500,000 to complete this project."

(Group applause)

Mr. Jackson continued, "These are some...we have not gone as far as Prairie Dog on these plans, as of yet. So, these are sort of the first iterations of that. We haven't done the architectural or the really detailed electrical and utilities sort of things yet. But, what you'll see is...on your left, that's the current viewing deck. All of those bars will go. For those of you visiting the zoo and seeing the old Lion Exhibit, that'll be glass. There will be a new deck placed on the opposite side. And, the enclosure will have some creative water features and rock work. Next one please. Uh, a Painted Dog (picture) for those of you who have forgotten what Painted Dogs are. And, we have been in contact with...since we've started these plans, we have also been in contact with population managers who have these animals that are held in North America. And, uh...they have five animals for us to start when we are ready to go. Next one please. Red River Hogs. These are African native. They get up to about 280lbs and I included these because we have them now and will be going on exhibit in the next month or so. So, this will be a new species for Niabi Zoo that you'll see here. And, Red Pandas...uh, this is shaping up to be our next big project. So, in the space over where our Bald Eagles are, we are exploring putting in a Red Panda Exhibit. Right now, we are doing the cost analysis on that and should have that completed by the end of this week, actually. Also, there is no picture in here but those of you might remember we lost our 23-yr. old Bald Eagle recently. We have secured two Bald Eagles that will be coming to us in the next two or three weeks."

President Swanson stated, "Uh, and a note, if I may? A question came up during the Executive Committee meeting...we assume those are from the rapture recovery centers?"

Mr. Jackson answered, "They are from rapture centers."

President Swanson clarified, "Those are animals that would likely not survive in the wild."

Mr. Jackson stated, "Yes. The laws on these animals in captivity do not allow except for one very special case that happened a number of years ago...do not allow for releasable birds to be held in captivity. I think I am done. Are there any questions?"

President Swanson stated, "Okay. First, Mr. Mielke. Please use your microphones. First, Mr. Mielke and then, Dr. Normoyle."

Mr. Mielke asked, "Where is the Red Panda indigenous from?"

Mr. Jackson answered, "China."

Mr. Mielke asked, "Really? Okay."

Mr. Jackson answered, "Yeah."

Mr. Mielke asked, "Are all pandas from China? I don't know."

Mr. Jackson answered, "There are only two...and they are both from China. They are the original panda, actually."

President Swanson stated, "And...Ms. Normoyle, please."

Ms. Normoyle asked, "In the Prairie Dog Exhibit, you said there would be prairie plantings mimicking what is elsewhere in the...are those going to be inside the exhibit or are they going to be like more of a feature on the outside to evoke the prairie? Because I have been to a couple of Prairie Dog Exhibits and they are dirt built. But, I was going to say...they probably weren't good zoos. So, I...ya know?"

Mr. Jackson answered, "Yeah, they tend to destroy..."

Ms. Normoyle stated, "Yeah."

Mr. Jackson added, "Those plantings and the wild flowers and things like that will be outside the exhibit. But, we'll also spend some time and at least get some grasses to grow before the animals are placed in there."

Ms. Normoyle stated, "Thank you."

President Swanson stated, "Do you have a comment or question, Ms. Loftin? Ms. Loftin...I see your hand is up. Did you have a comment?"

Ms. Loftin answered, "That was from the earlier meeting, I am on my phone because my computer doesn't work. So, no...I'm sorry."

President Swanson stated, "We are very grateful to have you back. Thank you. Are there any other comments or questions? Alright. Well, before we let you go, I just want to say thank you. When you came and joined us in Rock Island County in 2015...it was a very different picture for the zoo. You have restored the trust of the local philanthropic community and foundations as evidence of the prior projects

you are working on...the State of Illinois has apparently got great confidence in you too because we are very excited to see that grant. And so, on behalf of the entire Forest Preserve Commission and everybody who has grown up with Niabi Zoo...I want to thank you for your stewardship."

(Group applause)

Mr. Jackson stated, "Thank you. And, if I could...I would like to say this is my 5<sup>th</sup> institution and my 42<sup>nd</sup> year in the zoo business. And, I would just like to thank the people of the Quad Cities because this is the level of support and encouragement that is not seen everywhere. And so, thank you."

(Group applause)

President Swanson stated, "Alright, thank you."

3. Commissioner Adams moved to approve the July 19, 2022, Commission Minutes, as presented. Commissioner L. Burns seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

**TOTAL YES**                    **21**

**TOTAL NO**                    **0**

Motion carried.

President Swanson stated, "Mr. Westpfahl has left the meeting."

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS (TWO)**

President Swanson stated, "At this time I would entertain Public Comment. I have one request submitted for Public Comment. There you are. If you would, please come up here so the folks who are joining us remotely are able to hear you as well as those of us in the room. And, please begin by stating your name and city of residence if you would be so kind."

Ms. Zigenhorn stated, "My name is Kayle Zigenhorn...can you hear me okay?"

President Swanson stated, "Actually, please speak into the mic so they can hear you at home."

Ms. Zigenhorn stated, "My name is Kayle Ziegenhorn. I have lived in Rock Island County almost 40 years. I am an active equestrian. I have ridden the trails at Loud Thunder just shy of 30 years. I've seen all of the progress and changes from when they were pretty dangerous to ride (chuckles)...for those of us who like it rough. We rode them anyhow, barring any major safety concerns. I am here today...um, I addressed the Executive Committee last week and I am going to continue to address the Executive Committee and the full Board. I'm concerned with the number or the lengths of the trails for the horses at Loud Thunder. I have been tracking the weather and for the last 67 days, we've had 9.78 inches (of rain); which has resulted in 42 days of closures; which is 63% of the total days. Trails are almost always closed; which is leading to...I believe, lost revenues in the horse/camping because nobody can depend on those campgrounds being open or those trails being open. In order for those trails to be open, you have to reserve the campgrounds and there is no cancellation policy...so if you are planning on coming in to go riding, it's so sad, too bad at \$25.00 a night for the full hook-ups. That is why those of us with nice trailers want to camp, and I actually barely fit...my rig is so big, I barely fit in the new campground. So, I don't want to lose that \$50.00 especially, in today's economy. So, I am just asking that some sort of policy be figured out or come up with. I connect with...I actually am an active member of the with The Illinois Horse Council and a Chapter of Back-Country Horseman of Iowa and their suggestions are for every  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of rain, you should be closed 24 hours. Obviously, at 9.78 inches of rain in 42 days, you can do the math. It's way over the 24 hours and should not have happened, it should have only been closed for 23 days. So, I am not sure why they close the trails the way they are...but, I would like to see something done. Possibly, we need to look at the trails. Maybe they aren't um...missing my word, sustainable. Maybe something needs to be done. Also, The Horse Council and the Back-Country Horseman...suggest if there are problem areas, they put down rock. It's very well-known. I have ridden lots of trails that they have maintained. So, I guess that's all I have. Thank you for listening to me and thank you for allowing me to come."

President Swanson stated, "Thank you for being with us. I appreciate you taking the time to do that. We have another request...Becky Taylor, Illinois City...if you would be so kind...and I guess I just gave away your town. Since you put it on here, I guess you don't need to share that with us. Thank you for being with us and thank you again by speaking into the microphone so the folks at home can hear ya."

- Ms. Taylor stated, "Hi. my name is Becky Taylor. I am from Illinois City and have been a Rock Island County resident for 19 years. I have been a very active member of all of the local Parks and Forest Preserves in the area. I love everything that we do here. I am here today to talk about some of the things that I have heard about Loud Thunder Forest Preserve. Mainly trail maintenance and safety. So, one of the things is...a lot of the equestrian trails and bike trails...we do a lot of

straight up and down; which can be hard on the horses and it's also hard on the land and being able to sustain it. As Kayle just mentioned with trail closures might actually be one of the reasons it's closed so often because they can get slick. There is a book out there that I would like to suggest, it's called Equestrian Design Guide Book for trails, trail-heads and campgrounds. You can get a free digital copy out on the website and I put my email address on my paper. It has a lot of wonderful information about trail maintenance and designing campgrounds. And so, I wanted to talk a little bit about the cross maintenance and trail crossings to help us maybe work together on getting some of that to a safer environment for us. Also, the equestrian campground...a little bit about that is, being an equestrian, we do have to worry about liability issues. And so, a lot of equestrian campers in the equestrian campground are a little worrisome for the equestrians I have spoken with. So, I would just like to put out there of having that as an overflow camping only. We have the wonderful new campground over to the west near the playground that has quite a few spots for non-equestrians. I don't always see that full before we see a lot of people over there. A couple of weekends ago, we had a wonderfully full campground. It was great seeing so many people out there. Another thing about the campground is...the ones without the highline poles. They say that we have to tie to our trailers, so I was wondering if there was the option of either getting more highline poles in those spots or being able tie to the trees with the tree savers. And, the last thing I would like to mention is the possibility of having volunteer clean up days at our parks. There are a lot of people that would be very interested in being able to help with trail maintenance. And so, if that is something that the Committee would be interested in, it would be great to be able to see that. So, thank you for everything you guys do."

President Swanson stated, "Thank you very much for the time to be with us. I appreciate that very much. Do we have any other requests for public comment? That includes anyone joining us online at home... I will make a second call for Public Comment in the room or at home... And, I will make a third call for Public Comment either here or at home... Thank you all and thank you very much for being here."

## 5. **PRESIDENTS COMMENTS:**

President Swanson stated, "Just know, please the Fiscal Year is closing out. The District will soon embark on the Annual Audit. That's why you'll be seeing two renditions of several of the Financial Reports in your packets as those are preparation for the audit. I know many of us have many awesome Labor Day plans, but I would like to add to those at Illiniwek...there will be the Annual Tee Pee gathering and Wickup gathering; which is organized locally. And, if you have never been...it's really fun. I just hope you come out to see that because it's a wonderful cultural demonstration. Also, if you want to help support all of that great work that Mr. Jackson was talking about...Pints for Preservation is coming up on

September 23<sup>rd</sup>. It's a great excuse to drop a few dollars in support of the many wonderful things they've got going at Niabi and all of its conservation programs. And so, consider that on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. And finally, a word of thanks on your behalf to Mr. Jackson...we do want to thank all of our staff and professional leadership. They appreciate better than most of us can fathom the balances of not just the eco system, but the diverse communities we attempt to serve and maintain public access for all residents of Rock Island County. Visitors are very welcome and we love it when they come and discover places like Loud Thunder, Illiniwek, Niabi and Indian Bluff. I gotta keep going now...Dorrance and AMÔWA. But it's wonderful how they work to balance these eco systems, human and otherwise. So, thanks to them for their work."

6. Commissioner Sowards moved to approve the Old and New Fiscal Year Forest Preserve Claims and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$364,457.72, as presented. Commissioner Adams seconded.

Commissioner Enburg moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner M. Moreno seconded.

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

**TOTAL YES**      **21**

**TOTAL NO**      **0**

Motion carried.

7. Commissioner Brunk moved to waive the reading and approve the FY 2022 Transfers of Appropriation, as presented. Commissioner Normoyle seconded.

Commissioner M. Moreno 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, 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. Woods

**TOTAL YES**      **21**

**TOTAL NO**      **0**

Motion carried.

8. Commissioner Normoyle moved to waive the reading and approve the Resolution regarding FY 22 Personal Property Replacement Tax and FY 22 Expenditures, as presented. Commissioner Enburg seconded.

(Note: The Resolution is in .pdf format and begins on the next page.)

**RESOLUTION**

RE: FY 22 Appropriation Amendments – Personal Property Replacement Tax & FY 22 Expenditures

**WHEREAS**, Personal Property Replacement Tax is estimated to be greater than appropriated, and

**WHEREAS**, additional expenditures are required throughout the General Fund for salaries, goods and services, and

**WHEREAS**, funds are available from unappropriated funds within the General Fund #130 of the District, 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. An amount of \$51,496.29 shall be increased in the Forest Preserve General Fund #130 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$51,496.29	130-32-10 335.15	Personal Property Replacement Tax

SECTION 3. An amount of \$51,496.29 shall be increased in the Forest Preserve General Fund #130 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$2,528.69	130-32-10 411	Salaries & Wages
\$2,705.07	130-32-90 411	Salaries & Wages
\$681.00	130-32-90 411.10	Seasonal Salaries & Wages
\$2,342.00	130-32-90 522	Operating Supplies
\$226.00	130-32-90 524	Small Tools & Equipment
\$291.00	130-32-90 526	Food
\$211.00	130-32-90 632	Communications
\$1,656.00	130-32-90 637	Utilities
\$5,761.00	130-32-90 638	Repairs & Maintenance
\$128.00	130-32-90 639	Rentals
\$60.00	130-32-90 873	Credit Card Fees
\$926.62	130-32-91 411	Salaries & Wages
\$1,625.51	130-32-91 411.10	Seasonal Salaries & Wages
\$320.00	130-32-91 522	Operating Supplies
\$904.00	130-32-91 523	Repair & Maintenance Supplies
\$63.00	130-32-91 524	Small Tools & Equipment
\$164.00	130-32-91 526	Food
\$538.00	130-32-91 632	Communications
\$2,338.00	130-32-91 637	Utilities
\$1,017.00	130-32-91 638	Repairs & Maintenance
\$692.00	130-32-91 873	Credit Card Fees
\$4,489.30	130-32-92 411	Salaries & Wages
\$2,240.93	130-32-92 411.10	Seasonal Salaries & Wages

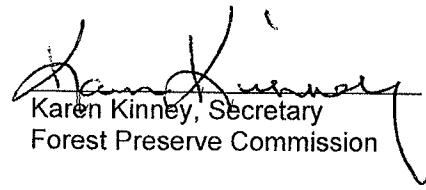
\$9,338.13	130-32-92 522	Operating Supplies
\$2,684.04	130-32-92 526	Food Purchases
\$1,842.00	130-32-92 873	Credit Card Fees
\$5,724.00	130-32-92 991.11	Transfer to Other Funds

SECTION 4. This Resolution to become effective immediately.

**ADOPTED** by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2022.



Kai Swanson, President  
Forest Preserve Commission



Karen Kinney, Secretary  
Forest Preserve Commission

Commissioner Brunk moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Normoyle seconded.

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

**TOTAL YES**                    **21**

**TOTAL NO**                    **0**

Motion carried.

9. Commissioner Adams moved to waive the reading and approve the Resolution regarding FY 22 Niabi Fund Prairie Dog Grant Appropriations, as presented. Commissioner L. Burns seconded.

(Note: The Resolution is in .pdf format and begins on the next page.)

**RESOLUTION**  
FY 2022 Niabi Zoo Fund Prairie Dog Grant Appropriations

**WHEREAS**, Niabi Zoo was awarded \$433,000.00 from the Illinois Public Museum Grant program to construct a new Prairie Dog exhibit, and

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois Public Museum Grant program is a reimbursable grant, and

**WHEREAS**, architectural and construction document work has been performed, 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. Expenditures in the amount of \$19,863.45 shall be increased from the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

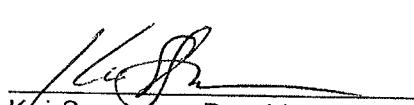
<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>APPROPRIATION</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
\$13,428.45	131-32-35 765 MCPD24	Construction in Progress
\$6,435.00	131-32-35 991.11 MCPD24	Transfer to Other Funds

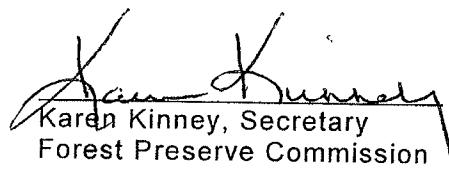
SECTION 3. Revenues in the amount of \$13,428.45 shall be increased from the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>APPROPRIATION</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
\$13,428.45	131-32-35 334.70 MCPD24	State Grants

SECTION 4. This resolution to become effective immediately.

**ADOPTED** by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2022.

  
Kai Swanson, President  
Forest Preserve Commission

  
Karen Kinney, Secretary  
Forest Preserve Commission

Commissioner Thompson moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner M. Moreno seconded.

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

**TOTAL YES**      **21**

**TOTAL NO**      **0**

Motion carried.

10. Commissioner Adams moved to approve laying on display for 30 days, the FY24 Annual Budget and Appropriations Ordinances for the General Fund, Niabi Zoological Fund, IMRF Retirement Fund, Liability Fund, FISSA Fund, Audit Fund and Development of Forests & Construction of Improvement Fund, as presented. Commissioner Sowards seconded. (Inc. by Ref.)

Commissioner Mielke moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Brunk seconded.

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

**TOTAL YES**      **21**

**TOTAL NO**      **0**

Motion carried.

11. **Comments from Commissioners: (One)**

President Swanson stated, "And now, please...an opportunity for Comments from Commissioners...is there anyone who would care to make a comment? This would include you at home...if you care to make a comment, please either raise your hand or if you can't do that, just barge in. Are there any Comments from Commissioners? We have one from Ms. Thompson."

Commissioner Thompson was recognized.

President Swanson added, "Please use the microphone so the folks can hear at home."

Ms. Thompson stated, "Yes, I just want to say I was at the zoo yesterday. And it was....there was such a huge improvement over the 20 years, 30 years. I was very excited for the first time in 50 years...I saw a Red Wolf."

(Group laughter)

Ms. Thompson added, "I've never seen that."

President Swanson stated, "So, if Mr. Jackson were here, he would point out the Red Wolf is very secretive by nature. But we've recently had a pair that are...they love the paparazzi. So, they come right out and they have a party. Thank you very much for patronizing the zoo. Are there any other comments from commissioners? Anyone at home, please? Seeing none, I will now move to entertaining a motion for a Routine Reports from the Director and Department Heads."

12. Commissioner Sowards moved to approve all Routine Reports from the Director and Departments Heads of the Forest Preserve Commission, as presented. Commissioner Enburg seconded.

Commissioner Brunk moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Normoyle seconded.

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

**TOTAL YES**            **21**

**TOTAL NO**            **0**

Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Forest Preserve Commission is Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at 5:30pm, immediately following the meeting of the Rock Island County Board.

President Swanson declared the Forest Preserve Meeting adjourned at 7:08pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

  
KAREN KINNEY  
COUNTY CLERK AND SECRETARY  
OF THE FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

KK:rw