

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

JULY 18, 2023 – 5:51PM

PRESIDENT KAI SWANSON - PRESIDING

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

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

TOTAL PRESENT 17

L. Moreno, R. Simmer

TOTAL ABSENT 2

2. President Swanson stated, "Thank you, very much, ladies and gentleman for being here. As we do from time to time, I would open up information and commission member development. For that, I would like to invite Mr. Mike Petersen to come forward. I think this podium was set up for ya. I didn't know if you had anything that you are...that's fine. So, Mike Petersen is in charge of Illiniwek, but over the years he has had to make quite a few land-grabs at Dorrance Park...and now you have AMÔWA and all these things plus the care of the great river trail in the upper part of the county. And so, this is a chance for Mr. Petersen to brief us on the most recent developments out there because there has been a lot. And, also for you to be thinking about questions to be asking Mr. Petersen. Mr. Petersen, the floor is yours...thank you for being with us."

Mr. Petersen stated, "Yes, thank you. Um, yeah...my name is Mike Petersen. I am the site manager for Illiniwek, Dorrance and the new Forest Preserve, AMÔWA. This year...the start of this year, so far this summer has been all about construction projects. So, the big project we had...the biggest construction project we had was at Illiniwek; which consisted of a new campground road...which included a bike path lane. It has been a much-needed improvement. Now, that project ran a little behind schedule, but it's been finished now for a little over a month. It's a great improvement...we gotta a new dump station; which was a part of it. People who are using the campground have nothing but nice things to say about it. We do have to do some modifications to our dump station to modify and improve that to make it ADA accessible; which was not a part of the original plan, but that is in the works and should be done here, by the end of summer. The other two projects that we have going on are at AMÔWA East and West; which was the new parking lots out there. They are finished up and they get some use, but there is not a lot going on out there...so, we don't have trails or anything. There is nothing really drawing people to the site yet. But we do have an active Facebook Page for AMÔWA now...so, we are trying to get more people involved and thinking about it. And, hopefully, by September or October, we'll have about three miles of trails at AMÔWA West; which will give people reason to come out, hike around and

enjoy the site. We do have a little bit of an erosion problem at AMÔWA West. The one hillside is a pretty steep hillside...it's had some grading in the past, but when it rains, it comes down on the parking lot and ends up out on the highway. So those issues are being addressed right now by the IMEG...one of the engineers out at IMEG. So, we hope to have a solution for that real soon. The more vegetation we have growing on it, the less erosion we will have. It's been a tough start to the summer and with the drought we had added to a part of the problem. Um, conservation-wise, we are...we've got 22 acres of prairie planted out at AMÔWA. Last Fall and through the Spring, I have been out there doing some maintenance on some of them and we've identified three species of forbs, three species of grass...so the prairie is starting to germinate and doing well. We've done some mowing out there to try to eliminate some of the weed species from going to seed. It looks good out there. Um, an update on the bike path...there are two bridges that we manage up from Rapids City up through Cordova and we are sending out some proposals to get some bids on having some work done on those bridges because they are original bridges when the bike path was constructed about 30 years ago...and, they need some fairly minor upgrades. So, we are looking at doing some upgrades on two different bridges. The rest of the bike path is in pretty...okay shape. (Chuckles) We have got some trail counters out now; which is what we do every two or three years. That kind of tracks the trends of all the trails and how they are being used. And so, we'll have some numbers on those probably next month. In the past, we've had about four or five thousand people using the Great River Trail out at Illiniwek; which is the main bike path...it's a high number and so, it gets used a lot. That's all I have prepared, and so if you have any questions?"

President Swanson stated, "I'm anxious to hear what questions you may have...one, on AMÔWA, you have been doing a survey of the trees that are there and looking for native species as well as invasives...how is that going, so far?"

Mr. Petersen answered, "It's good. I am in the process of doing a Forest Preserve Management Plan for AMÔWA. We found a couple of...or, I found a couple of rare species for this area, the Blue Ash and Pecan. And so, we got those out there. But, yeah, that's coming along...the Forest Management Plan."

President Swanson asked, "Are there any other questions for Mr. Petersen? Mr. Layer, please!"

Commissioner Layer was recognized.

Mr. Layer asked, "The bridges on the Trail, is there any partnership with IDOT on those?"

Mr. Petersen answered, "No. My understanding on those is that we manage...I say 'we' meaning the Forest Preserve District, manages all of the unincorporated

sections of the bike path from Hampton all the way up to the county line...(clears throat) excuse me...the Whiteside County line. So, I think it's about 18 miles...roughly 15 or 18 miles. And, I think we are the only ones that manage it as far as I know. IDOT does help us out in the springtime because their plows do push a considerable amount of debris on the bike path, and so...they come in with a skid steer and a broom and brush it off for us. And, they have mowed several sections for us in the past that have been overgrown. And so, they are willing to help us if I ask, but when it comes to partnerships, I am unaware of any."

President Swanson stated, "Thank you. Are there any other questions for Mr. Petersen?"

Commissioner Morthland was recognized.

Mr. Morthland asked, "Up north of Cordova, we have been having some growth problems in a few places, are we going to be able to address that?"

Mr. Petersen answered, "Uhhh....no." (Chuckles) "I am sorry, but I think it's pretty common throughout...the whole length of the bike path is...we are going to be addressing one by one with the bridges, but those roots get under there and it's kind of a (inaudible) We know it's an issue. It needs to be addressed, but we are having...I think it's IMEG, is doing a survey right now. And so, they are coming out helping us identify troublesome areas. Hopefully, we'll get to that sometime this fall."

Mr. Morthland answered, "Very cool."

President Swanson asked, "Are there any other questions for Mr. Petersen? Mike, I know you have a very busy schedule and I appreciate you for taking some time to be us. Thank you very much."

Mr. Petersen answered, "I appreciate that."

President Swanson stated, "Thank you. Alright, I would like to entertain a motion to approve the June 20, 2023, minutes as presented in your packet."

3. Commissioner Adams moved to approve the June 20, 2023, minutes, as presented. Commissioner Foster seconded."

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS - (NONE)** (Three calls were made.)

5. **PRESIDENTS COMMENTS:**

President Swanson stated, "Under Presidents Comments, first, there are two guests with us tonight and are going to be a part of our work for the next few months. And, I just want to publicly thank them and recognized them for their willingness to step forward and serve us. In the back of the room here, Karen Dahlstrom of Moline and Holly Sparkman of Rock Island, have both agreed to serve as the State mandated representatives of the community on our local Government Efficiency Committee; which is gonna meet right after the Commission meeting. Okay, and so we will talk a little bit more about that then. I wanted to give you all a chance to meet Holly and Karen and express my gratitude for your willingness to do this. This is very important for us, thank you. Other than that, people have been out enjoying the preserves and I think it's no secret that our weather is the envy of the nation right now; which is not often the case. I was on a Zoom earlier today where everyone was either burning up in the heat or they can't go out for one reason or another. We've got the Goldie Locks weather for a little bit. You've probably noticed our golf course has been very busy lately this season. A very big thanks to our staff at the Bluff for keeping up with it all. All of the District's staff have been working incredibly diligently to provide quality experiences for citizens and families from Rock Island County and everything that we do. But, obviously, some very exciting news...the Painted Dogs have arrived at Niabi. And, even though those of us who loved the lions, our last lions were very advanced in age and if you were out there, they mostly slept. That is not the case with Painted Dogs. So, if you get a chance to go out and see this incredible endangered species, I hope you'll get a chance to see that very special animal. That is all I have for President's Comments. Your questions will be more than welcomed a little bit later in the agenda."

6. Commissioner Foster moved to approve the Forest Preserve Claims and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$1,896,661.89, as presented. Commissioner Sowards seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

TOTAL YES 17

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

7. Commissioner Vyncke moved to waive the reading and approve the Transfers of Appropriations as enumerated in your packets. Commissioner Burns seconded.

Commissioner Adams moves to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Sowards seconded.

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

TOTAL YES 17

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

8. President Swanson stated, "Next, I would like to see if you have any objection to taking the next three Resolutions in a combined motion? We can break any one of those out for discussion. But, just for expedient sake, is there any objection to taking the three Resolutions as one? Seeing none. I will read them. Remember, you can ask questions about any of them after we have moved and seconded them into action. First, would be a motion to waive the reading and approve the Resolution regarding Illiniwek Recreation Trail Grant Appropriations and, to waive the reading and approve the Resolution regarding the Niabi Zoo African Painted Dog Appropriations Amendment and, to waive the reading and approve the Resolution regarding the Niabi Zoo Fund Prairie Dog Grant Appropriations, as presented in your packet." Commissioner Brunk moved to approve and Commissioner Mielke seconded."

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, construction of phase 1 has begun and contractor's second application for payment is required, 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 \$276,184.58 shall be increased partially from grant revenue to be received & the balance from unencumbered funds to provide the required matching funds in the Development of Forests and Construction Improvement Fund to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$276,184.58	335-32-35 765 RTP 23	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 18th day of July, 2023.

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 \$353,209.43 shall be increased partially from grant revenue to be received & the balance from unencumbered funds to provide the necessary funds to complete the project in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$353,209.43	131-32-35 767 TAFGP23	Infrastructure over \$15,000

SECTION 3. This resolution to become effective immediately.

ADOPTED by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 18th day of July, 2023.

RESOLUTION

FY 2023 Niabi Zoo Fund Prairie Dog Grant Appropriations

WHEREAS, Niabi Zoo was awarded \$436,100.00 from the Illinois Public Museum Grant program to construct a new Prairie Dog exhibit, and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Public Museum Grant program is a reimbursable grant, and

WHEREAS, construction on the project 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 \$94,175.14 shall be increased from grant revenue to be received in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$94,175.14	131-32-35 765 MCPD24	Construction in Progress

SECTION 3. Revenues in the amount of \$94,175.14 shall be increased from the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$94,175.14	131-32-35 334.70 MCPD24	State Grants

SECTION 4. This resolution to become effective immediately.

ADOPTED by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 18th day of July, 2023.

Commissioner Mielke moves to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Burns seconded.

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

TOTAL YES 17

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

9. Commissioner Perkins moved to approve the purchase of the pre-fab building from CXT for \$239,787.80, as presented. Commissioner Vyncke seconded.

Commissioner Adams was recognized.

Mr. Adams asked, "Where is it going to be installed at?"

President Swanson stated, "This is a part of the project at Illiniwek that will be servicing the trail. So, it's a part of the trail amenities improvements project. It will basically be lavatory facilities."

Mr. Adams asked, "It replaces the one that is there now, correct?"

President Swanson answered, "Yeah, Jeff...are we going to keep the old one. No. It's gonna be gone. Thank you for the question, Mr. Adams."

Commissioner Layer moves to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Adams seconded.

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

TOTAL YES 17

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

10. **Comments from Commissioners: (None)**

11. Commissioner Woods moved to approve all Routine Reports from the Director and Departments Heads of the Forest Preserve Commission, as presented. Commissioners Layer and Foster seconded.

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

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

TOTAL YES 17

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

12. Mr. Craver stated, "I think we omitted something that is not on your script here on the agenda that's posted on the website for the Appointments of Officers."

President Swanson stated, "Oh, it's not on my script, but you are absolutely right. It's on the agenda. So, because it's on the printed agenda, and was given due public notice in advance, I hope, without too much objection, we will take it out of order, but you'll see a motion to add Members...thank you Mr. Craver, Mr. Camlin, Ms. Palmer. You've seen the opportunity to add our District Officers including Clerk Kinney too...to the Efficiency Committee. But, we would like to solemnize that with a vote. A motion from Mr. Brunk and a second from Mr. Dewith and other. Any discussion about adding those folks to our Efficiency Committee? Seeing none. I believe this can be conducted on a voice vote. Moved by Brunk and seconded by Dewith."

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

President Swanson stated, "Thanks for the save guys very much! You are right, it's right there on the agenda. I am going to close this meeting in just a moment, but sit tight...we are going to have a very brief meeting of our Efficiency Committee and we will get that started in a second. But first, I would like to announce that the next meeting of the Forest Preserve Commission will be Tuesday, August 15th 2023, following the regular meeting of the County Board. Thanks to the City of Rock Island and the Rock Island Police Department for the use of this facility."

The next meeting of the Forest Preserve Commission is Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at 5:30pm, immediately following the meeting of the Rock Island County Board.

President Swanson declared the Forest Preserve Meeting recessed at 6:11pm.

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