

**ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION  
APRIL 18, 2023 – 6:08PM  
PRESIDENT KAI SWANSON - PRESIDING**

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, C. Enburg, T. Foster, 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**

E. Dewith, B. Perkins

**TOTAL ABSENT 2**

2. President Swanson stated, "Thanks, you all...thanks ladies and gentleman for being here. I am going to ask our special presenter to come forward and step right up here to the well. It's a great pleasure...I think some of you have had a chance to meet Scarlet in the past. She is a part of the secret sauce that is making Niabi Zoo ever more. Either way you want to go...actually, we would like you to be up here because...and please don't ever listen to Dr. Simmer when it comes to taking directions. Also, on fishing recommendations, it's a good thing to steer clear of Dr. Simmer. But, Scarlet is a part of a team that has done so much in recent years to pivot Niabi Zoo from what it was in the childhoods of many of us here in the room, to what it is now; which is a top-flight, premiere education center. And so, Scarlet...we wanted to hear your perspective on these things...and the floor is yours."

Ms. Behrens stated, "Okay. I am Scarlet Behrens. I am the guest service manager at Niabi Zoo. I have been with the zoo since 2010. So, I have definitely seen it grow and we also know that there is still more potential that it has. And, it's actually really exciting to look back and look forward as well. I do oversee the giftshop, membership and the carousel department at the zoo. I do events at the zoo. So, one of the things we really try to look at is our membership and our members at the zoo. We hold two events each season for our members. We actually just had our first one on April 8<sup>th</sup>. We do a zoo preview and egg hunt for the members. We had 700 of them come through the gate last week. They get to come and get free train, free carousel rides, an egg hunt and get to preview the zoo before the general public. And, that's actually something we got feedback on from them. They really wanted some sneak peeks and exclusiveness. And so, several years ago, we started implementing that for them. And then, in July we started doing a Members only night. And that's where they get to come in during...we'll have our regular business hours and they get to come in from 5:30-8:30pm. And again, they get free train, free carousel we'll do special keeper chats. We have the education staff to do special activities on the lawn for kids. Um, and so again, its another great event they get to enjoy and it's another way

that we can thank our members because they are our support and we really appreciate them. Right now, we have about 1,500 members....uh, err...memberships, actually. So, we want to keep building upon that. That's something that we are really going to take a look at this season, again, to...you know, get more people engaged and how we can communicate all the positive things that our members do for us and how much we appreciate them. I also run the Pints for Preservation fundraiser at the zoo. So, if you guys haven't been...um, it's an adult night only at the zoo. We'll have it in September and is from 6-10pm at night. The public can buy tickets and when they get through the gates, they get a passport that will show them all of the stations around the zoo and they also get a little glass to sample from...so, yeah there is about 30 stations set around the zoo and they have about three to four different styles of beverages, adult beverages. So, we've got beer, seltzers, some wine and we have a DJ and food trucks. So, it's a really cool night for adults to get to experience the zoo in a different way. Um, another part we are really going to work on this season is to kind of help build the momentum for the zoo is our communication. Um, ya know, we do marketing and we try to get information out to the guests and that includes our social media. That includes our website and that includes the e-news and e-blast that we send out too. So, again, we are really going to work on that and build the consistency so we can get a spotlight really out there for all the positive things that the zoo is doing and the things we are incorporating, especially, this season. We have got Painted Dogs. The construction has started for that exhibit and for Prairie Dogs. So, we are letting guests know all of the information that they are looking for. Then again, with guest services...a major chunk of that is staffing. So, we just opened yesterday. So, we have started the season and we'll go all the way through the end of October. But staffing, we have seasonal staff. So, every year we hire on about 60 to 70 seasonals and half of those are new. So, February and March we are hiring, we are onboarding and we are training. You know, we train as much as we can, but without those guests being there...it's a little tricky. So, really when we open, its every day, all day that we are really coaching and trying to make the seasonal staff have the confidence that they need to give the guests the best experience. Right? And so, its training them on all of the different jobs they have to do but also training them on all we offer at the zoo. So, guests come in and yes, they purchase their admission tickets but they can also purchase giraffe feeding, Guinea pig feeding, carousel rides, Koi food, petting zoo food. This year, we are launching scooter pals...which is a very large motorized animal that guests can come and rent at the gift shop and ride around the zoo. So, we have five of those and it's just something extra we can show the guests and they can have some fun. And, we also have a new concession area. We are excited because our new concession area will be offering iced-coffee's, bubble tea, wraps, salads along with your walking tacos, hotdogs and chips and things like that. And so, again, a part of that guest experience is making sure the staff is confident, comfortable and knowledgeable as well so, we can keep building upon that guest experience. Yeah, and that's like the overall, but we are always looking for ways to improve guest services and what we can offer because it is a balancing act at the zoo.

And so, we've got to look at a bunch of different things and really take into consideration all of the perspectives. It's something that we are working on and are really excited this season. Because, again, Painted Dogs and Prairie Dogs, especially, after the past several years with the pandemic and stuff we are really starting to feel our momentum building again and we are just going to keep continuing that. That's it."

President Swanson stated, "Well, before we let Scarlet go, are there any questions or comments? I see Mr. Mielke, please and then I think Dr. Simmer has one."

Commissioner Mielke was recognized.

Mr. Mielke asked, "I was curious...the scooter animals. Is that like what they had at SouthPark a few years ago?"

Ms. Behrens answered, "Yes. Actually, that's exactly what it is. We are hoping the kids will have a good time with it."

Commissioner Simmer was recognized.

Mr. Simmer asked, "Yes, I must say, with all the years...I've been here a long time and never met you. I don't know why Jeff never brought you in sooner, but I do appreciate everything you do and I hear and see your name on everything and its used in a positive manor and so...I do appreciate, except with Jeff. (Chuckles) No, it's great to see you in person. And so, you do a great job on the boatload of things you do...you do a great job. That's awesome."

Mr. Craver was recognized.

Mr. Simmer asked, "I think Mr. Craver has a rebuttal?"

(Mr. Craver's comment was not on a microphone, and was not very clear or audible, transcribed from written notes.)

Mr. Craver stated, "I have tried to get Ms. Behrens here several times, but she is a very busy woman. She has a very busy life outside of work, has children and a spouse along with everything else. We will have her come back next year and give an update on everything she is working on...she has been a tremendous help with our software system and works with IS in managing out Point of Sale when things go down, she will put on her tech hat...it's a very, very big part of her job. She was very instrumental in getting the District online with its new Point of Sale system for online customers. So, thank you very much."

Mr. Simmer stated, "So, actually...if Jeff, will just buy your whole family a meal and come downtown....that would be fine and we'd make it much easier for you."

Ms. Behrens stated, "I like that." (Chuckles)

President Swanson stated, "I am anxious to hear other questions, but if you haven't had a chance to see Scarlet in action, she really gets it. And the thing I want to impress upon you is, the first thing that we have got to do is take care of the animals. Right? And so, the scientists that we have at Niabi are amazing. But, we also need somebody who is good with the species Homosapiens (humans) and that is Scarlet...who is able to handle complaints from people who aren't maybe having their best day, she really makes sure they have the best experience at Niabi Zoo. Are there any other questions or comments for Scarlet while she is here? Seeing none...oh, please, Mr. Brunk."

Commissioner Brunk was recognized.

Mr. Brunk stated, "I was just gonna say, Scarlet...next year, feel free to bring the children. Some might say, they would fit right into this room."

(Group laughter)

President Swanson stated, "There ya go. Until then, friends...would you please join me in thanking Scarlet Behrens. Thank you."

(Group applause)

President Swanson stated, "Alright, the next on the agenda, I would entertain a motion to approve the March Commission minutes."

3. Commissioner Burns moved to approve the March 21, 2023, Commission Minutes, as presented. Commissioner Adams seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, C. Enburg, T. Foster, 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 YES**                    **17**

**TOTAL NO**                    **0**

Motion carried.

President Swanson asked Mr. Camlin, "If there is no public online, do we still have to go through the rolls every time?"

Mr. Camlin answered, "I would because you have it on the agenda."

President Swanson stated, "Okay. Then we'll continue to do that, but we will allow for the motion to adopt the previous roll. So, thanks very much Mr. Camlin for that."

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

5. **PRESIDENTS COMMENTS:**

President Swanson asked, "As you heard from Scarlet, the zoo is open. The Preserves are open and we have been waiting for this wonderful weather despite tornados and sudden snowstorms and all that stuff, but the weather is bringing people out and I appreciate it. And, I really want to thank Ms. Sowards. If you haven't noticed her awesome shirt, it features one of those painted dogs, right there...and she got that through Pints for Preservation. There are all kinds of ways, not just we, as Commissioners, but members of the public can support the zoo, including by becoming members. I hope you will consider doing that. The other thing that is coming up very shortly before our next meeting is...on May 4<sup>th</sup>, that's a Thursday before the Coleman's Hall event...is a celebration of the zoo's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday. And that means...wait a minute...if the zoo is turning 60, no I am not gonna tell you how old I am, but the zoo is turning 60! (Chuckles) And so, if you like to celebrate it, there are details online. There is going to be a party at the Rust Belt in East Moline. It's going to be a fun celebration. And please check out there for tickets. The tickets are reasonable and they will support the zoo, and so Dr. Moreno, please...if you would?"

Commissioner L. Moreno was recognized.

Mr. L. Moreno stated, "They have a really good band coming out of Chicago called Maggie Speaks and I listen to them online and they are really good."

President Swanson stated, "I have been hearing great buzz about them, but I haven't heard them. Hopefully, you can all join us there and of course, get out to see the zoo whenever you are able. That does it for President's Comments and remember you will have other opportunities for questions and comments in just a moment."

6. Commissioner Simmer moved to approve the Forest Preserve Claims and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$456,754.22, as presented. Commissioner Layer seconded.

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, C. Enburg, T. Foster, 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 YES 17**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

7. Commissioner Sowards moved to waive the reading and approve the Transfers of Appropriation, as presented. Commissioners Foster and Woods seconded.

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, C. Enburg, T. Foster, 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 YES 17**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

8. Commissioner Adams moved to waive the reading and approve the Resolution regarding DFCI Fund Illiniwek Recreation Trail Grant Appropriations, as presented. Commissioner Layer 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 phase 1 of the construction documents has been completed and bid, and

**WHEREAS**, the engineering firm is also responsible for construction observation services and work has been performed for the road and trail work required, 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 \$6,997.50 shall be increased from grant revenue to be received in the Development of Forests and Construction Improvement Fund to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$6,997.50	335-32-35 765 RTP 23	Construction in Progress

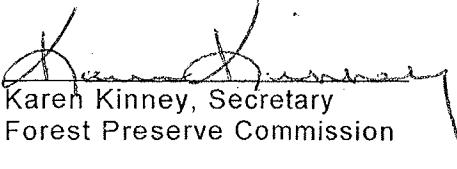
SECTION 3. Revenues in the amount of \$6,997.50 shall be increased in the Development of Forests and Construction Improvement Fund to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$6,997.50	335-32-35 334.70 RTP23	State Grants

SECTION 4. This resolution to become effective immediately.

**ADOPTED** by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.

  
Kai Swanson, President  
Forest Preserve Commission

  
Karen Kinney, Secretary  
Forest Preserve Commission

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, C. Enburg, T. Foster, 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 YES 17**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

9. Commissioner McNeil moved to waive the reading and approve the Resolution regarding Niabi Zoo Fund Expense Appropriations – E. Hogan Trust, as presented. Commissioner Brunk seconded.

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

## RESOLUTION

FY 2023 Niabi Zoo Fund Expense Appropriations – E. Hogan Trust

**WHEREAS**, the District received \$13,810.37 from the E. Hogan Trust to benefit Niabi Zoo, and

WHEREAS, the District utilized the funds for installation of fencing and exhibit renovations, 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. Expenditures in the amount of \$9,217.45 shall be increased from the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$9,217.45	131-32-08 763	Infrastructure \$2,000-14,999

SECTION 3. This resolution to become effective immediately.

**ADOPTED** by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.



Kai Swanson, President  
Forest Preserve Commission



Karen Kinney, Secretary  
Forest Preserve Commission

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, C. Enburg, T. Foster, 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 YES 17**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

10. Commissioner Adams moved to waive the reading and approve the resolution regarding Niabi Zoo Fund African Painted Dog Grant, as presented. Commissioner Woods seconded.

(Note\*\* The Resolution is in .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**, 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 \$97,958.55 shall be increased from grant revenue to be received in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

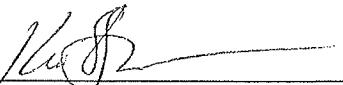
AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$97,958.55	131-32-35 767 TAFGP23	Infrastructure over \$15,000

SECTION 3. Revenues in the amount of \$97,958.55 shall be increased from the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

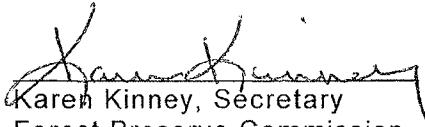
AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$97,958.55	131-32-35 331.70 TAFGP23	Federal Grants

SECTION 4. This resolution to become effective immediately.

**ADOPTED** by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.



Kai Swanson, President  
Forest Preserve Commission



Karen Kinney, Secretary  
Forest Preserve Commission

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, C. Enburg, T. Foster, 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 YES 17**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

11. Commissioner Foster moved to waive the reading and approve the Resolution regarding River Action/Arconic Foundation Grant to benefit AMOWA Forest Preserve, as presented. Commissioner Layer seconded.

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

**RESOLUTION**

RE: River Action/Arconic Foundation Grant to benefit 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**, River Action applied for funding to assist the District in the development of Amôwa Forest Preserve, and

**WHEREAS**, applying for funds to the Arconic Foundation leverages funds received from the Rock Island County Conservation Consortium, and

**WHEREAS**, River Action was awarded \$30,000 from the Arconic Foundation to the development of prairie, educational signage, costs associated with data collection, and

**WHEREAS**, the District will purchase seed, plants, and herbicide and be reimbursed by River Action in the amount of \$23,290.00, and

**WHEREAS**, funds are available from unappropriated contribution 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.

1. SECTION 2. Expenditures in the amount of \$23,290.00 shall be increased from contribution funds in the General Fund #130 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$23,290.00	130-32-90 522	Operating Supplies

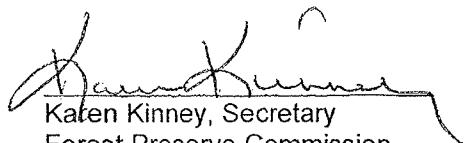
SECTION 3. Revenues in the amount of \$23,290.00 shall be increased from the General Fund #130 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$23,290.00	130-32-90 364.10	Contributions from Private Sources

SECTION 4. This Resolution to become effective immediately.

**ADOPTED** by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023.

  
Kai Swanson, President  
Forest Preserve Commission

  
Karen Kinney, Secretary  
Forest Preserve Commission

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, C. Enburg, T. Foster, 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 YES 17**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

12. Commissioner Burns moved to waive the reading and approve the Resolution regarding Bike Path Fund transfer to DFCI Fund, as presented. Commissioner Sowards seconded.

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

**RESOLUTION**

RE: Bike Path Fund Transfer to Development of Forests & Construction of Improvement Fund

**WHEREAS**, additional funds are required in the Development of Forests & Construction of Improvements Fund #335 for fiscal year 2023 due to the Great River Trail & Support Facility project, and

**WHEREAS**, the project budget has significantly increased since the initial budget developed in 2020 when the submission of a grant to support the project occurred, and

**WHEREAS**, engineering estimates that 30% of the current phase 1 of the project is related to the construction of the trail, and

**WHEREAS**, phase 1 of the project is \$564,449.05 and 30% of that is \$169,334.72 which can be attributed to construction of the trail, and

**WHEREAS**, the initial project budget for the Great River Trail & Support Facility project was \$587,852.94 and now exceeds \$900,000, 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 \$98,284.33 be transferred from Forest Preserve Bike Path Fund #330 unencumbered funds to the Development of Forests & Construction of Improvements Fund #335 for the construction of the trail as part of the Great River Trail and Support Facility project in the following:

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>APPROPRIATION</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
\$98,284.33	335-32 391.61	Transfer from FP Capital Projects

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>APPROPRIATION</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
\$98,284.33	335-32 765.00	Construction in Progress

**SECTION 3.** This resolution to become effective immediately.

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RE: Bike Path Fund Transfer to Development of Forests & Construction of  
Improvement Fund

**ADOPTED** by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock  
Island County, Illinois, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.

**ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT**

*[SEAL]*

By:

  
Kai Swanson, President  
Forest Preserve Commission

ATTEST:

  
Karen Kinney, Secretary  
Forest Preserve Commission

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, C. Enburg, T. Foster, 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 YES 17**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

13. Commissioner Simmer moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the District and River Action, as presented. Commissioner Foster seconded.

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, C. Enburg, T. Foster, 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 YES 17**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

14. Commissioner Enburg moved to approve the Agreement with Klingner & Associates, PC in the amount of \$5,000 for conceptual design and cost of development of Dorrance Park, as presented. Commissioner Morthland seconded.

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, C. Enburg, T. Foster, 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 YES 17**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

15. Commissioner Foster moved to approve the Agreement with Klingner & Associates, PC in the amount of \$17,500 for structural and civil design services for the renovation of the big cat and eagle exhibits, as presented. Commissioner L. Moreno seconded.

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, C. Enburg, T. Foster, 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 YES 17**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

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

Commissioner McNeil was recognized.

Mr. McNeil stated, "A quick question, what is the current rate...what is the cost for a day at the zoo? And what are the basic hours."

President Swanson stated, "We let Ms. Scarlet go too soon. It's still, I believe under \$10.00...I believe. Um..."

(Mr. Cravers comments were not on a microphone)

Mr. Craver added, "We increase our rates over the past few years. I want to say; an adult is \$9.50 if you purchase online. And then, there is a surcharge if you buy at the gate of an additional \$1 dollar or two. I don't have all of the pricing in my head for this year, but I can send out the information to everyone tomorrow as well as the information where you can purchase tickets to the (inaudible) dash."

President Swanson stated, "Ahh, thank you very much. And I would say thank you to Mr. McNeil for bringing that up. The children's price is less, obviously. And, if you have constituents...let them know they can get a family pass at any library in Rock Island County. If they are a library card holder, they can check it out for free. I have friends that do that all the time and it's a great way to make and keep it affordable. But, the best way, Mr. McNeil, to never pay when you are coming in the gate is to get that annual membership, baby. Flash that on your way in and you will also save on the parking fee because we have a modest parking fee. But, thank you for that question."

Mr. Adams stated, "You also get a discount at the Gift shop too."

President Swanson stated, "Yes, you do. You do get a slight discount at the gift shop...so, I am not wearing my sloth socks now, but the next time I see Mr. Adams, I will have those on." (Chuckles)

President Swanson added, "But, an excellent question. Are there any other questions or comments? Please, Mr. Vyncke."

Commissioner Vyncke was recognized.

Mr. Vyncke stated, "Thank you. Just really quick...I was curious of the status of the update at Illiniwek Trail and how things are going?"

President Swanson answered, "That project is moving forward...at Illiniwek, the trail improvement project. I think we have a little bit of an issue with the rail crossing, but otherwise, it seems to be on schedule."

Mr. Craver added, "Yeah, it's moving along as scheduled. I believe they were luckily able to get in March initially, and the engineers were able to start the first of April and the contractors asked if they could get in there earlier and they have done that. I ran into a little bit of an issue with some large Maples along the road and had to reset some culverts. But, they are pouring around the area and we need temperatures to come up a little bit. It's been really difficult trying to get an endorsement from the rail road covers and such needed, but they are going to be doing some pouring on the 28<sup>th</sup>. And then, like I said...we need some temperatures to come up so the asphalt plants can open up, but I don't see any real reason why they won't finish this as required in the contract on or before May 22<sup>nd</sup>."

Mr. Vyncke stated, "Thank you."

President Swanson stated, "Thank you, Mr. Vyncke. Are there any other questions or comments? Seeing none...we'll move on to the next item on the agenda."

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

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

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, C. Enburg, T. Foster, 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 YES**      **17**

**TOTAL NO**      **0**

Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Forest Preserve Commission is Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 5:30pm, immediately following the meeting of the Rock Island County Board.

President Swanson declared the Forest Preserve Meeting recessed at 6:32pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



KAREN KINNEY  
COUNTY CLERK AND SECRETARY  
OF THE FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

KK:rw