

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 21, 2023 – 6:29 PM

PRESIDENT KAI SWANSON - PRESIDING

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke,
L. Moreno, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, K. Swanson, B. Vyncke,
J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

TOTAL PRESENT 16

C. Enburg, M. Moreno-Baker, J. Woods

TOTAL ABSENT 3

2. President Swanson stated, "Okay, thank you very much. At this time, I would like to ask Mr. Craver to please come forward. Do you want to come up here, Jeff, so we can...?"

Mr. Craver answered, "This is fine."

President Swanson added, "Well we'd love it if you did. I know you don't want to, but that makes it all the more fun."

(Mr. Craver steps up to the podium)

President Swanson stated, "Mr. Craver, the floor is yours."

Mr. Craver stated, "Good evening. There we go, good evening, everyone. I'll try to make this brief. Uh, I am really kind of struggling to come up with all I would engage you folks with...so, I kind of looked at what we all have going on. We kind of looked at what happened last year and wanted to kind of plan something that would really highlight the work that the District is doing. Uh, you heard the District's audit presentation back in December and you saw that we put some of the assets on the books and the fund balances are good. Hopefully, for some of you that are new Members, you probably didn't see some of the staff closeout reports when our facilities closed in October. But, we had a pretty good year at the parks and the golf course and the attendance improved at the zoo. But to just kind of put things in perspective, during calendar year 2022, Illiniwek did lose about 1,100 campsites. They were at 11,027 and in 2021, they were at 12,131...but if you compare that to the pre-pandemic year of 2019, they were at 8,462. At Loud Thunder, they also lost about 800 campsites. In 2022 they were at 7,659 units rented and in 2021, they were at 8,458...uh, but if you look at the pre-pandemic year, they were at 2,912. So, still significantly better than what we were pre-pandemic. I really wish we had an overall tool to measure all of the park usage...trials and basically, people coming by hunting, fishing, using the lake, the

boat docks...using all of those things. Over the past year or so with Covid, during conferences and other articles and things...a lot of communities reported their general usage up 30 to 300 percent at some of their facilities. So, to the park staff there, they definitely saw a significant up-tick during a very difficult time and pulled it off pretty well. I'm hoping that...where there is a little leveling off, we did have great weather. If you can see in my reports, I complain about the weather like a farmer...because that does severely impact camping, golf and attendance at the zoo. So, with economics being what they are, and people moving back to their normal routines...hopefully, we can still pick up a lot of new users. It would just happen to coincide that West Lake was going through some significant renovations over there, so their boat rental operation was closed. We saw a lot of new faces who told us how wonderful Lake George was and how they would be back. So, we did see some of that, and I think if we did get an inch and a half of rain tomorrow, I think West Lakes might fill back up. But, needless to say, I just wanted to highlight that with the parks. With the Golf Course, um...they also had a pretty good year in terms of total rounds. On the books, we have 23,909. We did have a little point of sale snafu with some of our guest passes and replay...so, the Golf Course manager estimates we probably really played nearly 25,000 rounds. In 2021, we did 24,159 rounds...so, we went up just a little bit and we also saw a little up-tick in revenue that was also with the assistance of an increase of some of the fees, but if you compare that to 2019, the pre-pandemic year, they did about 20,424 rounds. So, needless to say, hopefully we also probably picked up some more golfers during the pandemic at our golf course. And, really the golf industry and the golf courses around here, really needed that kind of a spur...we saw a lot of younger faces and a lot of new players playing the game. So, hopefully, those trends will continue for the golf course. Then, we get to the zoo. The zoo saw an up-tick in numbers from 2021. They were at 102,005 people and jumped up to 113,844 folks. Their pre-pandemic year was 135,604. So, we haven't quite gotten back up to where we need to be, but it's very encouraging to see the school groups and the numbers coming back. And, I would like to point out that the Commission did adopt a Master Plan for Exhibit Development at Niabi Zoo. The Plan envisions improvements and additions designed to attract guests; in which will in turn will help build our operating revenues...to support our building development and operations at the zoo. So, last year...Keto, the Rhinoceros was put in place of the redeveloped old Lion Exhibit. And, this year...we have two projects going on, on the redevelopment of the Lion Exhibit house...the African Painted Dogs and a brand-new Prairie Dog Exhibit. That, I think is probably the sole stand-alone, first time new Exhibit in close to 12 years...it's been quite some time. We've had some other improvements in repurposing of the Exhibits at the Zoo, but for a stand-alone new Exhibit...it's been over 10 years, I believe since that last occurred. That wouldn't have been able...these projects wouldn't have been able to occur if it wasn't for the CAB (Community Advisory Board) who identified the zoo to need a private partner. They have been working actively on assisting the District on fundraising on those projects and will continue to assist staff and the District on future endeavors. Um, lastly...I wanted to highlight AMÔWA; which was

a pretty significant achievement in 2022. It was the first time somebody mentioned to me that they pointed out it's the first time the District has acquired any significant land since the Eisenhower Administration. So, um...I am not that big of a history buff, but that was quite some time ago. So, obviously, we used the \$1,000,033.00 from the Clean Energy Foundation and \$78,000 from the Conservation Fund to purchase that sizeable piece of property since the mid-1940's. AMÔWA consists of 179 acres of hardwoods and I would like to report that it has 30 new acres of planted prairie that staff was able to accomplish this winter. We kind of referenced the properties as East and West. So, the one closest to 180 is the East and the one...the other property is the West. And so, 10 acres were planted and another 10 acres are currently being prepped on the East. Uh, 20 acres was planted in the West with five additional acres that is prepped and waiting to be planted. The District has acquired over \$50,000 of seed and about 99% of that has either been donated or we got grants from River Action, Quad City Consortium, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Pollinator Partnerships and I believe a Monarch organization gave us a small donation of actual seed. So, very little out of pocket expense has gone to those plantings. And, River Action has applied for an Archonic Grant in which we will get, I believe \$30,000 to help us finish up the rest of those plantings....prairie and possibly a little bit of understory throughout the park. Tonight, you do have some bids on your Agenda. The Executive Committee approved to move forward with us from pavers; which will also compliment the solar lighting that will be going in to light those areas. Well, I kind of wanted to point out...so, with those projects, there is a septic tank that need to be removed. And there is an old culvert...and, if you've been out to the properties or if anybody has been out there, unfortunately, we still have some debris clean up, some dumping and some...at one point in time, there was the plans to have some things fenced. So, there was some old plastic horse fence there, uh decorative. With the mild winters we have had we haven't had the ground freeze up enough for staff to get the trucks and some other equipment out there to kind of haul those things away. So, that is on the list of things to do. Hopefully, when the ground conditions allow us to do so. During the construction projects, the Parking Construction Projects, if they are approved, we hope to fill in two foundations on the property as well. There is going to be a little bit of excess soil when they grade the areas for the proposed parking areas. The project is expected to be done June 15th and an opening date will be set shortly after that...if all construction goes as planned. Also, during the construction, signage is underway for the park and staff will be working on that during the time of the construction of the parking areas. There will be two entrance signs a total recognition sign, a sign that is dedicated to the story behind its name and educational signage focusing on key-note species such as White and other Oak species...Native Plumb, Goldenrod and Sunflowers, Lead Plant. Many of those species are a host plant to hundreds of different species. Staff have been in the process of developing the new page on the District's website to highlight AMÔWA and a Facebook page. We will go live as well once we get closer to setting an opening date. Staff has...you've possibly gotten a mailer, um...it was announced

back in December, I believe that a newly created endowment in the name of and in the Memory of Larry Toppert was established. So, we are trying to highlight and educate folks that there is a way to give and support AMÔWA. And, also on that mailer, is the Loud Thunder endowment; which we use those funds to help purchase the property. So, hopefully, we are creating a little bit of awareness with AMÔWA and through this mailer, the hope that we will see some more donations. If it wasn't for Mr. Martin and Mr. Toppert and their community spirit to give funds back to the District, we wouldn't have the facilities that we have today. Staff will also be working on an inventory of the site to establish a baseline for management practices and strategies with the development of the Forest Management Plan once the inventory is done. They have also been working on trail systems with our Off-Road group Friends of Cycling...um, those of you who are familiar with Dorrance and Illiniwek they really helped repurpose and re-establish those trails. I think Mr. Morthland commented a couple of months ago that every time he drives by Dorrance Park, he sees a couple of cars out there...and uh, you are correct...I wish we could have trails out there all the time...uh darn it...in my notes...I wanted to say that there was an average of 28 vehicles during any one time outside of the sporting events that they assumed were using Dorrance each day. And, Illiniwek sees its trail system used at about 300 folks a day...I'm sorry, for a month that use that trail system. So, we are hoping that the same will happen at AMÔWA. There has been over 200-man hours mainly in the removal of honeysuckle thanks to our friends at Living Lands and Waters providing the lead on that. Later this summer, we will continue Bat surveys and the US Fish and Wildlife Service will continue looking for the Rusty Patch Bumble Bee. The US Fish and Wildlife Service would basically like to identify there as well as other species. The US Geological Survey folks have also identified the Rusty Patch Bumble Bee and will be out looking for it as well. They are more concerned with the genetics to the fragmented patches; which they are currently known to be at...just concerned, basically, about in-breeding and their lack of diversity. So, needless to say...I think I have run over my three minutes, President Swanson. So, hopefully, that was enlightening and fun for everybody. So, we are looking forward to AMÔWA getting established like all of our other Preserves. And, if I can't find a speaker next month, I will talk to you about all of the fun things we've got going on in 2023. Are there any questions from anybody?"

President Swanson added, "We also get Mr. Craver at the end for the reports. But, Mr. McNeil. If you will use your microphone."

Commissioner McNeil was recognized.

Mr. McNeil stated, "That is really impressive that almost 24,000 rounds of golf were played. I like to hear the number...and I am wondering if you can tell me how many Birdies, Eagles and Hole-In-One's there were, since you are such a good record keeper."

(Group laughter)

Mr. Craver answered, "I'm pretty sure I could get you the number of Hole-In-One's because folks tend to celebrate those for some reason. And, we do give them a little trophy. A couple of years ago, we did have a kind of a Hole-In-One three-some...there was like three in a row or something, I can't quite totally remember. Uh, I will work on those numbers for you."

President Swanson asked, "Are there any other questions for Jeff, at this time? Remember, he will be around a little bit later."

Mr. Craver answered, "Thank you. Everyone have a great night."

President Swanson added, "And, please accept our thanks on behalf of your team. Thank you, very much. Alright."

3. Commissioner Adams moved to approve the January 17, 2023, Commission Minutes, as presented. Commissioner Burns seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, K. Swanson, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl

TOTAL YES 16

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

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

President Swanson asked, "Mr. Craver are you going to have to head out quickly or are you going to be able to stick around for a little bit?"

Mr. Craver stated, "I am staying."

President Swanson stated, "Okay, just saw you put your coat on and I thought...let's get him on his way quickly. If we can, we'll get you on your way, as quick as we can."

President Swanson stated, "For President's Comments, there is something I just wanted to lift up and it's something we'll be talking about in the minutes...a

Resolution from the Niabi Community Advisory Board. I'm not going to read all of the 'Whereas', as I wish you would, the only vote is on the 'Resolved' part of it and I know how much Dr. Simmer likes history. But I really want to say this in gratitude to you, as the Commission...because if you rewind that to 2016, we couldn't get anybody to give to Niabi Zoo at all. Uh, the place had pretty much gone off the rails. We brought in a very talented leader...the search process guided by Mr. Craver and others in Lee Jackson, who was an accomplished leader of zoos and those kinds of facilities. And, he said...he got after it...he got after that work. But, this Commission also realized that we needed a community angle for this. So, we established a Community Advisory Board. The Community Advisory Board was meant to bring the public into what we were doing and give a little guidance and I think they exceeded all expectations. But, the reason I want to thank you, as a Commission...is it required a shift in governance. Prior to this...there was this little toy that we could play around with and do whatever we wanted to. That's why we couldn't get any donations...because it was just a little playground. But you started to affect your governance at the appropriate altitude and we got people like Mr. Craver and Mr. Jackson built a great team and is still building a great team. In this Community Advisory Board was also engaging at the appropriate level. They are the ones who are behind the Resolution you are going to vote on in a little bit. But like I said, I am not going to read all of those things, but the reason they are doing that is they have discharged their mission. And as Mr. Craver said, he helped us with a strategic plan. And, that plan is to build something, you get revenue...you get revenue, you build something. You get on and on...it's a ladder. The ladder has proven to be even more durable than we thought and couldn't have happened without your guidance, as a Commission. So, this is my way of saying 'thank you'. And, Dr. Simmer, I think you have something to add."

Commissioner Simmer was recognized.

Mr. Simmer stated, "Yeah, I totally agree and um, I think the biggest problem was the trust issue. And, these guys are trustworthy, the Commission brought us some good people and followed through a lot better. It was a trust issue and now, I think the public is trusting us and see that we have a direction under your guidance...Mr. Craver and Mr. Jackson, um...we have a direction we are heading and the Board helped us in finding that and I think it's great. If nobody has ever looked at that, the newbies that are on...if you look at our program of what we are looking at out in the future, it's pretty amazing stuff...the Lion thing we are looking at, the Monkey thing...Primates, sorry. I'll be careful, it is Primates, because I will be corrected by Mr. Jackson."

President Swanson added, "Just like you and me, we are Primates."

Mr. Simmer added, "That's a very primal...primatial...prime...primary, whatever. I mean if you look at that study, the ten-year future thing...it's pretty amazing what

we have set up. We've been slowly working up to it...so, I think we are heading in a great direction guys."

President Swanson stated, "I appreciate those comments. We can talk more about the Resolution when...before or after it's been moved and seconded, but I wanted to give you that little bit of perspective and hopefully, not add too much to Mr. Craver's plate with that. I am certainly getting him nervous there. But, we will get to that in just a moment. That's it for my comments. Other than to invite you all Saturday, May 13th Garlic Mustard Pull-out at Illiniwek...you haven't been living if you haven't pulled Garlic Mustard, with Mike Petersen. That will be May 13th. That's more than enough out of me, thank you, friends for your indulgence."

6. Commissioner Brunk moved to approve the Forest Preserve Claims and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$200,288.92, as presented. Commissioner Layer seconded.

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, K. Swanson, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl

TOTAL YES 16

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

President Swanson stated, "There are no Transfers of Appropriation this month."

7. Commissioner Brunk moved to waive the reading and approve the Resolution regarding DFCI Fund Illiniwek Recreation Trail Grant Appropriations, as presented. Commissioner Mielke seconded.

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

RESOLUTION

RE: 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 100% construction document work has been performed for the road and trail work required, and

WHEREAS, the project has been bid and moving into contract and construction of Phase I of two phases, 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 \$36,620.00 shall be increased from grant revenue to be received in the Development of Forests and Construction Improvement Fund to the following:

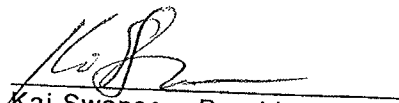
AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$36,620.00	335-32-35 765 RTP 23	Construction in Progress

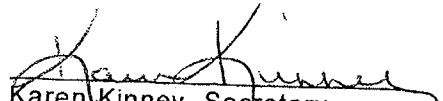
SECTION 3. Revenues in the amount of \$36,620.00 shall be increased in the Development of Forests and Construction Improvement Fund to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$36,620.00	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 21st day of February, 2023.


Kai Swanson, President
Forest Preserve Commission


Karen Kinney, Secretary
Forest Preserve Commission

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, K. Swanson, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl

TOTAL YES 16

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

8. Commissioner Adams moved to waive the reading and approve the Resolution RE: E. Hogan Trust Bequest, 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 Appropriations – E. Hogan Trust

WHEREAS, the District was informed it will be receiving \$13,810.37 from the E. Hogan Trust to benefit Niabi Zoo, and

WHEREAS, the District is very appreciative of the bequest, 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.

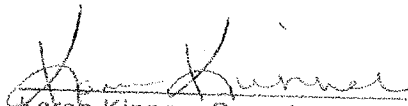
SECTION 2. Revenues in the amount of \$13,810.37 shall be increased from the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$13,810.37	131-32 364.10	Contributions from Private Sources

SECTION 3. This resolution to become effective immediately.

ADOPTED by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 21st day of February, 2023.


Kai Swanson, President
Forest Preserve Commission


Karen Kinney, Secretary
Forest Preserve Commission

Commissioner Mielke moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioners Simmer and Foster seconded.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, K. Swanson, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl

TOTAL YES 16

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

9. Commissioner Layer moved to approve the Resolution RE: Appropriations for AMÔWA Forest Preserve, as presented. Commissioner Vyncke seconded.

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

RESOLUTION

RE: Development of Amôwa Forest Preserve

WHEREAS, additional funds are required in the Forest Preserve Fund #130 for the development of Amôwa Forest Preserve to be incurred in Fiscal Year 2023, and

WHEREAS, two parking areas are to be constructed at Amôwa Forest Preserve, and

WHEREAS, construction and observation services is required for the parking area projects, and

WHEREAS, signage throughout Amôwa Forest Preserve will be installed, and

WHEREAS, funds are available from unappropriated funds within the Forest Preserve Fund #130, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Forest Preserve Commission of Rock Island County, Rock Island, Illinois, as follows:


SECTION 1. An emergency exists as outlined above.

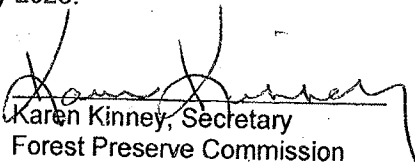
SECTION 2. An amount of \$700,000.00 be transferred from unappropriated funds in the Forest Preserve General Fund #130 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$700,000.00	130-32-90 765	Construction in Progress

SECTION 3. This Resolution to become effective immediately.

ADOPTED by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 21st day of February 2023.


Kai Swanson, President
Forest Preserve Commission


Karen Kinney, Secretary
Forest Preserve Commission

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, K. Swanson, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl

TOTAL YES 16

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

10. Commissioner Adams moved to approve the Resolution RE: The Woodward Community Grant, as presented. Commissioner Vyncke seconded.

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

RESOLUTION

RE: Niabi Zoo Fund Receipt of Grant Funds-Woodward Community Grant Fund

WHEREAS, additional funds are required in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to increase the budget for the purchase of observational equipment and increase security throughout Niabi Zoo, and

WHEREAS, (WCGF23) Woodward Community Grant Fund in the amount of \$16,000 was awarded to Niabi Zoo in October of 2022, and

WHEREAS, funds are available from grant funds already received in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Forest Preserve Commission of Rock Island County, Rock Island, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION 1. An emergency exists as outlined above.

SECTION 2. An amount of \$16,000.00 to be transferred from grant funds already received and unencumbered in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:


AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$16,000.00	131-32-35 337.70 WCGF23-00-33770	State & Local Grants-Culture & Recreation

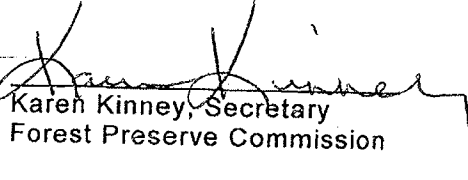
SECTION 3. An amount of \$16,000.00 be transferred from the above described revenue changes in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$16,000.00	131-32-35 524.00-WCGF23	Small Tools & Equipment

SECTION 4. This resolution to become effective immediately.

ADOPTED by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 21st day of February, 2023.


Kai Swanson, President
Forest Preserve Commission


Karen Kinney, Secretary
Forest Preserve Commission

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, K. Swanson, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl

TOTAL YES 16

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

11. Commissioner Burns moved to approve the Resolution RE: Dissolution of the Niabi Zoo Community Advisory Board, as presented. Commissioner Adams seconded.

President Swanson asked, "Are there any questions or discussion on the Resolution?"

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

Resolution
Re: Niabi Zoo Community Advisory Board Dissolution

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2017, by Resolution the Forest Preserve Commission approved the creation of the Niabi Zoo Community Advisory Board, hereinafter referred to as the Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Board provided invaluable input to Forest Preserve District staff and sought public input on fee structures for the zoo, sponsorships and related revenue for the zoo, proposed gift and donation guidelines, and helped to develop policy and procedures that were adopted by the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the staff and Advisory Board with the assistance of Western Illinois University students and facility conducted a public perception survey that aided in the planning and review of the zoo's master plan; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Board through its discussions also identified and recommended a private partner to assist in the development of Niabi Zoo; and

WHEREAS, members of the Advisory Board created the Niabi Zoo Foundation; and

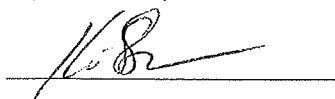
WHEREAS, the Niabi Zoo Foundation has been fundraising on the District's behalf for new zoo exhibits such as the renovation of the current Rhinoceros exhibit and soon-to-be completed African Painted Dog exhibit; and

WHEREAS, the Niabi Zoo Foundation also established funds to assist families with educational stipends for zoo programs while providing general support to the zoo's operational needs through grants, donations and fundraising; and

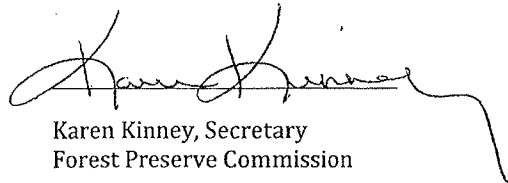
WHEREAS, the Chair and members of the Advisory Board have determined it to be both prudent and propitious that the Niabi Zoo Foundation take on the preponderance of responsibilities heretofore discharged by the Community Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, through consensus, the Advisory Board recommends that Commissioners recognize its original purpose to have been discharged, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission hereby expresses its gratitude to present and past members of the Community Advisory Board, which shall no longer operate under the guidelines and conditions set forth as set forth and adopted the 18th day of July 2017, as **ADOPTED** by the Forest Preserve Commission of Rock Island County, Rock Island, Illinois, this 21st day of February, 2023.



Kai Swanson, President
Forest Preserve Commission



Karen Kinney, Secretary
Forest Preserve Commission

(President Swanson read part of the Resolution, as follows:)

Be It Resolved, that the Forest Preserve Commission hereby expresses its gratitude to present and past Members of the Niabi Zoo Community Advisory Board; which shall no longer operate under the guidelines and conditions, as set forth and adopted the 18th day of July, 2017, as adopted by the Forest Preserve Commission of Rock Island County, Rock Island, Illinois, this 21st day of February, 2023.

Commissioner Westpfahl was recognized.

Mr. Westpfahl asked, "Why are they dissolving it?"

President Swanson answered, "Excellent question. They have determined by unanimous vote, that their work is done. Most of the current Members of the Community Advisory Board have moved on to the Foundation Board. Our Community Advisory Board, as we set it up was simply that, advisory. One of the first things they had to do was raise money for the zoo. And you need to have an active fundraising arm...their leadership established the Foundation...I will also put in a word of gratitude to Mr. Mark Schwiebert who donated an awful lot of legal work to establish this Foundation. And, to give you an idea where they have put their time where their mouths are...the Community Advisory Board Members are joining the Foundation. They are shifting their focus because they have advised us through a Master Plan and all these kinds of things. And now, they are going to be doing the grunt work of raising money for the Foundation. And so, does that answer your question, Mr. Westpfahl?"

Mr. Westpfahl answered, "Yeah."

President Swanson stated, "They have asked for it. Could you use your microphone, please? Thank you."

Commissioner Dewith was recognized.

Mr. Dewith stated, "It's basically, it's just like an evolution."

President Swanson answered, "I would say so...and, it's at their lead. So, we are grateful for it. Mr. Brunk, please!"

Commissioner Brunk was recognized.

Commissioner Brunk asked, "Yes, President Swanson. Can you tell me what the dissolution...? First, I want to applaud all the work that the Members of this Board and the Advisory Board have done and their efforts to move things forward for the Zoo and the District overall. One question...is with the dissolution of the Advisory Board, uh...with the new Non-for-profit, is it structured in a way different than

maybe prior non-for-profits have been structured to hopefully, prevent situations from developing that may not be productive for the Zoo and the District?"

President Swanson answered, "That's an excellent question, Mr. Brunk and I appreciate it very much. Yes, as some of us may remember...there was a problem with...we had a previous fundraising arm that had ceased to be actively engaged in fundraising. They got some money and that money was donated to support the zoo, but they were no longer actively functioning. They weren't meeting on a regular basis, they weren't doing fundraising things, and so, we had a long process of evolution away from that. And, I assure you...at least from my perspective and Mr. Craver is welcome to join in. Every lesson we learned from that was applied to the creation of this Foundation. Um, it's got independence, it's got bumpers in the lanes...it's going to stay in its appropriate lanes and its purpose is very clear. It's to help raise the money that's going to make the Master Plan come to fruition. But, that's a great question."

Mr. Brunk stated, "Thank you. Did I get that right, Mr. Craver? A thumbs up from Mr. Craver. Are there any other questions?"

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke,
L. Moreno, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, K. Swanson, B. Vyncke,
J. R. Westpfahl

TOTAL YES 16

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

12. Commissioner Adams moved to approve the Great River Trail at Illiniwek Project low bid of Porter Brothers at \$564,449.05, as presented. Commissioner Simmer seconded.

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke,
L. Moreno, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, K. Swanson, B. Vyncke,
J. R. Westpfahl

TOTAL YES 16

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

13. Commissioner Mielke moved to approve the AMÔWA Forest Preserve Parking Lots Project low bid of Centennial Contractors at \$676,730.00, as presented. Commissioner Layer seconded.

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, K. Swanson, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl

TOTAL YES 16

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

14. Commissioner Brunk moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Niabi Zoo Foundation, as presented. Commissioner Foster seconded.

President Swanson stated, "This is about the ground rules that we set up with the Foundation."

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, K. Swanson, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl

TOTAL YES 16

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

15. Commissioner Layer moved to approve the Beverage Exclusivity Agreement with WP Beverages, as presented. Commissioner Perkins seconded.

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, K. Swanson, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl

TOTAL YES 16

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

Comments from Commissioners: (None)

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

President Swanson recognized, Mr. Craver.

Mr. Craver stated, "I forgot to tell you that AMÔWA was nominated for an Eddy Award from River Action and so, we'll see how that pans out. Keep your fingers crossed...it will be nail-biting."

President Swanson stated, "We'll keep our fingers crossed...it's that coveted Eddy. It's right after an Emmy, you want to get an Eddy. Thank you, Mr. Craver and thanks for that additional news."

Commissioner Layer moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Foster seconded.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, K. Swanson, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl

TOTAL YES 16

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Forest Preserve Commission is Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 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", written over the printed name.

KAREN KINNEY
COUNTY CLERK AND SECRETARY
OF THE FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

KK:rw