

FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
AUGUST 8, 2023

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

ABSENT: R. Simmer.

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Craver, District Director; Ben Mills, Loud Thunder Ranger; April Palmer, Auditor.

President Swanson called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Executive Committee to order at 3:35 PM on Tuesday, July 13, 2023, in the Club House at Indian Bluff Golf Course, Milan, Illinois.

J. Woods, D. Mielke, K. Swanson, E. Sowards, C. Layer. (L. Moreno arrived at 3:40pm after roll was called.)

TOTAL PRESENT 6

R. Simmer.

TOTAL ABSENT 1

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

MOTION: Ms. Woods moved to approve the July Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Layer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the fiscal year 2023 claims and treasurer's disbursements, and the fiscal year 2024 claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$603,804.92.

MOTION: Mr. Layer moved to approve the fiscal year 2023 claims and treasurer's disbursements, and the fiscal year 2024 in the amount of \$603,804.92. Ms. Woods seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the fiscal year 2023 transfers of appropriation, and the fiscal year 2024 transfers of appropriation.

MOTION: Ms. Woods moved to approve the fiscal year 2023 transfers of appropriation, and the fiscal year 2024 transfers of appropriation. Mr. Mielke seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the resolutions regarding fiscal year 2023 Illiniwek Recreation Trail Grant Appropriations, fiscal year 2023 Niabi Zoo Fund Regional Development Authority Grant Appropriations, fiscal year 2023 Niabi Zoo Improvements ARPA Grant Appropriations, fiscal year 2023 Niabi Zoo Fund African Painted Dog Grant Appropriations, and fiscal year 2023 Niabi Zoo Fund Prairie Dog Grant Appropriations.

MOTION: Ms. Sowards called for a motion to approve the resolutions regarding fiscal year 2023 Illiniwek Recreation Trail Grant Appropriations, fiscal year 2023 Niabi Zoo Fund Regional Development Authority Grant Appropriations, fiscal year 2023 Niabi Zoo Improvements ARPA Grant Appropriations, fiscal year 2023 Niabi Zoo Fund African Painted Dog Grant Appropriations, and fiscal year 2023 Niabi Zoo Fund Prairie Dog Grant Appropriations. Ms. Woods seconded the motion.

Mr. Craver stated that the African Painted Dog and Prairie Dog were listed incorrectly on the agenda. Those two should be fiscal year 2024.

AMENDMENT: Ms. Sowards moved to amend the motion to approve the resolutions regarding fiscal year 2023 Illiniwek Recreation Trail Grant Appropriations, fiscal year 2023 Niabi Zoo Fund Regional Development Authority Grant Appropriations, fiscal year 2023 Niabi Zoo Improvements ARPA Grant Appropriations, fiscal year 2024 Niabi Zoo Fund African Painted Dog Grant Appropriations, and fiscal year 2024 Niabi Zoo Fund Prairie Dog Grant Appropriations. Ms. Woods seconded.

Motion carried.

President Swanson asked if there was anyone who wished to make public comment.

There were no requests for public comment.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the staff recommended bid for the golf cars.

MOTION: Mr. Mielke moved to approve the staff recommended bid for the golf cars. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

Mr. Craver stated that staff is recommending the Harris Golf Cars #1 bid. Please note that due to back orders these carts will not be available to the District until the 2025 season. However, locking in the bid right now means that we are getting the best trade-in value and price.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the staff recommended bid for the Great River Trail/Mississippi River Trail Bridge repairs.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to approve the staff recommended bid for the Great River Trail/Mississippi River Trail Bridge repairs. Ms. Woods seconded the motion.

Mr. Craver stated that staff is recommending the low bid of \$23,528.50 from McClintock Trucking & Excavating.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called on Mr. Craver for the review of fiscal year 2025 budget.

Mr. Craver stated that in years past August would see the budget meeting where the proposed budget would be gone through and sent to Commission to lay on display for thirty days. There have already been some amendments to the fiscal year 2024 budget. There has been a good start to the new fiscal year. The District is wrapping up some grants. There will be some big expenditures out of the DFCI Fund. Mostly projects at Dorrance. As discussed at previous meetings, the budget is not being approved today because of the unknown factors that can't be known until the beginning of the year. The Schedules A, B, and C will be updated through May when it will be brought to the board to be put on display for thirty days, then approved. Staff has done their best to keep the tax rate fairly flat.

President Swanson congratulated Ms. Palmer on her most recent award from GFOA.

President Swanson called on Mr. Craver to discuss the possible location change for September's Executive Committee meeting.

Mr. Craver stated that last month Dr. Moreno had expressed interest in having the meeting at Amôwa instead of Illiniwek.

There was consensus from the Committee to have the September Forest Preserve Executive Committee meeting at Amôwa instead of Illiniwek.

President Swanson asked Ms. Palmer if there was anything she would like to bring the Committee's attention to.

Ms. Palmer reminded the Committee that the District has sixty days from the end of the fiscal year to record both revenues and expenses into the previous fiscal year. The District is one month down from that, and has one more month to go.

President Swanson asked Mr. Mills if there was anything he wanted to highlight from his report.

Mr. Mills stated that the prairies on Loud Thunder road are thriving, and have received high praise from the Fish & Wildlife Service. There is an issue with a couple of slabs on the spillway. One has heaved, and I have reached out to IMEG on recommendations for companies that are able to do those repairs. Am in the process of putting together numbers to bring to Committee for those repairs.

President Swanson asked Mr. Craver if there was anything of particular note that he wanted to bring the Committee's attention to.

Mr. Craver stated that the golf course has continued to be very busy. Restoration efforts at Amôwa are doing well, and a survey of the species on the property is underway. There has been a very rare orchid spotted on the preserve, which is very exciting. It is called the Three Birds Orchid. The District is located much further north than the orchid is usually spotted. It has a very small bloom, and usually blooms with three flowers. Staff will continue to monitor this, but has been very closed mouth about the existence of the orchid on the preserve because of the risk of people coming out and taking it. The bloom typically only lasts about forty-eight hours.

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

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

Motion carried.

President Swanson called the meeting adjourned at 4:14 PM.

Submitted by:
Cassie Sullivan
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant