

**ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION**  
**DECEMBER 20, 2022 – 6:29 PM**  
**PRESIDENT KAI SWANSON PRESIDING**

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke,  
L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, K. Swanson,  
B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL PRESENT 17**

T. Foster, B. Perkins

**TOTAL ABSENT 2**

2. President Swanson stated, "Okay, thank you. We are going to begin this evening with a presentation with RSM by representatives from RSM US LLP, to present the final draft for FY22, the Annual Financial Report. If I am not mistaken, Aaron McLaughlin is online and Aaron, will you be leading this presentation?"

Mr. McLaughlin answered, "Yes, that is correct. And, I am joined by Kristin Hughes who is our engagement leader on this audit. Yeah, so...if everyone is ready we can begin. We do have a presentation to walk through so, I am going to go ahead and share my screen. Okay so, as stated, Kristin and I are here to present the draft financials of the FY ending June 30, 2022. This evening, we would like to share a couple of things with the commission. First, there are certain required communications that are professional standards require that we meet to you, as the commission, in relation to our audit. And then, we would like to end by sharing some highlights and other numbers and details from the actual fiscal year and the financial performance. So, with that said, I think I'll pass it over to Kristin... I believe you are going to go over some of our communications."

Ms. Hughes stated, "Good evening. Thank you. As Aaron mentioned, one of the draft documents you have is the letter to those charged with governance; which as Aaron mentioned goes through those required communications that we have at the end of each audit. So, a couple of the items...here, we have kind of summarized what some of those areas are...but to briefly walk through those. The first thing you'll see in this letter is just a reminder of auditor responsibilities as well as managements responsibilities as it relates to the annual financial statements audit process. And so, that's going to go through and is all defined in the arrangement letter as well before the start, before the audit process even begins. But, certainly pointing to the auditor's responsibilities, it relates to auditing standards we follow when performing our work. But, again, going through as well, management's responsibilities as well as those charged with governance as it relates to the content of the financial statements and their accuracies as well as that information we are provided with when we are performing our audit testing. The

content of the letter also then goes to highlight anything perhaps anything new this year different compared to a prior year financial statement. So, the next time you build it here, there was a new GATSBY standard that was required to be implemented this year as it relates to how your account for leases. We've gone ahead and noted it here just because it was a required implementation but, in the analysis, performed by managements, those really didn't have a significant impact at all on the financial statements, really given there are no significant lease activities that the or that are entering into in the new year. Well, for some of these had a significant impact as far as how those are accounted for in the disclosed financial statements and are really no significant impact on your financial statements this year. Significant accounting estimates...this is just to remind you that there are areas in the financials that have a component of subjectivity where management is estimating either a transaction or balance in the financial statements. And so, examples include for personal use of lines for capital assets, for example, an estimate of how long those capital assets are going to last and therefore, how long should they be depreciated over. Also, future costs related to pension and OPEV benefits offered to employees and retirees as far as what is an estimate and what are those costs going to look like going forward. We do take a look at those estimates as part of our audit work to make sure that the process used by management appears reasonable for both compared to the policies implemented on that area as well as compared to the peers of the industry and really just that the appropriate accounting standards are being followed in those areas as well. As part of the audit process, we'll note if there were any significant audit adjustments identified. So, what that means is, were there any significant errors or adjustments compared to the original trial balance we received to start our audit testing. That is then reflected in the audit drafting of our final audit product. And there were no audit adjustments identified during our testing. On uncorrected mis-statements, these are a bit similar in nature...maybe an adjustment came up but was deemed to be clearly immaterial by management as well as us. You'll see in the letter, there is one item noted as it relates to the estimate of the OPEV liability. The actuary did a two-year analysis...there is a portion of that analysis that is required to be updated each year on that specific date and time. So, you'll see there is a judgmental estimate on what OPEV liability may be off simply by updating that assumption each year on June 30<sup>th</sup>. We also note if there are any areas where there are potentially another accountant was consulted for how to account for something, asking for an opinion on something etc., and we want to be made aware of any instances of that nature. Lastly, in this document, again, it's still in draft form, but you'll see a copy of the management representation letter. This really is the last step in the audit process. Management will sign this and that just really confirms two primary topics...that the financial statements are complete and accurate to the best of their knowledge as well as, again, a couple of those things I mentioned in the arrangement letter of responsibilities that the financial statements as well as the information we were provided with to perform all of our testing is complete and accurate to the best of

their knowledge. I'll go ahead and turn it back over to Aaron to just summarize a few areas in the financial statements."

Mr. McLaughlin stated, "Thank you, Kristin. So, again, as I mentioned...we would like to walk through the actual financial statements. Some of the activity and trends we've observed and some other important information we would like to share. So, we are going to go ahead and start with the net position of the Forest Preserve as a whole. Um, you can see in our bar chart, here, that in 2022 to the previous fiscal year 2021...your green bars are 2022 and then your blue bars are 2021. So overall the Forest Preserve's net position increased by approximately by \$2.7 million up from the previous year. Your net position is broken into three categories. The first is what is Invested in Capital Assets, um, that is the first bar in this chart. And that actually increased by about a million dollars, that is attributed to the purchase of the AMÔWA Forest Preserve in the current year. And, you'll see that's going to be a running theme and we'll touch on that several times throughout this presentation. Uh, your Restricted Fund Balance...those are amounts that are allocated to certain activities such as liability, retirement etc....so, those cannot be spent freely on and we did not see a significant change in that area. And then finally, your Unrestricted Net Position...is essentially everything else. This one did increase significantly approximately \$1.6 million dollars from the previous year. And really what's driving that is some of the factors that I am about to talk about on the following slides. I will be getting into a little bit more detail on your revenues and expenditures in both of those to the line item. So, with that said, I am going to jump into the breakdown of your revenues. Again, on the left, we are going to be comparing the 2022 to 2021 on the right. So, here, we have broken down the various types of revenues. There are categories, and again, I am just going to call out a couple of highlights or large changes from the previous year. Um, the first one you'll notice, this is the green bar...these are your other taxes. These have increase by about \$470,000.00 and, again, these are other taxes; which are anything other than property taxes. We would attribute this in part to the recovery since Covid. If you think back to fiscal year 2021; which began in July or 2020...Covid was still having quite a significant impact on the previous year, especially early on. These taxes here, they are attributable to things like Hotels and Motels um, or they can also feed off of Sales Taxes. And so, those are two areas where as things got back to a bit more normal this year, we did see an increase. The second category of that increase...this is the purple bar on your screens. And, this is fees and charges for services. The increase is over \$800,000.00 and is almost attributable entirely to the zoo. So, again, just to emphasize Covid had a larger impact on the zoo in the previous year. As things got back to more normal, uh...normality, uh the zoo's revenue increased quite significantly and explained most of this increase overall. Finally, the light blue bar on your screens is your contributions in grant revenue. Here, we've got an increase of over \$940,000.00, and this is again, where I will bring up the AMÔWA Forest Preserve. There were grants and other items that helped fund the purchase of that. And so, those made up the vast majority of this increase year over year. Overall revenues, regardless of

category, did increase by a total of \$2.3 million dollars as well. And then, I will jump to expenses...so, we just talked about overall revenues increasing by \$2.3 million dollars, uh expenses as well did increase by \$1.4 million dollars. So, there was an increase in both fronts although the increase in revenues was much stronger. Again, on your left, you've got 2022 and, on your right, you've got 2021. I will call out a couple of trends...and so, once again the green bar, that is your zoo, those increased by about \$550,000.00. Again, we just talked about the zoo but I think it is worth pointing out that both revenues and expenditures for the zoo increased but the revenues for the zoo increased much more significantly than these expenditures. The yellow bar, these are key retirement expenses and this goes against the trend, but we did want to call this out. These decreased by approximately \$300,000.00. Last year, the Forest Preserve was able to make a discretionary contribution into the pension plan. As a result, this is expected to decrease cash flow and decrease future contributions to that plan. And so, last year, there was this one-time contribution, but this year, it's returned more to normal. And then finally, the blue bar...this is your Capital Expenditures. And, once again, the purchase of the AMÔWA Forest Preserve this year...that was responsible substantially for all of this increase of approximately a \$1 million dollar increase we've got here. Again, it's sort of a one-time purchase of a very large fixed asset and that created this increase on our chart. I'm gonna talk about now is the General Fund, fund balance in days. So, what we are doing here is looking at one measurement of the General Fund's health. Essentially, we take the expenditures on a daily basis and we divide that into the unassigned fund balance of the General Fund. Another way to think about this number is...if the General Fund was to stop taking in revenues, the number of days on the screen, is the number of days that the General Fund can continue to spend as normal before their unassigned fund balance would be zero. So, you know...you see an increase here over 30 days...it's quite strong, especially when you compared back to 2022, err...excuse me...back to 2020; which was at 160 days. And so, increases in general, they are good to show that the General Fund is stronger and has a stronger fund balance. And so, it's continued to see positive trends in this regard. So, with the assets...this will take us through most of our presentation. We do just want to thank the commission. We always appreciate having the opportunity to present and share the results of our audit and interact with you all. And, then I also just want to take a couple of minutes to thank April Palmer and her team and Jeff Craver and his team as well. We have come out and made quite a few requests and had a lot of questions. And so, the audit is not necessarily as fun for those folks, but we certainly couldn't do it without their help and their commitment to ensuring a quality audit. So, I definitely would like to take a moment to thank them. So, with that said...that does take us throughout presentation. If there are any questions on our report or on our presentation, we would love to open up the floor now."

President Swanson stated, "Thank you, Aaron and thank you, Kristin. I'll note that this is on the agenda later to formally accept, but if there are any questions while

we have Aaron and Kristin with us, now is a great time for them. See, Aaron...when you and Kristin do such a great job, there's no questions for you."

Mr. McLaughlin replied, "Thank you. We like it that way." (Chuckles)

President Swanson added, "Well, we appreciate the partnership with you and the work that you do on behalf of the taxpayers of Rock Island County. Thank you for your time!"

Mr. McLaughlin added, "Alright. Thank you for your time as well."

President Swanson stated, "Seeing no further questions there...we are going to move forward. And at this time, I would like to entertain a motion to approve the November Commission and December Reorganizational meeting minutes. We have a motion from Mr. Burns and a second from Mr. Vyncke. Any questions or discussion? Seeing none, I would ask the Clerk to call an establishing roll."

3. Commissioner Burns moved to approve the November 22, 2022, Commission Minutes and the December 5, 2022 Reorganizational Minutes, as presented. Commissioners Vyncke seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES            16**

**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 President's Comments. Due to the new Public Act in Illinois, Public Act #102-1088, is also known as the Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiency Act, which is at the end of the packet, you will find a summary is included in Mr. Craver's report...we would like you to be thinking of suggestions as to Rock Island County residents that may be interested in serving on that temporary committee. Now, just so you know, we won't be getting any further insight from Springfield. So, what this means is...we have to look over a course of three meetings, that the way we do things and then, look for opportunities that are such to make these admissions work more efficient.

This isn't necessarily about changing the work that our staff does, it's just how are we doing things...just a measure to be sure that we are being accountable to the public. And, they ask that in addition to every one of you being on the committee...don't worry, we'll just meet at the end of one of our regular meetings, over three times...for two private citizens who are none-the-less residents of Rock Island County. If you have some thoughts along those lines, I've already gotten some suggestions, please get them to me either by email or you can call Mr. Craver or myself at any time if you think and I'll be happy to reach out to those folks. And, if you have questions on that later, by all means...I am happy to help. But, do take a look at the info. in the back of the packet. We won't do anything imminently, but in the next couple of months we will get started on it. So, thank you for your attention to that. And seeing no pressing questions on that matter at this time, we'll move forward."

6. Commissioner Simmer moved to approve the Forest Preserve Claims and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$782,160.45, as presented. Commissioners Adams and Layer seconded.

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES            16**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried.

7. Commissioner McNeil moved to waive the reading and approve the Resolution regarding FY 23 Niabi Fund Regional Development Authority Grant Application, as presented. Commissioner L. Moreno seconded.

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

## RESOLUTION

### FY 2023 Niabi Zoo Fund Regional Development Authority Grant Appropriations

**WHEREAS**, Niabi Zoo was awarded \$32,500.00 from the Regional Development Authority for Operational Support/Building Infrastructure, and

**WHEREAS**, the Regional Development Authority grant has been received in full, and

**WHEREAS**, the purchase of an aluminum feline restraint cage with guillotine doors, Discovery Center gallery renovation, & Biodiversity Hall guest railing installation is required at Niabi Zoo, 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 \$32,738.00 shall be increased from grant revenue received in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

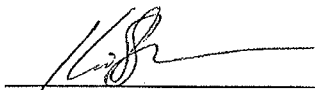
AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$13,238.00	131-32-35 768 RDA23	Machine & Equipment over \$5,000
\$15,000.00	131-32-35 766 RDA23	Buildings & Remodeling over \$5000
\$4,500.00	131-32-35 638 RDA23	Repairs & Maintenance

SECTION 3. Revenues in the amount of \$32,500.00 shall be increased from the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$32,500.00	131-32-35 337.70 RDA23	Local Grants

SECTION 4. This resolution to become effective immediately.

**ADOPTED** by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2022.

  
Kai Swanson, President  
Forest Preserve Commission

  
Karen Kinney, Secretary  
Forest Preserve Commission

Commissioner Moreno-Baker moved to approve the previous roll call vote.  
Commissioners Vyncke and Enburg seconded.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke,  
L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke,  
J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES            16**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried.

8. Commissioner Woods moved to waive the reading and approve the Resolution regarding FY 23 Niabi Fund African Painted Dog Grants, as presented.  
Commissioner Simmer 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 \$15,006.25 shall be increased from grant revenue to be received in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$15,006.25	131-32-35 767 TAFGP23	Infrastructure over \$15,000

SECTION 3. Revenues in the amount of \$15,006.25 shall be increased from the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$15,006.25	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 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2022.

  
Kai Swanson, President  
Forest Preserve Commission

  
Karen Kinney, Secretary  
Forest Preserve Commission

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES            16**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried.

9. Commissioner Layer moved to waive the reading and approve the FY23 Development of Forests & Construction of Improvement Fund Illiniwek Recreation Trail Grant Appropriations, as presented. Commissioner Woods 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 \$975.00 shall be increased from grant revenue to be received in the General Fund #130 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$975.00	335-32-35 765 RTP 23	Construction in Progress


SECTION 3. Revenues in the amount of \$975.00 shall be increased in the General Fund #130 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$975.00	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 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2022.

  
Kai Swanson, President  
Forest Preserve Commission

  
Karen Kinney, Secretary  
Forest Preserve Commission

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

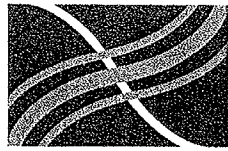
**TOTAL YES            16**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried.

10. Commissioner Simmer moved to approve the Resolution RE: Designation of Banks and other Depositories, as presented. Commissioner Adams seconded.

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



**Rock  
Island  
County**

***Rock Island County Forest Preserve  
Resolution  
Re: Designation of Banks or other Depositories***

***WHEREAS***, Nick Camlin, County Collector and County Treasurer, of the County of Rock Island, State of Illinois, and being appointed Treasurer, of the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District by the Board of Forest Preserve Commissioners of the County of Rock Island, State of Illinois has pursuant to the terms of an Act of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois, 70 ILCS 805/8b, requested this Board of Forest Preserve Commissioners of Rock Island County to designate a Bank or Banks or other Depository in which the Funds and Public Monies in the custody of the County Treasurer and monies received by him in the collection of taxes may be kept, and,

***WHEREAS***, the following designated banks have furnished copies of the sworn Statements of Resources and Liabilities, as furnished to the Comptroller of currency or to the Commissioner of Banks and Trust Companies of Illinois.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSIONERS OF ROCK ISLAND COUNTY, IL aforesaid, that the following named Banks are hereby designated as Depositories in which the funds and monies received by Nick Camlin, County Collector and County Treasurer, and in the collection of taxes may be deposited to-wit:***

*Bank Orion; Moline, Illinois  
US Bank; Rock Island, Illinois  
Quad City Bank and Trust; Moline, Illinois  
Old National Bank (fka First Midwest Bank); Moline, Illinois  
Clock Tower Community Bank; Hillsdale Illinois  
Peoples National Bank; Reynolds, Illinois  
CBI Bank & Trust; Buffalo Prairie, Illinois  
SENB Bank; Moline Illinois  
Blackhawk Bank & Trust; Milan, Illinois  
American Bank of Rock Island; Rock Island, Illinois  
First National Bank, Moline, Illinois  
Midwest Bank, Andalusia, Illinois  
Kone Employees Credit Union, Moline, Illinois  
Moline Municipal Credit Union, Moline, Illinois  
Gas & Electric Credit Union, Moline, Illinois*

**NICK CAMLIN, COUNTY TREASURER  
SUE ALBERTS, CHIEF DEPUTY  
ROCK ISLAND COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
PO Box 3277, Rock Island IL 61204-3277  
Phone (309) 558-3510 \* Fax (309) 558-3511  
[www.rockislandcounty.org](http://www.rockislandcounty.org)**

*Service Plus Credit Union, Moline, Illinois  
DuTrac Community Credit Union, Moline, Illinois  
Commerce Bank, Kansas City, Missouri  
PFM Asset Management LLC, Chicago, Illinois  
IMET, Dublin, Ohio  
The Bancorp Bank (Paymerang LLC-vendor payment Services); Richmond, VA*

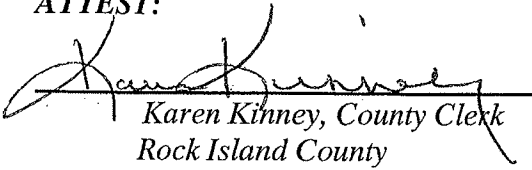
***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that each bank herein designated as a depository for such funds or monies shall furnish the said Board of Forest Preserve Commissioners of Rock Island County with a copy of all Statements of Resources and Liabilities which it is required to furnish to the said Comptroller of Currency or Director of Financial Institutions of the State of Illinois while acting as such Depository and,

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that if such funds and monies are deposited in a bank herein designated, as a Depository, the amounts of such deposits shall not exceed sixty-five (65%) of the Capital Stock and Surplus of such Bank and such County Treasurer shall not be discharged from responsibility for any such funds or monies deposited in any bank in excess of such limitation.

**ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSIONERS OF  
ROCK ISLAND COUNTY, ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2022.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Kai Swanson, President  
Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission*

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Karen Kinney, County Clerk  
Rock Island County*

Commissioner Layer moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner M. Moreno-Baker seconded.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES            16**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried.

11. Commissioner L. Moreno moved to approve the 2023 Regular Meeting Dates and Holiday Schedule, as presented. If there is no objection, I will combine this with approving Jeff Craver as the District's FOIA Officer for calendar year 2023. Seeing no objections to that procedural move for taking both, as presented. Commissioner Layer seconded.

(Note\*\* the 2023 Meeting and Holiday Schedules are in a .pdf format and begin on the next page)

**Schedule of Regular Meeting Dates for the Rock Island County Forest Preserve  
District and Forest Preserve Executive Committee meetings for the calendar  
year 2023 pursuant to the Open Meetings Act**

Pursuant to Section 2.03 of the Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/2.03, the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District has prepared and makes available this Schedule of Regular Meeting Dates for the calendar year of 2023. The Rock Island County Forest Preserve District may schedule other special meetings, emergency meetings, and reconvened meetings as deemed necessary and as allowed by law pursuant to Section 2.02 of the Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/2.02, in addition to any amendments or other modifications to the regular meeting date schedule. All regular meetings unless otherwise notified shall take place at 5:30 PM in the Rock Island County Chambers in the Rock Island County Building, 1504 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois, immediately following the meeting of the Rock Island County Board of Supervisors as follows:

Tuesday, January 17  
Tuesday, February 21  
Tuesday, March 21  
Tuesday, April 18  
Tuesday, May 16  
Tuesday, June 20

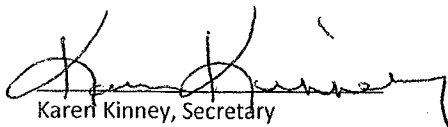
Tuesday, July 18  
Tuesday, August 15  
Tuesday, September 19  
Tuesday, October 17  
Tuesday, November 21  
Tuesday, December 19

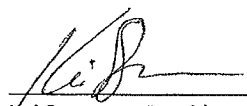
The Forest Preserve Executive Committee will meet at 9:30 AM in the Rock Island County Chambers in the Rock Island County Building, 1504 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois unless otherwise noted.

Tuesday, January 10  
Tuesday, February 14  
Tuesday, March 14  
Tuesday, April 11  
Tuesday, May 9  
Tuesday, June 13-Niabi Zoo, 13010 Niabi Zoo Road, Coal Valley, IL 61240  
Tuesday, July 11-Indian Bluff Golf Course, 6200 78<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Milan, IL 61284  
Tuesday, August 8-Loud Thunder Forest Preserve, 19406 Loud Thunder Road, Illinois City, IL 61259  
Tuesday, September 12-Illiniwek Forest Preserve, 836 State Avenue, Hampton, IL 61256  
Wednesday, October 11  
Tuesday, November 14  
Tuesday, December 12

These schedules of regular meeting dates as adopted pursuant to a vote of the Forest Preserve Commission, of the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District, at the regular meeting on December 20, 2022.

ATTEST:

  
Karen Kinney, Secretary  
Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission

  
Kai Swanson, President  
Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission



ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT  
HOLIDAY POLICY

SECTION 19

The Rock Island County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners recognizes the following days of calendar year 2023 as days in which full-time employees shall receive holiday pay. It is the policy of the District to recognize the following days:

New Year's Day, (2023)	January 2, 2023
Martin Luther King's Birthday,	January 16, 2023
Presidents Day,	February 20, 2023
Good Friday,	April 7, 2023
Memorial Day,	May 29, 2023
Juneteenth	June 19, 2023
Independence Day,	July 4, 2023
Labor Day,	September 4, 2023
Columbus Day,	October 9, 2023
Veterans Day,	November 10, 2023
Thanksgiving Day,	November 23, 2023
Friday after Thanksgiving Day,	November 24, 2023
Christmas Eve,	December 26, 2023
Christmas Day,	December 25, 2023
New Year's Day, (2024)	January 1, 2024

The day on which members of the House of Representatives are elected. November 5, 2024

Additionally, no other day shall be considered unless designated by the Board of Commissioners. Only active full-time employees shall qualify for holiday pay. Non-exempt, non-bargaining unit part-time regular or temporary employees shall not qualify for holiday pay.

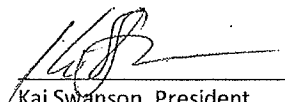
Full-time exempt employees required to work on District observed holiday due to seasonal or continuous operations requirements, shall be allowed to take another day off within a thirty (30) day period following the worked holiday. Holiday pay is not cumulative for full-time exempt employees, therefore, if another day off is not taken in lieu the worked holiday within the thirty-day period, the day of paid time off will be forfeited.

When a holiday occurs on a Saturday it shall be observed on the proceeding Friday and when a holiday occurs on a Sunday it shall be observed on the following Monday with the exception of Niabi Zoo which will observe the actual day the holiday falls for full-time exempt employees required to work.

Full-time non-exempt non-bargaining unit employees shall receive two and one-half times their regularly hourly rate of pay for all hours worked on Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day in lieu of holiday pay or compensatory time off. If an employee does not work a full eight hours shift, those hours not worked shall be considered holiday pay.

ATTEST:

  
Karen Kinney, Secretary  
Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission

  
Kai Swanson, President  
Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke,  
L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke,  
J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES            16**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried.

President Swanson stated, "At this time, I would note that we have a representative from ESTES here tonight in the chambers for any of the next questions that we might want to bring him up for."

12. Commissioner Simmer moved to approve staff recommended low bid packages, alternates, allowances and project manager general requirements for the Niabi Zoo African Painted Dog Exhibit Project in the amount totaling, \$701,710.00 as presented. Commissioner L. Moreno seconded.

President Swanson asked, "Nate, did you have anything to say, or did you just want to respond to questions?"

Nate stated, "No."

President Swanson continued, "Okay, if there are any questions or discussions on this motion, now is the time for that. Seeing none."

Commissioner Burns moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner M. Moreno-Baker seconded.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke,  
L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke,  
J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES            16**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried.

- 13 President Swanson stated, "At this time, and again...the next three items are procedural and combined, so if there's any objection, we will take them singly, but as Chair, I am going to entertain a motion to approve the Forest Preserve Commission General Policy and Procedures, approve the Public Comment

Procedure, and approve the Forest Preserve Commissioner Creed & Code of Conduct Policy, as presented."

Motion by Commissioner Burns and Commissioner Enburg seconded.

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke,  
L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke,  
J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES            16**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried.

14. Commissioner Woods moved to approve the FY 2022 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, as presented. Commissioner L. Moreno seconded.

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke,  
L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke,  
J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES            16**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried.

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

Commissioner Simmer was recognized.

Mr. Simmer stated, "I don't know how to read it, maybe Jeff could show us...this Rhino thing in the packet. The encounters for the Rhino...what's that about?"

President Swanson asked, "If I could? Okay, so if I am not mistaken, these are some of the extra packages that we can make available...often times, parents and grandparents and grandchildren where you are not actually having an encounter with an animal like that, but you get a chance to come behind the scenes and see how they are fed and how they move in and out of their enclosures..."

Mr. Simmer interrupted, "Like the Giraffe's?"

President Swanson added, "Yeah...despite the name, and we hope we don't get sued for false advertising, it's not a one to one encounter with the Rhino. And, Mr. Craver, did I get close to getting that right? Mr. Adams, Dr. Simmer...does that address your question?"

Mr. Simmer added, "I remember with the Giraffe now."

Mr. Adam added, "I just wanted to make sure that nobody gets injured...through a negative encounter."

President Swanson added, "Oh, yeah. I would say it's worth looking into for the young people in your life to get a little closer to our buddy, Keto out at Niabi Zoo. Thank you for that question. Any other comments or questions from Commissioners? Please, Ms. Moreno-Baker."

Commissioner M. Moreno-Baker stated, "Merry Christmas! And, there are Christmas cookies my family made for everyone!!"

President Swanson stated, "To you and your family as well! Thank you! Now before we...actually, we will bring it into discussion, the routine reports from Commissioners."

16. Commissioner Adams moved to approve all Routine Reports from the Director and Departments Heads of the Forest Preserve Commission, as presented. Commissioner L. Moreno and Layer seconded.

President Swanson stated, "Now that it is in discussion, I see that Ms. Palmer is with us. Is there anything from your report that you would like to lift up for the benefit of the Commissioners?"

Ms. Palmer stated, "No, I don't believe so. I just do want to point out that the approval tonight went smoothly. I believe for the audit, all final copies once they are through the final review, and the reports are written and finalized will be made available to all the Members electronically and I will push those forward."

An unidentified commissioner asked, "Are they available on paper?"

Ms. Palmer answered, "One of us will. I do appreciate RSM's time this evening. And, as always, you can come to me with any questions you may have before or after you receive those financials as well. Thank you."

President Swanson asked, "Thank you. Do we have any questions for Ms. Palmer? I'm afraid I can't see the full menu anymore...if there are other staffers on? I am

not sure if...Mr. Craver can come on up, but if there are other staffers who might want to conceivably make a comment for additional elaboration on their reports? Mr. Craver, please. Oh, I am sorry, I saw you come forward and thought you might have something you wanted to add from your report."

Mr. Craver answered, "No."

President Swanson added, "Since we have Mr. Craver here, are there any other questions for Mr. Craver? Please, Dr. Simmer and use the microphone."

Commissioner Simmer was recognized.

Mr. Simmer stated, "Do you need us to take up a collection for your razor? (His beard)"

(Group Laughter)

Mr. Craver stated, "It's probably going to come off sooner than later, so...Covid did weird things to us all. Just one, hopefully we are near the end."

President Swanson added, "That historic picture of the County Board from 110 years ago. (Chuckles) They all had those. On the subject of these reports, especially for newly elected Members, please take time to read those. There is great stuff going on in the District. And, please remember that Mr. Craver...all it takes is a phone call and you can schedule a tour of all of our amazing facilities. And, he'll give you a more behind the scenes view...just like a Rhino encounter. It's a Craver encounter we'll call it. And, that can be scheduled by you. There is a motion and a second on the floor to adopt all routine reports."

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES            16**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Forest Preserve Commission is Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 5:30pm, immediately following the meeting of the Rock Island County Board.

President Swanson stated, "I wish you all the best for the holidays to come to you and your families!"

President Swanson declared the Forest Preserve Meeting recessed at 6:58pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Kinney", with a long, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the name.

KAREN KINNEY  
COUNTY CLERK AND SECRETARY  
OF THE FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

KK:rw