

**FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
FEBRUARY 14, 2023**

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

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Bob Perkins, District 13 Commissioner; 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; Nick Camlin, Treasurer; Kurt Davis, Information Systems.

President Swanson called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Executive Committee to order at 9:31 AM on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, in the third floor chambers of the County Building, Rock Island, Illinois.

K. Swanson, L. Moreno, J. Woods, E. Sowards(via Zoom), D. Mielke, C. Layer. (R. Simmer arrived later after roll was called-via Zoom).

TOTAL PRESENT 7

TOTAL ABSENT 0

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

MOTION: Ms. Woods moved to approve the January Committee meeting minutes. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Roll was called:

K. Swanson, L. Moreno, J. Woods, E. Sowards, B. Perkins, D. Mielke, C. Layer.

TOTAL YES 7

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$200,288.92.

MOTION: Mr. Perkins moved to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$200,288.92. Mr. Mielke seconded the motion.

MOTION: Mr. Mielke moved to adopt the previous roll call. Mr. Layer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the resolution regarding the Illiniwek Recreation Trail Grant Appropriations.

MOTION: Mr. Moreno moved to approve the resolution regarding the Illiniwek Recreation Trail Grant Appropriations. Ms. Woods seconded the motion.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to adopt the previous roll call. Mr. Layer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the resolution regarding the E. Hogan Trust Bequest.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to approve the resolution regarding the E. Hogan Trust Bequest. Mr. Perkins seconded the motion.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to adopt the previous roll call. Mr. Mielke seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

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

MOTION: Mr. Layer moved to approve the resolution regarding the Development of Amôwa Forest Preserve. Mr. Mielke seconded the motion.

MOTION: Mr. Mielke moved to adopt the previous roll call. Mr. Perkins seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the resolution regarding the Woodward Community Grant.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to approve the resolution regarding the Woodward Community Grant. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

MOTION: Mr. Layer moved to adopt the previous roll call. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Three calls were made for public comment. There were no requests for public comment.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the staff recommended bid for the 4x4 pick-up truck bids for Indian Bluff.

Mr. Craver stated that staff is recommending that none of the presented bids be accepted at this time. The pricing doesn't reflect any government discount, and it would be better to wait a few months and try again.

There was consensus from the Committee to hold off on purchasing the new truck.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the staff recommended bid for the Great River Trail at Illiniwek Project.

MOTION: Mr. Perkins moved to approve the staff recommended bid for the Great River Trail at Illiniwek Project. Mr. Layer seconded the motion.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to adopt the previous roll call. Mr. Mielke seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the staff recommended bid for the Amôwa Forest Preserve Parking Lots Project.

MOTION: Mr. Layer moved to approve the resolution regarding the staff recommended bid for the Amôwa Forest Preserve Parking Lots Project. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

MOTION: Mr. Mielke moved to adopt the previous roll call. Mr. Perkins seconded the motion.

Mr. Craver stated that he wanted to be sure that everyone understood that staff is recommending the permeable pavers, and not the concrete. Permeable pavers are more eco-friendly, and in line with the District's mission of conservation.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Niabi Zoo Foundation.

MOTION: Ms. Woods moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Niabi Zoo Foundation. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to adopt the previous roll call. Mr. Perkins seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Beverage Exclusivity Agreement.

MOTION: Mr. Layer moved to approve the Beverage Exclusivity Agreement. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

MOTION: Mr. Mielke moved to adopt the previous roll call. Mr. Perkins seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve recommended dissolution of the Niabi Zoo Community Advisory Board.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to approve recommended dissolution of the Niabi Zoo Community Advisory Board. Ms. Woods seconded the motion.

President Swanson briefly went through the history of why the Community Advisory Board was established, and that the CAB had accomplished its goal.

Mr. Mielke asked if there was any opposition from CAB members to this dissolution.

Mr. Jackson answered that the vote on the recommendation for dissolution was unanimous.

MOTION: Mr. Mielke moved to adopt the previous roll call. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

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

Mr. Layer asked Mr. Jackson if there were plans to replace the giraffe that passed recently.

Mr. Jackson stated that because of the age of the giraffes staff started the discussion of what to do with that area about twelve months ago. This death was unexpected. The necropsy report came back, and the cause of death was a degenerative neurological condition. Staff is looking into getting another female, but because of pre-existing conditions with the current giraffe replacement will be difficult. Having giraffes in the collection is still desirable, but they are expensive and will require fund raising to procure in future.

Mr. Petersen stated that there is a property that has recently been put up for sale adjacent to Illiniwek's east border. It was Stone's Apple Orchard, and is about 280 acres. On the north end of the Stone property it connects to the Elton E Fawks Bald Eagle Refuge. The Stone's property falls in line with the previously discussed conservation corridor. Hoping to be able to pursue this more. The next step would be an appraisal, and talking with a couple organizations right now regarding grant money for purchasing.

President Swanson stated that if anyone was deeply opposed to the idea of procuring this property, the time to bring it up is in these early stages before staff begins to speak with fund raising organizations. It puts the District in a bad light to start those discussions in earnest only to pull out after the process has begun. That would put the District at a disadvantage in future when applying for grants. Please give this some real thought in the coming days, and if there are any concerns that would inhibit your endorsement of this acquisition bring them up right away.

Mr. Mielke asked how much of the property is tillable.

Mr. Petersen stated that the property right now is primarily agriculture. Most of it mowed grass and apple trees. There is about 40 acres of timber on the property with the tree species we see normally, and a low amount of honeysuckle. There are two lakes on the property. Approximately 210 acres are considered tillable. It's a very desirable property for conservation.

Ms. Sowards asked how much the seller is listing the property for.

Mr. Petersen stated that the seller is currently listing at \$6.5 million.

Dr. Moreno asked how many buildings are on the property.

Mr. Petersen stated that there are five barns and two houses.

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

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

Roll was called:

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

TOTAL YES 8

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

President Swanson called the meeting adjourned at 10:04 AM.

Submitted by:

Cassie Sullivan

Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant