

**FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES  
JANUARY 10, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Committee members – K. Swanson, L. Moreno, J. Woods, E. Sowards, R. Simmer, D. Mielke, C. Layer.

**ABSENT:**

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jeff Craver, District Director; Lee Jackson, Niabi Zoo Director; Mike Petersen, Illiniwek Ranger; Todd Collins, Club House Manager; Jay Verstraete, Golf Course Superintendent; April Palmer, Auditor(via Zoom); Nick Camlin, Treasurer; Kurt Davis, Information Systems.

President Swanson called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Executive Committee to order at 9:32 AM on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, in the third floor chambers of the County Building, Rock Island, Illinois.

K. Swanson, L. Moreno, J. Woods, E. Sowards, R. Simmer, D. Mielke, C. Layer.

**TOTAL PRESENT 7**

**TOTAL ABSENT 0**

President Swanson called for a motion approving the December Committee meeting.

**MOTION:** Dr. Moreno moved to approve the December Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Mielke seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$255,787.40.

**MOTION:** Mr. Layer moved to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$255,787.40. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the resolution regarding the semi-annual review of closed session minutes.

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to approve the resolution regarding the semi-annual review of closed session minutes. Ms. Woods seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the resolution regarding the donation of a red wolf statue.

**MOTION:** Mr. Layer moved to approve the resolution regarding the donation of a red wolf statue. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the resolution regarding the zoo foundation reimbursements for a white rhino exhibit.

**MOTION:** Dr. Moreno moved to approve the resolution regarding the zoo foundation reimbursements for a white rhino exhibit. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

There were no requests for public comment.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the resolution regarding the appropriations for Amôwa Forest Preserve.

**MOTION:** Mr. Layer moved to approve the resolution regarding the appropriations for Amôwa Forest Preserve. Ms. Woods seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the receipt of a seed donation.

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to approve the receipt of a seed donation. Ms. Woods seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the resolution regarding appropriations for the African Painted Dog grant.

**MOTION:** Dr. Moreno moved to approve the resolution regarding appropriations for the African Painted Dog grant. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the resolution defining a responsible bidder.

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to approve the resolution defining a responsible bidder. Ms. Woods seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the resolution regarding the Illiniwek Recreation Trail grant appropriations.

**MOTION:** Mr. Layer moved to approve the resolution regarding the Illiniwek Recreation Trail grant appropriations. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the 2023 user fees for the District.

**MOTION:** Mr. Layer moved to approve the 2023 user fees for the District. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Great River Trail Enhancement project.

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to approve the Great River Trail Enhancement project. Ms. Woods seconded the motion.

Mr. Petersen stated that this project is still in the design phase.

Mr. Craver stated that the plans seen in the packet are at about 75% completion, but today the plans are closer to 90% completion. A cost estimate has been provided. Looking at doing the first phase, which is the road leading into the campgrounds that goes past the shelter and also leads to the boat launch area. The plan is to widen the road and put in a designated bike trail. Grants have been awarded, and donations received to go towards this project. Because the road will be closed for the road work, the campground will need to remain closed until about May 5<sup>th</sup>. That's when the work is estimated to be complete. This does of course hinge on the weather, but the worst case scenario is that camping at Illiniwek wouldn't open up until Memorial weekend, which is when camping season starts to get busy and we see the most revenue. Hope to have bid documents out next week, and present bids in February with an eye to start the work in March. Phase two is planned to go out to bid in the fall. The shelter has no designated parking area. It is recommended that there be a designated parking area, and limit to the size of the groups that are allowed to use the shelter. The large groups that use the shelter don't really fit in that space and are a liability risk. Another option is that the District stops doing shelter rentals all together.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Amôwa Forest Preserve parking lots.

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to approve the Amôwa Forest Preserve parking lots. Ms. Woods seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the concession agreement between Niabi Zoo and Bubbles Bobo Tea.

**MOTION:** Mr. Mielke moved to approve the concession agreement between Niabi Zoo and Bubbles Bobo Tea. Ms. Woods seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the final draft of the fiscal year 2022 Annual Financial Report.

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to approve the final draft of the fiscal year 2022 Annual Financial Report. Ms. Woods seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson asked if anyone had any questions regarding routine reports.

No one had any questions regarding the routine reports.

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

**MOTION:** Dr. Moreno moved to approve the routine reports of the District Department heads. Mr. Layer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called the meeting adjourned at 10:02 AM.

Submitted by:  
Cassie Sullivan  
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant