

**ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION**  
**NOVEMBER 22, 2022 – 6:39 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-Baker, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, K. Swanson,  
L. Thompson, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL PRESENT      24**

D. Clevenger

**TOTAL ABSENT      1**

2. President Swanson stated, "Thank you, Madam Clerk, I appreciate that very much. Tonight, we are going to have a very special presentation one of my favorites of every year and that is, when we get to hear about her social media strategy from a tremendous friend of the Forest Preserve District, Amy Behning, co-owner, of MindFire Communications. Please, the podium is all yours. And for those who may not have been here in the past for this...MindFire does a lot of work to promote our District resources far beyond our ability to do so here in the County. So, Ms. Behning, the floor is yours."

Ms. Behning stated, "Thank you guys, all. Thank you for the warm introduction, Kai. We are honored to be working with your organization. We believe strongly in the mission as park goers and users ourselves. This is one of the best things we get to do all year. So, I am going to just give you a great rundown of what's been happening year-to-date. So, why social media? Kai really nailed it. It's that ultimately, we really look at how to be the most physically responsible with your promotion dollars. Social Media is the place to put those funds. And, here's why...it's not only a place where we can share, but we can also gain engagement from others. It's a place where folks can find information, organically share it with friends and family and ultimately, it's all about story-telling. So, a great post goes so much further than an advertisement in so many ways because it allows us to tell the story more authentically. Really, at the end of the day...it's awareness, loyalty and action. We want to build awareness for what happens at each of your properties with your facilities. We want people to feel loyal to them. They feel that they are invested in what's happening and ultimately, drive an action, whether that's giving, whether that's camping or whether that's just experiencing it with their family and their friends. And, we are kind of geeky about this in all kinds of ways, I hope. Because when we think of building this strategy, we are really building it into a sales funnel. It's very similar to what you see in business. We want to start with awareness. Getting the most eyeballs we can on something. Then, we want people to catch it, to like it, to share it and to scroll over it. To stop

and really absorb what we have for content. And then, ultimately, that leads to that action. So, as you look at this data today, kind of keep that visual in your mind. We are trying to drive that awareness to build some loyalty and pride and ultimately get action. So, you are going to see some terms. Here is what really matters...you are going to hear me say impressions, just replace that word with eyeballs. Its people seeing your stuff. Then, you are going to hear people talking about engagement...that's a like, that's a share or some sort of click through that gets them to more information, including your websites. And, then you are going to hear me talk about frequency. That's simply how many posts we have out in the Facebook universe. So, those are some of the words we will be talking about. So, what you are going to see today is for Indian Bluff, Illiniwek and Loud Thunder. And, really what we did was look at a calendar year that went from January through about October 11<sup>th</sup>. That is a ballpark of a time that really matters, as we engage with the parks. The big picture stuff first, accumulative stuff. Basically, in that time frame, we had 1.2 million eyeballs on posts about these properties, facilities and actions, services and enhancements. Of those, we had about 158,000-159,000 engagements...likes, shares, actions. That also includes sessions to your website. The numbers you see below with the 17% and the 10%...that's giving you an overview of the previous year. So, accumulatively, we are up 17% when it comes to our impressions and we are up 10% on those engagements. So, let's take a look just individually, we've got some deep data. I'm gonna just give you a highlight of what it is and then share what those data points of interest are per facility. So, let's look at Indian Bluff. Um, don't worry too much about what you see in that first column. But, what we really ought to be thinking about are the numbers you see with impressions, engagement and then over with what we have with our frequency. So, you can see that you've got all positive numbers trending up; which tell us that we are posting more...we have more awareness, we have more frequency and we have more engagement. It all rolls right through that funnel. Now, being the nerds we are, we keep all of this data in real time. If anyone wants that real time, it's a simple link and you can roll through it. But, lets really focus on what the data points of interest are from all of that, that we dive into. And, it's basically this...the spike of impressions that you saw is right around 2% had a lot to do with, 'Now Hiring' paid campaigns. It makes perfect sense. It seems pretty rule-of-thumb. Here is the point that really matters as we think about this particular piece for Indian Bluff...is that while year-to-date impressions or eyeballs were up by 2%, engagements were up even higher by 20%. Here, that's the sort of thing that tips me off, because what it tells me is that we are putting the right content out. The content or amount of eyeballs on it is not really changing, but the people who are engaging with it continues to increase. And that's what we want to start to see year over year. And then, your total accumulative was \$326,000 total impressions. So, it begs the question...what really works? You can see we have highlighted three of the best performing posts. I wish it looked like that outside right now. I think that's why those worked so well. But, ultimately, what we need to know and experience is...people engaging what you see on the screen there on the right-hand side. Your facility, the property...how well it's

well it's maintained, and ultimately, the action. These are the shots we are looking for in the stories we want to tell. So, taking a look at Illiniwek. Same kind of information, but this one is kind of interesting. So, if you look, you see a really high net impressions. You see that's actually up 10%, but take your eye to the lower right-hand corner and see our post frequency is down. What that tells us, is that we are starting to streamline the content, we have a lot more posting going. Some of them weren't hitting quite right. We parred those back and we are posting a little less, and it's actually starting to boost your impressions. That's a really good thing to take a look at. So, summarizing some of the data points of interest, is that ultimately, we are trending up. Um, impressions are up 10% and engagement is up 2%. We are starting to see that trend. You need impressions before you get to the engagement. I hope I will be back here in a year and it's going to start looking like Indian Bluff. We want to continually evolve and improve and all of that occurred while we started to minimize the number of posts. You can also see this has a high impression rate. People are really interested in what's happening at Illiniwek. I think a lot of that, you can speak directly to what we are posting on. The rule-of-thumb for Illiniwek is education. Folks love the education posts. They share them with kids...you see when you are diving in deep when you see sharer's say, 'check this out, share it with my grandkids or check this out, can we go with the kids?' So, the education component of Illiniwek really sticks...and of course, the new Forest Preserve, that's going to sail through and get ultimately, the family experience; which you also see there. So, taking a look at Loud Thunder. And, looking at these numbers, you are going to see a trend similar to Illiniwek. We are posting a little less, but we continue to increase the eyeballs, the impressions, the engagements; which means we are curating and fine-tuning content based on what works. Now, you are also going to see those trends...no one wants to say Covid anymore for that, right? But, you see those trends shift a bit during Covid and we are back on track curating that content so it has that purpose to it. Some of the big data points of interest here...um, June and July are always huge, always huge at Loud Thunder with both impressions and engagement. And, two of the three of your top performing posts were in that particular time period, where we see on the other properties, we have it a bit more elongated. Obviously, the boat rentals are a big part of that. And, you will also see that we are up 36% and 16% respectively on impressions and engagement. So, year over year, keeping that climb moving forward. And, look at that impression number, you are at over half a million. So, the gap that you get with Loud Thunder, it's definitely got a regional flare. Camping, boating and then my favorite part of this is something that we call user generated content. You can see that there is a lot of activity that we do out at Loud Thunder. We are actually asking people who are loyal to our page to submit their photos. A lot of those of which buy in authenticity, they are the best...and that's a beautiful shot (photo). So, bringing it all together as we look at what's happening in the social stratosphere, as we look at these properties, we really just wanted to highlight three...well, for each property, just a few best practices. Big picture, looking at all of this data...what seems to be working? And, what we can call out for Indian Bluff is that special...who doesn't love a special? They spike

impressions and monthly give-a-ways, like engagement. So, what that tells us is with the give-a-way programs people are clicking and playing, but not actually generating a lot of eyeballs. It's a good balancing act between what's happening with the specials vs. the give-a-ways. When it comes to Illiniwek, the original photography reaches hearts always sails through. Anything that we can do to have a conversation or a story...is ongoing about the prairie, the river, the history always fares exceptionally well. And then with Loud Thunder, the park enhancements...anything that is done on a property that size is always a huge win. And, in addition to that, the user generated content. I think because there are so many user vistas, there are so many ways to experience that property. Those images of someone kayaking or whether it's the sunset or simply feet on a trail inspires someone else to say, 'hey, you know what...this is a fantastic service, it's a fantastic place, and I am going to go out and be proud of my county. So, that kind of summarizes the Big Picture. I walked through a lot of data really quickly. If there are a lot of questions or anything we want to comment on?"

President Swanson stated, "We have a question from Ms. Thompson as soon as we get her mic on. There we go."

Commissioner Thompson was recognized.

Ms. Thompson stated, "You put up a lot of information on Facebook. Do you use a lot of other social media like Instagram or...?"

Ms. Behning answered, "Yes, we do. We do use other forms. Part of the challenge and it's something that we are going to be looking at is, at the end of the day, we're looking at the data for a Board to review like this, we've got a much more robust one that we share with staff; which includes the web data, e-news data etc...we add those other channels in. But, because Facebook has the population, it's the best as a directional, but we do use other tools."

President Swanson asked, "Are there any other questions for Ms. Behning? Alright, well and I am grateful that you brought it, Amy. Thank you so much. This whole team has bought into this whole District. And, so when I run into MindFire folks in the community, they know more about what's going on in the District than I do. And, I really appreciate that. So...wait, Dr. Simmer if you would please use your mic so everyone at home can hear."

Commissioner Simmer was recognized.

Mr. Simmer stated, "You know, when be brought you on it was like, man...this is going to be pricy and then with the things we are trying to promote, it was like ya know...okay, let's see what you can do and it's been just constant build. It's been a fantastic job; you guys are doing great. You are like behind the scenes...when I

get on and I see the thing, I know its you guys doing it. So, it's nice to see you guys are excited about it. Look how far you've taken us? It's fantastic!"

Ms. Behning stated, "I really appreciate it and I would just reciprocate that...the teams, they have a lot of jobs and our hey, can we shoot this, or hey, can we talk about this...you know, they are very patient as we move those things through. And, ultimately, our job is to just amplify what's being done there. So, I think that's definitely reciprocated without question."

Mr. Simmer stated, "Thank you."

President Swanson stated, "Friends if you will join me in thanking Amy and MindFire for anything and everything they may do."

(Group applause)

Ms. Behning said, "Thank you!"

3. Commissioner M. Burns moved to approve the October 18, 2022, Commission Minutes, as presented. Commissioners Simmer and 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, J. Deppe, C. Enburg, E. Langdon, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, L. Thompson, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES                      23**

**TOTAL NO                      0**

Motion carried.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS (NONE)** Three calls were made for Public Comment.

5. **PRESIDENTS COMMENTS:**

President Swanson stated, "Just a couple of things to bring to your attention, first...it's more procedural than anything else. As many of you may have seen, Mrs. Deb Toppert has established an endowment in the name of her late husband; who was a good friend to many of us, Mr. Larry Toppert, for the development for the new AMÔWA Preserve. That's being administered by the Community Foundation of the Quad Cities. If you would like to make a donation, there are matching funds available for that if I am not mistaken...check that out at the Community Foundation's website if you would like to make a gift to the Larry Toppert endowment to support AMÔWA. We are very grateful to Mrs. Toppert and

the Toppert family for that wonderful and selfless act. I would also like, speaking of selfless acts...for those Members of the Commission who are going to be going off at this time, specifically: Lauren Boswell-Loffin, Kristine Bogdonas, Jeff Deppe, Dorothy Beck, Leslie Thompson, Ed Langdon, Michael Burns, and two Members who are also Members of the Executive Committee, Dr. Angie Normoyle and Mr. Dwayne Cremeens. And, I really want to say thank you for your visionary leadership, but especially some of you who were on this Commission in 2017. This week was the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the date when this Commission voted to approve the bond sale that paid for the restoration of the spillway; which provided for preservation of Lake George without which, not as many people would want to go to Loud Thunder. So, for those of you who were here then, and those who have been here since...I just want to thank you for your service, especially our Executive Committee Members. They do an extra load of work of responsibility and, I appreciate it very much. It's been a great opportunity to work with you all, so thank you. If you have questions for me, we will get to that later in the agenda."

6. Commissioner McNeil moved to approve the Forest Preserve Claims and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$281,244.89, as presented. Commissioner Brunk seconded.

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

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

**TOTAL YES 23**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

7. Commissioner M. Burns moved to waive the reading and approve the Resolution regarding FY 23 Niabi Zoo Fund Prairie Dog Grant Appropriation, as presented. Commissioner Thompson seconded.

Note\*\* The Resolution is in a .pdf format and begins on the next page)

**RESOLUTION**

FY 2023 Niabi Zoo Fund Prairie Dog Grant Appropriations

**WHEREAS**, Niabi Zoo was awarded \$436,100.00 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 \$4,000.00 shall be increased from grant revenue to be received in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:


AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$4,000.00	131-32-35 765 MCPD24	Construction in Progress

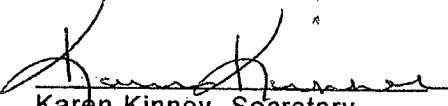
SECTION 3. Revenues in the amount of \$4,000.00 shall be increased from the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$4,000.00	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 22<sup>nd</sup> day of November, 2022.

  
Kai Swanson, President  
Forest Preserve Commission

  
Karen Kinney, Secretary  
Forest Preserve Commission

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

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

**TOTAL YES                23**

**TOTAL NO                0**

Motion carried.

8. Commissioner Woods moved to waive the reading and approve the Resolution regarding FY 23 Niabi Zoo Fund African Painted Dog Grants, as presented. Commissioner Bogdonas seconded.

Note\*\* The Resolution is in a .pdf format and begins on the next page)



## RESOLUTION

FY 2023 Niabi Zoo Fund African Painted Dog Grant Appropriations

**WHEREAS**, Niabi Zoo was awarded \$233,000.00 from the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity Tourism Grant program to construct a new African Painted Dog exhibit, and

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity Tourism 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 \$9,044.38 shall be increased from grant revenue to be received in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$9,044.38	131-32-35 767 TAFGP23	Infrastructure over \$15,000

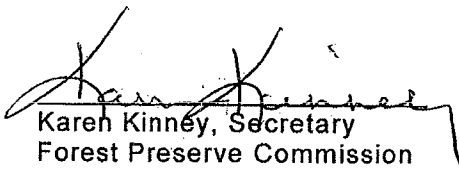
SECTION 3. Revenues in the amount of \$9,044.38 shall be increased from the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$9,044.38	131-32-35 331.70 TAFGP23	Federal Grants

SECTION 4. This resolution to become effective immediately.

**ADOPTED** by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of November, 2022.

  
Kai Swanson, President  
Forest Preserve Commission

  
Karen Kinney, Secretary  
Forest Preserve Commission

Commissioner L. Moreno moved to approve the previous roll call vote.  
Commissioner Cremeens seconded.

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

**TOTAL YES                23**

**TOTAL NO                0**

Motion carried.

9. Commissioner Morthland moved to waive the reading and approve the FY23 Development of Forests & Construction of Improvement Fund Illiniwek Recreation Trail Grant Appropriations, as presented. Commissioner Beck seconded.

(Note\*\* the Ordinances are in .pdf format and begin on the next page.)

## RESOLUTION

### FY 23 Illiniwek Recreation Trail Grant Appropriations

**WHEREAS**, Illiniwek Forest Preserve was awarded \$200,000.00 from the Illinois Recreation Trail Grant program to construct a new restroom facility and make trail improvements, and

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois Recreation Trail Grant program is a reimbursable grant, and

**WHEREAS**, engineering 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 \$877.50 shall be increased from grant revenue to be received in the General Fund #130 to the following:

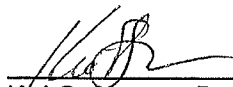
AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$877.50	335-32-35 765 RTP 23	Construction in Progress

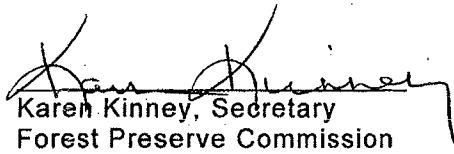
SECTION 3. Revenues in the amount of \$877.50 shall be increased in the General Fund #130 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$877.50	335-32-35 334.70 RTP23	State Grants

SECTION 4. This resolution to become effective immediately.

**ADOPTED** by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of November, 2022.

  
Kai Swanson, President  
Forest Preserve Commission

  
Karen Kinney, Secretary  
Forest Preserve Commission

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

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

**TOTAL YES                23**

**TOTAL NO                0**

Motion carried.

10. President Swanson stated, "I would like to take the next two items regarding Abatement Ordinances together. If there is no objection to that motion? Hearing none...I will read them together and we will take them as one omnibus vote. So, first: A motion to approve the Abatement Ordinance Pursuant to Ordinance #11-01-17 in the amount of \$345,427.50 and approve the Abatement Ordinance Pursuant to Ordinance #2016-0401 in the amount of \$353,700.00, as presented. Commissioner Woods moved and Mr. Langdon seconded."

(Note\*\* The Ordinances are in .pdf format and begin on the next page)

**ABATEMENT CERTIFICATE**

Pursuant to Ordinance No. 11-01-17, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS (ALTERNATE REVENUE SOURCE), SERIES 2017, OF THE ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT, IN ROCK ISLAND COUNTY, ILLINOIS, PROVIDING THE DETAILS OF SUCH BONDS AND FOR ALTERNATE REVENUE SOURCES AND THE LEVY OF DIRECT ANNUAL TAXES SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON SUCH BONDS, AND RELATED MATTERS, adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District, Rock Island County, Illinois (the "Issuer") on November 21, 2017, with respect to which undefined terms herein shall have the meanings therein, as supplemented and amended, by Ordinance No. 11-01-17, adopted November 21, 2017, collectively, the "Bond Ordinance", the undersigned, as President and Secretary of the Issuer hereby certify to the Rock Island County Clerk that it is appropriate to reduce by abatement the tax levy for 2022 (to be received in 2023) as provided in Section 13 of the Bond Ordinance (filed on November 30, 2017, with such County Clerk), as follows:

<b>Tax Levy</b> <b>For the Year 2022,</b>	<b>New Levy Amount</b> <b>To Continue After Abatement</b> <b><u>A Tax Sufficient to Produce the Sum of,</u></b>	<b><u>(Amount Abated)</u></b>
\$345,427.50	-0-	\$345,427.50

No other tax levy year is to be affected by this Abatement Certificate. The County Clerk is hereby directed to abate taxes as set forth above and to ascertain the rate per cent required to produce the aggregate tax hereinabove provided to be levied in 2022, as shown above to be levied, and to extend the same for collection on the tax books in connection with other taxes levied in such year, in and by the Issuer for general corporate purposes of the Issuer, and in such year levied and collected in like manner as taxes for general corporate purposes for such year is levied and collected and, when collected, such taxes shall be used solely for the purpose of paying the principal of and interest on the Bonds herein described as the same become due and payable. The tax levy shall be abated as parenthetically shown above. Otherwise Ordinance No. 11-01-17 shall be given effect according to its terms.

The Issuer has complied with the Bond Ordinance requirements preliminary to the execution and filing of this Abatement Certificate.

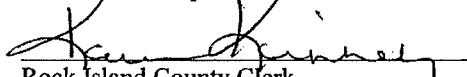
(SEAL)

  
Karen Kinney, Secretary

  
Kai Swanson, President

**Receipt**

The Rock Island County Clerk hereby acknowledges receipt of the above Abatement Certificate this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of November, 2022 and agrees to abate (and continue to extend with respect to the Bond Ordinance, as shown above) the taxes as therein provided:

  
Rock Island County Clerk  
Karen Kinney

061

**ABATEMENT CERTIFICATE**

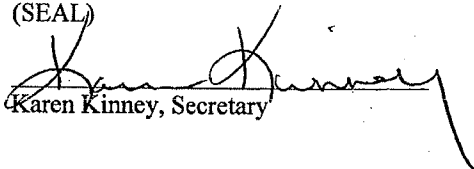
Pursuant to Ordinance No. 2016-0401, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS (ALTERNATE REVENUE SOURCE), SERIES 2016, OF THE ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT, IN ROCK ISLAND COUNTY, ILLINOIS, PROVIDING THE DETAILS OF SUCH BONDS AND FOR ALTERNATE REVENUE SOURCES AND THE LEVY OF DIRECT ANNUAL TAXES SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON SUCH BONDS, AND RELATED MATTERS, adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District, Rock Island County, Illinois (the "Issuer") on April 19, 2016, with respect to which undefined terms herein shall have the meanings therein, as supplemented and amended, by Ordinance No. 2016-0401, adopted April 19, 2016, collectively, the "Bond Ordinance", the undersigned, as President and Secretary of the Issuer hereby certify to the Rock Island County Clerk that it is appropriate to reduce by abatement the tax levy for 2022 (to be received in 2023) as provided in Section 13 of the Bond Ordinance (filed on June 29, 2016, with such County Clerk), as follows:

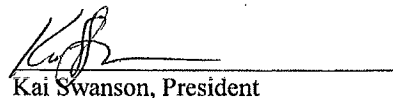
<u>Tax Levy</u> <u>For the Year 2022,</u>	<u>New Levy Amount</u> <u>To Continue After Abatement</u> <u>A Tax Sufficient to Produce the Sum of,</u>	<u>(Amount Abated)</u>
\$353,700.00	-0-	\$353,700.00

No other tax levy year is to be affected by this Abatement Certificate. The County Clerk is hereby directed to abate taxes as set forth above and to ascertain the rate per cent required to produce the aggregate tax hereinabove provided to be levied in 2022, as shown above to be levied, and to extend the same for collection on the tax books in connection with other taxes levied in such year, in and by the Issuer for general corporate purposes of the Issuer, and in such year levied and collected in like manner as taxes for general corporate purposes for such year is levied and collected and, when collected, such taxes shall be used solely for the purpose of paying the principal of and interest on the Bonds herein described as the same become due and payable. The tax levy shall be abated as parenthetically shown above. Otherwise Ordinance No. 2016-0401 shall be given effect according to its terms.

The Issuer has complied with the Bond Ordinance requirements preliminary to the execution and filing of this Abatement Certificate.

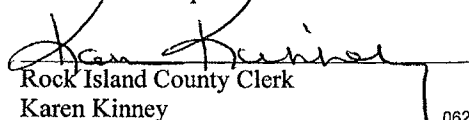
(SEAL)

  
Karen Kinney, Secretary

  
Kai Swanson, President

**Receipt**

The Rock Island County Clerk hereby acknowledges receipt of the above Abatement Certificate this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of November, 2022 and agrees to abate (and continue to extend with respect to the Bond Ordinance, as shown above) the taxes as therein provided.

  
Rock Island County Clerk  
Karen Kinney

062

Commissioner Deppe 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-Baker, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, L. Thompson, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES                    23**

**TOTAL NO                    0**

Motion carried.

11. Commissioner Simmer moved to approve the Prairie Dog Exhibit Henley Group Bid of \$539,000.00 provisional to completing the bid steps within 30 days; if unable to complete the steps, Estes bid at \$745,000.00 will be given an opportunity to complete the steps for the bid, as presented. Commissioner Adams seconded.

President Swanson stated, "A brief word of description on this, and then any questions you have, please let me know. But, what's happened is...both bids received for this project came in incomplete. But, we want to keep the train rolling to be on the construction schedule and the open season schedule for the next zoo season. So, what we've done with Henley is, we've said, will you abide by our responsible bidder policy and will you make sure that everything we require of a bid be met within 30 days. The have provisionally accepted that, but we haven't awarded the bid yet. If they fail to do that in 30 days, the Executive Committee then, has requested we then go to Estes. You'll notice it's significantly higher. Uh, but these are the only two bids we received on this project. And, just a refresher...we are receiving some State Grants for this. And, Jeff and his team are working on other grants, even as we speak to make sure what the cost is. So, first we go to Henley because they are the low bidder, but theirs was incomplete. If they don't complete it within 30 days...unfortunately, the Estes bid was also incomplete. So, they would have to complete theirs in 30 days, and if that does not go through, we'll come back to you, but that will mean we may be pushed back further into the zoo season. Are there any other questions on this motion?"

Commissioner Brunk was recognized.

Mr. Brunk asked, "Yes, when you say incomplete, how incomplete...I guess?"

President Swanson answered, "It's close. So, Henley is based in Muscatine, Iowa. And, they have to complete a couple of steps to make sure that we, in good faith, engage them to make sure that they are registered in Illinois."

Mr. Brunk stated, "Okay."

President Swanson added, "They are working only with local people. Uh, I mean...Muscatine is pretty close to the Quad Cities, right? But, they haven't completed some steps that we require as a District. The other thing is, abiding by our Responsible Bidder Policy. And, when they can attest to that, then, we can move forward. But, in the bid they submitted in time for this cycle, they have not attested to that."

Mr. Brunk stated, "Okay. And, are there some similar issues with the other?"

President Swanson answered, "Yeah...uh, I don't remember. Mr. Craver is in the hall...but there were just a couple of things, they didn't complete everything. I mean, a lot of us know Estes...and some know Henley. I mean, these are known entities...we just think it's a matter of them but, and again, we are pushing kind of hard because we want to get this moving so the kids are able to see the Prairie Dog Exhibit in the next season."

Mr. Brunk stated, "Okay, thank you."

President Swanson stated, "Thank you, Mr. Brunk. Are there any other questions or discussion? Seeing none, I request a motion to adopt the previous roll."

Commissioner Simmer moved to approve the previous roll call vote.  
Commissioners L. Burns and Woods seconded.

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

**TOTAL YES            23**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried.

**12.    Comments from Commissioners: (None)**

Commissioner Simmer was recognized.

Mr. Simmer stated, "Okay, this is a little off topic, but I just want to let everybody know because I made sure it was okay with Drue that I said this...but um, Drue is not with us today and he apologizes for that because he is usually always here. But today, he had an Angiogram and found out he needs a quadruple bypass and some other work. So, just keep him in your thoughts and prayers. He is listening, so we do appreciate him coming in. And so, he's going to have it in the



next two weeks. So, FYI...he is sorry he couldn't be here today. That's the big picture."

President Swanson stated, "Oh dear. Well, Dr. Simmer thank you for sharing that news. Drue, I hope you know and I think you do...you and I have talked about this, a burden shared is a burden made less burdensome. So, please know many of us are praying for you."

Mr. Mielke stated, "Thank you. It means a lot."

President Swanson stated, "Thank you, Dr. Simmer. Mr. Langdon, please and then, we will hear from Dr. Normoyle."

Mr. Langdon stated, "Yes, I wanted to tell Karen Kinney that she's doing a great job as our County Clerk. I really appreciate all of the things you've done for us. And, I want to thank you, Karen, when you first got elected to County Clerk, you were on the County Board and had a four-year term, so, they appointed me to fill your seat...to fill the remaining two-year term...the two years. I thought after that two years, I would be history, ya know? I thought that would be it. I have been on this County Board for over a decade."

Mr. Westpfahl stated, "Well then winning in a landslide was for nothing then?"

(Group laughter)

Mr. Langdon continued, "I just wanted to say you are doing a great job and keep up the good work."

Ms. Kinney stated, "Thank you, Ed...I appreciate that."

Mr. Langdon stated, "You're welcome."

President Swanson stated, "Thank you, Mr. Langdon. We are grateful you stepped up when the call came. So, thank you for that."

Mr. Langdon stated, "I am also going to miss all of my colleagues I have been working with for year and years. I also want to thank the newcomers too, like Porter McNeil and Bob Westpfahl, who I have been serving with for over a decade and Don Johnston, may he rest in peace. If I told you I wasn't gonna miss this, I would be lying to ya. I am gonna miss it, and I am going to miss you all."

President Swanson stated, "I never had the privilege of having you as my County Board Member, but you were my mom's. So, I thank you very much."

(Group laughter)

Mr. Langdon stated, "Yep, may she rest in peace. Thank you."

President Swanson stated, "Thank you, Mr. Langdon."

Commissioner Normoyle was recognized.

Ms. Normoyle stated, "I too, have enjoyed this...it's been a real experience and I am so proud of the work that we do in the Forest Preserve. But, I also really love the way we work across the community and in our report section...if you look closely, you'll see Mr. Mills talking about the Blackhawk College Highway construction careers (HCCTP Program) and they have been back out at Loud Thunder doing some more work. It is such a great program...they are doing great job, it trains people in our community to have good-paying union jobs. We benefit from the training and I am just so happy to see that kind of work going on. That is government at its best. And so, I just wanted to lift that up as we go into the reports."

President Swanson stated, "Well, thank you, Dr. Normoyle. I would also lift up that the program would not sign the way it does without our friends at Laborer's 309 who help work with those students and give them a real hands-on training. So, thank you for lifting that up. Dr. Simmer...double-dipping'."

Mr. Simmer stated, "Double-dipping' tonight. I would like to thank you, Kai. When we started the bond referendum to get that going, thanks to your guidance and your fore-thought where we...um, that was put off for so darn long...am I on? It was put off for so darn long...um, and when I first came on, they would scream at us and so, finally when you came on, we got some things going and I think it was a good fore-thought of this Board to push that through to save that lake because it is a big attraction to our area. With MindFire, if you look at the numbers, you'll see it was a very positive and good thing we did. Good job, guys."

President Swanson stated, "Thanks to all of you...it was a real team effort. Other comments...because we are going to get into the Reports section?"

13. Commissioner Woods moved to approve all Routine Reports from the Director and Departments Heads of the Forest Preserve Commission, as presented. Commissioner L. Burns seconded.

Commissioner Morthland moved to approve the previous roll call vote.  
Commissioners Beck 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-Baker, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, L. Thompson,  
B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES                    23**

**TOTAL NO                    0**

Motion carried.

President Swanson stated, "We will be having an Organizational Meeting on  
December 5<sup>th</sup> 2022, for the County Board. I look forward to seeing you all there. It's  
been a privilege and an honor, thank you."

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

President Swanson declared the Forest Preserve Meeting recessed at 7:10pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Kinney", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

KAREN KINNEY  
COUNTY CLERK AND SECRETARY  
OF THE FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

KK:rw