

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

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

ABSENT: C. Layer.

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Craver, District Director; Mike Petersen, Illiniwek Ranger; Lee Jackson, Niabi Zoo Director; Ben Mills, Loud Thunder Ranger; Amanda Van Daele, Chief Deputy Auditor.

President Swanson called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Executive Committee to order at 9:38 AM on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, in the 3rd floor chambers of the Rock Island County Building, Rock Island, Illinois.

L. Moreno, K. Swanson, E. Sowards, R. Simmer, J. Woods, D. Mielke.

TOTAL PRESENT 6

C. Layer

TOTAL ABSENT 1

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

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to approve the October Committee meeting minutes. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$344,202.50.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$344,202.50. Mr. Mielke seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

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

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the fiscal year 2024 transfers of appropriation. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the resolutions regarding Niabi Zoo Donations Appropriations, and Niabi Zoo Fund Generator Grant appropriations.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the resolutions regarding Niabi Zoo Donations Appropriations, and Niabi Zoo Fund Generator Grant appropriations. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Mr. Craver stated that there were a couple typos on the resolutions in packet. There is a hand out that has the corrected resolutions.

AMEND: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the corrected resolutions regarding Niabi Zoo Donations Appropriations, and Niabi Zoo Fund Generator Grant appropriations. Dr. Moreno seconded the amended motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the resolution regarding Defining a Responsible Bidder.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to approve the resolution regarding Defining a Responsible Bidder. Ms. Woods seconded the motion.

Dr. Simmer asked what the change to the document was.

Mr. Craver answered that there was a redline copy in the packet. It shows that the District now requires a surety bond on projects over \$50,000.00. That is required by state statute.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Abatement Ordinance pursuant to ordinance #11-01-17 in the amount of \$344,202.50.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the Abatement Ordinance pursuant to ordinance #11-01-17 in the amount of \$344,202.50. Ms. Woods seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Abatement Ordinance pursuant to ordinance #2016-0401 in the amount of \$356,175.00.

MOTION: Ms. Sowards moved to approve the Abatement Ordinance pursuant to ordinance #2016-0401 in the amount of \$356,175.00. Mr. Mielke seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson made three calls for public comment. There was no request for public comment.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the modification to the purchase card policies & procedures.

MOTION: Mr. Miekle moved to approve the modification to the purchase card policies & procedures. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Mr. Craver stated that the modification was added as a best practice. The District will not allow employees to purchase gift cards with their District purchase card.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to purchase a walk-in freezer for Niabi Zoo in the amount of \$43,508.00 from A&A Refrigeration.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the purchase of a walk-in freezer for Niabi Zoo in the amount of \$43,508.00 from A&A Refrigeration. Mr. Mielke seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the agreement with Klingner & Associates in the amount of \$33,500.00 for the Niabi Zoo Big Cat Enclosure.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the agreement with Klingner & Associates in the amount of \$33,500.00 for the Niabi Zoo Big Cat Enclosure. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called on Mr. Craver to discuss the pavement coring results and estimate of cost.

Mr. Craver stated that IMEG reviewed some of the District's roads, and gave recommendations and an estimate. Will need to continue to keep gates closed during the winter. The District does have some decent bases in a few of the roads, but, being chip and seal roads, and depending on what kind of winter comes along, any cracks or ruts that happen will allow moisture to get in there and the more problems the District will have with the roads. Hopefully, in the future the District will be able to address this issue. There are several options in regards to that, which will depend on what kind of access the District wants to provide and how the District wants to maintain those roads.

President Swanson called on Mr. Petersen to discuss the Dorrance Park restroom and building improvements.

Mr. Petersen stated that there are two parking lots at Dorrance Park. It's a congestion issue on week nights due to the sports teams that utilize the park's facilities. People are parking on the roads coming into the park as well because the lots are not enough to handle the volume of vehicles. There have been many close calls over the years. The restrooms are on the opposite side of the parking lots from the ball diamonds. This placement is a big safety issue with kids running to the restrooms, and people going in between games while vehicles are moving in and out of the lots. In order to address these issues, and make the area much safer, staff has worked with Klingner and Associates to come up with a layout for the area. This plan would call for a new building that combined the concessions and restroom, and a walking path. The current concession and restroom buildings are very old and in disrepair.

President Swanson stated that the organization that primarily uses this facility, URICRA, could be partnered with to fundraise for this project. URICRA may also consider adding in a half hour buffer between games to help ease that congestion.

Dr. Moreno stated that there are also funds through the state that can help in these situations because of the involvement of URICRA. What is the estimate for the project?

Mr. Petersen stated that the estimate is around \$800,000.00. Have been in contact with URICRA. They are currently going through a transitional phase. They are willing to be involved in the project, and I'll be meeting with others in regards to this project, including Eric Sorenson.

Dr. Simmer mentioned that there are some big corporations in that part of the county that could be approached.

President Swanson called on Mr. Mills to discuss the technical memo for Loud Thunder Deer Haven restroom building improvements.

Mr. Mills stated that the Deer Haven campground has been very popular, and brought lots of new folks out to the preserve. There is a shelter with restrooms in that campground that has had to be closed due to the toilets not reliably working, and some structural concerns. With the increased use of the campgrounds and preserve, more showers and restrooms are needed to accommodate the volume of people. Strand and Associates came out to look at the area and existing infrastructure to give an opinion. They recommended demolishing the building and starting fresh. Strand did give an estimate for demolition, but Loud Thunder staff is perfectly capable of tearing down the building, and saving the District thousands of dollars. Staff will also be able to use some of the salvaged material to reinforce other areas around the preserve.

Dr. Simmer asked if the current septic field and well will be able to handle an additional shower building.

Mr. Mills stated that it should be able to handle an additional shower building.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve moving forward with Mr. Mills' plans for the Deer Haven restroom facility as proposed.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to approve moving forward with Mr. Mills' plans for the Deer Haven restroom facility as proposed. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

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

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

Motion carried.

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

Submitted by:
Cassie Sullivan
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant