

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

MARCH 21, 2024 – 6:33PM

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, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, K. Swanson, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

TOTAL PRESENT 16

C. Layer, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland

TOTAL ABSENT 3

2. President Swanson stated, "Alright. Thank you, friends, for being here this evening. We are going to get started with a presentation with Lee Jackson, (Niabi Zoo, Director) The floor is yours, thank you."

Mr. Jackson stated, "Hello everyone. Some of you may recall this...a couple of months ago, we gave you a list of all the conservation programs that Niabi Zoo is interested in and working with. So, tonight, I am going to go through fairly quickly some work that is going on in South America that we are involved in. One thing that I will say off the top that I am very proud of is that these projects that not only are we involved in as a (Inaudible) with one exception here, we are leading all of these and I am very proud of that. I am very proud of our partners who are working with us. And forgive me if I don't know how to work this (projector/slideshow). (Steve helped get it up and going) So, after working in Paraguay for about 15 years...I started when I was in Dubuque and we brought some of these projects here in the Quad Cities. A lot of people that I talked to don't have a really good sense of where Paraguay is or what it is. So, I am going to spend a couple of minutes talking about Paraguay, where it is and why it's important. So, Paraguay is a fairly small country that is nestled between Brazil and Argentina. It possesses significant tracks of very threatened habitats in South America. We will talk more and I'll show you some pictures of those in a minute...and that's the Gran Chaco and the Atlantic Coastal Forest (Shows Slide) Chief threats are...pretty much the chief threats that we see all over the world are: Pollution, Logging legal and illegal, Conversion for agriculture, and that's a big one, Ranching...that's very big in Chaco, and illegal hunting. Technically, all hunting is illegal in Paraguay but nobody seems to know that. Agriculture (Shows slide), that's a neat little row of Trees that looks like a crew-top or a crew-cut, is Eucalyptus. In the last ten years or so a few Eucalyptus plantations have popped up throughout Paraguay and they grow it because it grows super-fast and it's turned into paper. Those trees are about 70 feet tall and they get that way in about five years. And, the land that they are sitting on used to be the Coastal Atlantic Forest. (Shows slide) The reason I took the picture on the right...way in the

back of the horizon, you can see the row of trees, that's the Mbaracayu Forest Preserve. It's the largest track of its extent of the Coastal Atlantic Forest that is left in the country. On my first trip there, the forest came up to the fence, and that's about three and a half miles away. This is a map of the Coastal Atlantic Forest, this is a historical ranch and it's pretty fragmented now since from...the coast of Eastern Brazil down to Northern Argentina. (Shows slide) Now, this is the Atlantic Coastal Forest Range in Paraguay, and you can see how much it's changed over the first picture from 1945 to the last picture that was taken in 2005. And, that dark green spot is the Mbaracayu Forest Preserve. (Shows slide) And this is the Gran Chaco. There is a number of sub-eco regions...it's mostly a dry forest. The Low Chaco is more swampy-like and the High Chaco is dry...more like dry land. (Shows slide) And here is a picture of some Dry Chaco Forest. A few days before I took this picture, there are camera traps there and there were a couple of Jaguars and a Giant Ant-eater come through there. It's an amazingly diverse area, it said here, it has more than 4,200 species of animal, more species than the Amazon. And, that day...there were a lot of mosquitoes. (Shows slide) You got to see that center picture there...they were big and numerous. (Shows slide) This is the Dry Chaco and the picture on the right, you'll see some fish we collected there...the mosquitoes we collected in the middle...and Maria Musolin, who is the owner of the property we were on. Her husband Kareem and her own a large area of Chaco land that is some very nice, pristine Chaco habitat that we were allowed to visit and study and collect from. It's about 20 miles long and about six miles wide. It's a wonderful piece of property. (Shows slide) And, here we are touring the property...it's so large, we used horses. (Shows slide) You can see samples of the Dry Chaco here. (Shows slide) There are some of the fish that we collected...that's a (Inaudible) on the left and a Melanirivulus on the right. Melanirivulus are kind of special because they are what you call annual fish and they are going to be the focus of some of our fish work. They are called annual fish because in temporary pools of water, the pools dry up and all the adults die. The eggs go through a sort of suspended animation dried in the mud and when the rains come, the eggs hatch again. And, the rains can stay away for up to three years and the eggs will hatch. So, research priorities: First thing, is conservation of native fish...that was where most of our work started a number of years ago. We published a really good paper on that about 18 months ago. The only thing we are going to do differently this time...the study was so expansive and it showed a lot of good data on what happens inside a pristine forest and how the diversity of fish are affected in altered lands. People tend to not think about that. They think the streams going through the waters and the water is the water, but there is something different going on and nothing could be further from the truth because the animals in the water rely on the forests for food. Most of these animals feed on insects that fall out of the trees, it's the main part of their diet. Ants, especially, are very important. One thing I can say about the work there though is, there are 270 species, I believe of fish recorded from Paraguay. In that little corner of that little green dot that you saw, we found 118...and about 60 of those had not been

described in the area before. About ten of those had not been described from Paraguay before and one species was new."

A Commissioner asked, "Undiscovered?"

Mr. Jackson stated, "Yes, undiscovered...actually, it was a small catfish and it was named by Hector Alvarez the Brazilian Theologist who was working in Paraguay. We found them in large numbers where we were working. At the same time, in the South of the country, we found a small number of them. And, we gave them some of our specimens and a year later, a paper came out that described the new species. (Shows slide) This is some of the fish we were collecting, that's me up there with Dr. Hoffman from the University of Dubuque. It was 104 degrees that day. So, it was really nice to be in the water. Some of the fish that we found are up there. Another thing that we are going to be looking at this time around are the invertebrates, it's a pretty neglected group down there. There is one invertebrate Specialist in the country and he works for the National Museum and his focus is on Tarantulas. So, we are very excited to start looking at some of these animals and just identifying some of these animals. One thing that happened accidentally from our earlier fish work was we found these guys...(shows slide) There are about 60 species in Southern South America and they thought they were extinct in Paraguay. One of our students from The University of Dubuque who was helping us collect fish found them and became fascinated with them. We found out that nobody knew that they were still in the country. He actually got his Master's Degree working on these animals and so, that was really exciting. One thing we found and are working on some genetic work with them right now is a species we found that was called Aeglids...I'm sorry, I am just drawing a blank on the species name. Aegla plantensis. It turns out it may be three separate species and one of them may be undescribed, just going through the genetic work. Another thing that we are going to be looking at in the coming years is fresh water mussels. We found about 50 species in that area and there is really nothing known about them. Some of you may know that fresh water mussels have an interesting life history. They have what they call glochidia larvae. They expel the larvae and attach to the gills of fish, they reach a certain size and they drop out of the fishes' gills into the sand and grow to adult mussels. What we were able to find when consulting with the mussel biologist where I took that picture, nobody knows what fish these animals use. And, there is also a great deal of confusion about what species of fish and some of the names used and if they named them correctly, according to the scientists here in the US. So, that is something that we are going to look at. We are going to make collections and we've already arranged to have specimens deposited at the Field Museum in the course of our work. Another invertebrate, the Megalobulimus snails...these are the giant snails in South America. (Shows slide) You can see the hand...it's a little bit bigger than your actual garden snail. These are...there are about 90 species in Central and South America. As it turns out, a lot of the identifications were wrong. So, we are going to be looking at that. And, in the course of learning how to tell these snails apart, I

have had to teach myself how to dissect their sexual organs because that's the key character now. So, that's going to be something that we will be working with our partners down in South America. And, I will show you a list of partners at the end. Maned Wolves. Please stop me, I don't want to take up all of your time, and am going through the screens quickly. I am on a Board called ZCOG; which is a zoo conservation outreach group. That group manages for the AZA a safe program...saving animals from extinction program for Maned Wolves. So, I was asked to become a consultant for Maned Wolves in Paraguay. And, my main task in that regard is to bring together, Paraguayan, Brazilian, Argentinian scientists. We are going to have a conference in Paraguay and decide what is the best way to move forward by the concerted plan on doing an appraisal of Maned Wolves in Paraguay. They are found in six or seven countries in South America. Apparently, Paraguay is the only country where no one knows their status. (Shows slide) On the left, there it shows some footprints that the Ranger base put down a picnic area and a couple of days later, some Maned Wolves came through. We made casts. Another animal we are going to be working with, with a group called Para Latera. I have been consulting with them on the care of Tuco-Tuco. (Shows slide) And, that is a Tuco Pilarensis. This animal was discovered in 1996, and lives on a total of about 15 acres...and the 15 acres is broken up into six or seven plots, so very small. And, they are critically endangered. Argentinian research from there, setting a trap for them...and the idea is to take them into captivity to our assurance colony; which is sort of a hedge against extinction cause by a land developer. And these are some of the priorities moving forward. (Shows slide) You can see about half way down, Tammy Schmidt, the Director who is heavily involved with the INCN otter group, who will be doing some studies on giants and long-tail otters in Paraguay. And the long-tail otters were just broken up...I got a paper today, they are three separate species and so, we know even less about them than we did a week ago."

(Commissioner Westpfahl left the meeting at 6:51PM)

Mr. Jackson concluded, "And these are our collaborators and partners. (Shows slide) We are very excited to work with anyone who has shared interest and focus...like I said, we are leading pretty much every one of these projects and I am very proud of that. That's it."

President Swanson stated, "Thanks and I am going to ask two quick questions, Lee...if I were to get you in touch with somebody from the Quad Cities Business Journal, they are looking for these kinds of stories. Would you be interested in speaking to a reporter on this?"

Mr. Jackson answered, "Certainly."

President Swanson stated, "That would be great. The other thing is, you know that some of this work is with the AZA and some of those other partnerships along those

lines. Just because I know it's something this Commission has talked about strategically, I would assume that these kinds of engagements you are having with them will share the name of Niabi more broadly and hopefully build some momentum downstream, nothing in it but for another go at accreditation."

Mr. Jackson stated, "I think all of this work that we do is, you know...conservation is the main focus and accreditation for AZA and MZAA. I would not expect the AZA to acknowledge our existence...they just don't do that. They are doing it all, what they are doing with this."

President Swanson asked, "Are there any other questions for Lee, while we have got him here? Well, I thank you on behalf of the Commission for the exhausting work you are doing there and all the commitment you have to put into it with your time and time away from your family. So, thank you very much for that. Alright. We are going to pop right up and see if there are any requests for Public Comments?"

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

4. **PRESIDENTS COMMENTS:**

President Swanson stated, "Not too much for President's Comments. As you can tell, the Preserves are gearing up to open for the season. The weather is driving us all crazy right now, but I will say it is probably the best February for golf that anybody can remember for any time lately. You probably saw that in the reports. Staff are all looking forward to a great season ahead. We will have more in the Director's Reports ahead. We are going to dive right into the business."

5. Commissioner Adams moved to approve the Forest Preserve Claims and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$198,342.94, as presented. Commissioner Foster seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

TOTAL YES 14

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

President Swanson stated, "And I appreciate Commissioner Brunk who pointed out that I completely blew off the approval of the February Commission Minutes. I got so excited by Maned Wolves and Tuco-Tuco's."

6. Commissioner Vyncke moved to approve the February 20, 2024, Commission minutes, as presented. Commissioner L. Moreno seconded."

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

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

Commissioner Vyncke moves to approve the previous roll call vote.
Commissioners Perkins and Foster seconded.

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

TOTAL YES 14

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

8. Commissioner Adams moved to waive the reading and approve the Resolutions regarding the Illiniwek Recreation Trail Grant Appropriations, Niabi Zoo Improvements ARPA Grant Appropriations, Niabi Zoo receipt of grant funds Hubbell-Waterman Foundation Grant, Niabi Zoo Loan from the Forest Preserve General Fund, as presented. Commissioner Brunk seconded.

(Note** The Resolutions are in .pdf format and begin on the next page)

RESOLUTION

RE: FY 24 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, while construction of phase 2 has begun with the design and construction of the lift station and payment is required these funds complete the payout for phase 1, and

WHEREAS, construction continues of phase 2 that address the water, sewer and restroom, 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 \$294,838.00 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 #335 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$294,838.00	335-32-35 767 RTP 23	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 21st day of March, 2024.


Kai Swanson, President
Forest Preserve Commission


Karen Kinney, Secretary
Forest Preserve Commission

RESOLUTION

FY 2024 Niabi Zoo Improvements ARPA Grant Appropriations

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserve District was granted funds from Rock Island County for improvements at Niabi Zoo, and

WHEREAS, design and engineering for the improvement projects 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 \$776.60 shall be increased from grant revenue to be received in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$776.60	131-32-35 767 ARPA24-60	Infrastructure over \$15,000


SECTION 3. Revenues in the amount of \$776.60 shall be increased from grant revenue to be received in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$776.60	131-32-35 331.10 ARPA24-00	Federal Grants-General Government

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 March, 2024.


Kai Swanson, President
Forest Preserve Commission


Karen Kinney, Secretary
Forest Preserve Commission

RESOLUTION

RE: Niabi Zoo Fund Receipt of Grant Funds-Hubbell-Waterman Foundation Grant

WHEREAS, additional funds are required in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to increase the budget for the purchase and installation of generators, and

WHEREAS, (HWFG24) Hubbell-Waterman Foundation Grant in the amount of \$42,000.00 was awarded to Niabi Zoo, 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 \$728.60 to be transferred from grant funds to be received in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

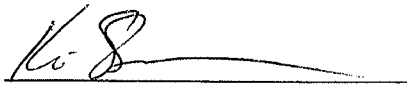
AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$728.60	131-32-35 337.70	HWFG24-00 Local Grants-Culture & Recreation

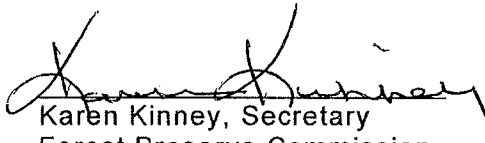
SECTION 3. An amount of \$728.60 be transferred from the above described revenue received in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$728.60	131-32-35 631.00	HWFG24-20 Professional Services

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 March, 2024.


Kai Swanson, President
Forest Preserve Commission


Karen Kinney, Secretary
Forest Preserve Commission

RESOLUTION

RE: Niabi Zoo Fund Loan from the Forest Preserve General Fund

WHEREAS, additional funds are required in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 for the necessary expenses incurred in the 2024 Fiscal Year, and

WHEREAS, funds are available from unappropriated funds within the District's General Fund #130 to loan to 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.

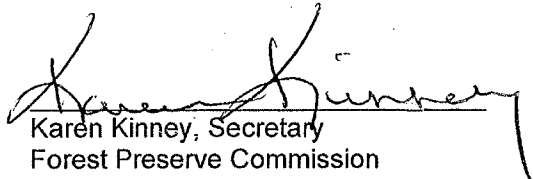
SECTION 2. An amount of \$300,000 be loaned from the District's General #130 to the Niabi Zoo Fund #131.

SECTION 3. The above amount to be repaid to the District's General Fund #130 as funds become available.

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 March, 2024.


Kai Swanson, President
Forest Preserve Commission


Karen Kinney, Secretary
Forest Preserve Commission

Commissioner Burns moves to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioners Enburg and Woods seconded.

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

TOTAL YES 14

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

9. Commissioner L. Moreno moved to waive the reading and approve Niabi Zoo Foundation Memorandum of Understanding, as presented. Commissioner Vyncke seconded.

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

Rock Island County Forest Preserve District
&
Niabi Zoo Foundation
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

PARTIES

This Memorandum of Understanding (from now on referred to as the "Agreement") is entered into on March 21, 2024, ending on March 21, 2026, by and between the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District, with an address of 19406 Loud Thunder Road, Illinois City, IL 61259 (from now on referred to as the "District"), and Niabi Zoo Foundation, with an address of 12908 Niabi Zoo Road, Coal Valley, Illinois 61240 (from now on referred to as the "Foundation") (collectively referred to as the "Parties").

The District is a body politic and corporate in the State of Illinois and its publicly elected Board of Commissioners have the responsibility of governing the District which includes the property known and referenced in this agreement as Niabi Zoo.

The Foundation is a private nonprofit 501(c)3 organized and incorporated on June 11, 2020 under the laws of the State of Illinois, and is independent of the District and will serve as the nonprofit fundraising body for the District's Niabi Zoo.

PURPOSE

This Agreement is entered into for the following reasons:

1. Financially aid the District in the development of Niabi Zoo through fundraising and volunteerism.
2. Mutually ensure the privacy and confidentiality of donor records.
3. Ensure funds are properly accounted and distributed accordingly to the intent in which they were acquired.
4. Publicly and privately support the acquisition, construction, replacement, or improvements of zoological exhibits, conservation, and educational programming.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

The District

Any dispute or difference whatsoever arising out of or in connection with this Agreement shall be determined by arbitration. Should the dispute be unresolved, it shall be submitted to the 14th Judicial Circuit in Rock Island, Illinois, by and subject to the laws of the State of Illinois.

AMENDMENTS

The Parties agree that any amendments made to this Agreement must be in writing, and both Parties must sign them to this Agreement.

As such, any amendments made by the Parties will be applied to this Agreement.

ASSIGNMENT

The Parties now agree not to assign any of the responsibilities in this Agreement to a third party unless consented to by both Parties in writing.

ENTIRE AGREEMENT

This Agreement contains the entire Agreement and understanding among the Parties hereto concerning the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior agreements, understandings, inducements, and conditions, express or implied, oral, or written, of any nature whatsoever for the subject matter hereof. The express terms hereof control and supersede any course of performance and usage of the trade inconsistent with any of the terms hereof.

REPRESENTATION AND WARRANTIES

The Parties agree and disclose that they are authorized fully to enter this Agreement. All Parties' performances and obligations are not to violate the rights of any third party or else violate other, if any, agreements made between them and any other organization, person, business, or law/governmental regulation.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

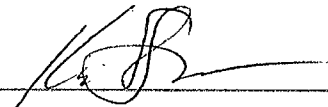
Under no circumstances will either Party be liable for any indirect, special, consequential, or punitive damages (including lost profits) arising out of or relating to this Agreement or the transactions it contemplates (whether for breach of contract, tort, negligence, or another form of action) in case such is not related to the direct result of one Party's negligence or breach.

SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Agreement is found to be void and unenforceable by a court of competent authority, then the remaining provisions will remain to be enforced by the Parties' intention.

SIGNATURE AND DATE

The Parties now agree to the terms and conditions outlined in this Agreement, and such is demonstrated throughout by their signatures below:


KAI SWANSON, PRESIDENT
FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION OF ROCK ISLAND COUNTY

Mar 21, 2024
DATE

KRISAN STEIGER, BOARD CHAIR
NIABI ZOO FOUNDATION

DATE

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

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

TOTAL YES 14

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

10. Commissioner McNeil moved to approve the License for Concession and Ball Diamonds at Dorrance Forest Preserve, as presented. Commissioners Foster and Perkins seconded.

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

LICENSE
for
CONCESSION AND BALL DIAMONDS
at
DORRANCE FOREST PRESERVE

This License Agreement is made between the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, (Licensor) and Upper Rock Island County Recreation Association (URICRA), (Licensee).

WHEREAS, the Upper Rock Island County Recreation Association offers youth baseball/softball, soccer programs, and flag football and,

WHEREAS, the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District has ball diamonds, field space and concession buildings available at Dorrance Forest Preserve, and,

WHEREAS, it is the appropriate that the following Concession and Ball Diamonds License shall be entered into for the benefit and convenience of the general public in the use and enjoyment of such activities at Dorrance Forest Preserve;

NOW THEREFORE, it is mutually agreed by the parties as follows:

GRANT AND DESCRIPTION OF PREMISES:

Licensor for and in consideration of the agreements hereinafter stated, grants License to conduct business on the premises described as:

Concession Stand and Ball Diamonds at Dorrance Forest Preserve in Port Byron, Rock Island County, Illinois.

to be used for the purposes set out herein and for no other purpose whatsoever. Except for reasonable rights of ingress and egress, Licensee shall have no rights in any part of Licensor's property other than the premises herein above specified.

TERM:

The term of this License shall commence on **March 1, 2024** and expire on **October 31, 2026**, unless earlier terminated.

AGREEMENT:

Licensee agrees to allow the Upper Rock Island County Recreation Association to use Dorrance Forest Preserve for the purpose of recreational baseball/softball, soccer, and flag football programs sponsored by URICRA and in exchange for this consideration, URICRA agrees to maintain the area in the following manner:

All areas that are used for recreational baseball, soccer, and flag football shall be free of debris, broken glass trash and garbage.

Licensor agrees to provide refuse containers. Licensee shall be responsible for sanitation of the containers and the garbage storage areas of the concessions.

Licensee shall provide the hauling of the garbage and refuse.

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS:

Licensee agrees to comply strictly with all Federal, State and local laws, rules and regulations.

INSURANCE:

Licensee shall, at its sole expense, obtain and retain through the duration of the license broad form comprehensive general liability insurance including: Premises/operations, products/completed operations hazard; broad form contractual and personal injury. This general liability insurance shall include limits of liability of not less than \$1,000,000.00. Certificates of insurance in form acceptable to Licensor shall be provided to Licensor at least thirty (30) days prior to the commencement of this license. The insurance policy shall name Licensor as additional insured, shall provide that the policies may not be cancelled or materially altered until as least thirty (30) days prior to written notice being given to Licensor and shall cover occurrence on any part of Licensor's property.

Licensee agrees to file the required policies of insurance, with all endorsements attached, with the Forest Preserve Office, C/O Forest Preserve Director, 19406 Loud Thunder Road, Illinois City, IL 61259, prior to Licensee using said premises.

At least thirty (30) days prior to the expiration of any such policy, a signed and complete Certificate of Insurance, with all endorsements attached, showing that such insurance coverage has been renewed or extended shall be filed with the Forest Preserve Director.

Licensee further agrees to file the new policies with the Forest Preserve Director upon receipt of the policies.

INDEMNIFICATION:

Licensee covenants and agrees that Licensee will indemnify and hold harmless, protect and defend, at Licensee's own cost and expense, the Licensor, its property, agents, servants, employees, assigns, successors, transferees, licensees, invitees, or other persons or property standing in the interest of the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District, of and from any and all risks, suits, damages, expenses or claims due to the negligence of Licensee arising in any way from the operation or granting of this license.

Licensee additionally covenants and agrees that in the event the required policies of liability insurance lapse, or are not renewed, or otherwise are not applicable or effective, Licensee shall be liable for loss, injury, or damage or claims to persons or property, resulting from or by virtue of Licensee's negligence.

TAXES:

Licensee shall pay all taxes and licenses growing out of or in connection with the operation of the concessions.

It is further agreed that this Concession and Ball Diamond License may be cancelled at any time upon mutual agreement of the parties to this agreement,

When termination of this agreement occurs for any reason whatsoever, Licensor may upon mutual agreement of the parties to this agreement, extend this lease on a month-to-month basis to provide for the interim management of the facilities.

This interim license provision shall in no way affect any cancellation powers set forth in this section.

DESTRUCTION, LOSS OR DAMAGE BY FIRE OR OTHER CAUSES:

In the event the premises used under this Concession and Ball Diamond License are severely damaged by fire or other casualty, Licensor may elect not to repair the premises, at which time this Concession and Ball Diamond License may be terminated at the discretion of the Licensor.

GOVERNING LAW:

This agreement is governed by the laws of the State of Illinois. Any litigation arising under this Agreement is agreed to be maintained in Rock Island County, Illinois. Licensee shall strictly comply with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes, rules, and regulations.

Licensee

Date: _____

Approved:

Rock Island County Forest Preserve District

Date: _____

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

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

TOTAL YES 14

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

11. Commissioner Perkins moved to approve the revised admission fees for 2024, as presented. Commissioner Woods seconded.

President Swanson stated, "Again, the strategy is acknowledging the fact that some of our key exhibits will not be on display to the extent the public is expecting...so, we reduced the admission price this season and hope that people will get drawn in by the Prairie Dogs. Are there any questions or discussion on the matter?"

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

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

TOTAL YES 14

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

12. Commissioner Adams moved to approve the Niabi Zoo 2024 schedule of operation with assigned free days, as presented. Commissioners Foster and Mielke seconded.

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

13. Commissioner Simmer moved to approve Tyler Technologies quote for Time & Attendance software at \$79,660.00, as presented. Commissioners Burns and Dewith seconded.

Commissioner Simmer asked, "Are there yearly maintenance fees or something with this too?"

President Swanson stated, "The question is what will this run us yearly: I would imagine if the contract is \$79K, then the maintenance fee...well, it depends on the vendor."

Mr. Craver stated, "I'm sorry, I don't have the answer for you at this time."

Mr. Simmer stated, "It's okay."

Mr. Craver stated, "This is our financial software, and our financial software runs around \$13,000 to \$14,000 a year. And so..."

Mr. Simmer asked, "Is this the same stuff we've had before, Jeff?"

Mr. Craver answered, "No. We've used it for Novatime...and before that, it was called something else. But, this is still following the county's lead in getting something that will easily interface with our financial software. I assume...we do have E-Suite; which is also another portion of that and there is an annual service fee and I believe that's around \$3,000 or \$4,000...so, I don't have an exact answer for you at this moment, but I will get that and follow up with you."

President Swanson stated, "Because I think in the packet, it looks like it's \$8,500."

Mr. Simmer asked, "A year?"

President Swanson answered, "Uh huh...it's a reoccurring fee."

Mr. Simmer stated, "I'm not finding it."

President Swanson added, "It's 8552. Alright, with that, this will require a roll call. So, I will entertain a motion for the previous roll."

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

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

TOTAL YES 14

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

14. Commissioner Adams moved to approve the low bid from Estes Construction packages received in addition to Estes' Project Management costs at \$1,314,313.00, as presented. Commissioner Burns seconded.

President Swanson stated, "I had a chance to share time with a couple of good friends of the county, Jerry Lack and Craig DeFrieze down in Springfield yesterday from the Chamber. They commented on how well things have seemed to go, given the nature of the project and there are a couple of specialty things that are going into this too, you are probably aware of with the meshing and the netting. And, they felt very satisfied with the way things went."

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

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

TOTAL YES 14

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

15. President Swanson stated, "Next on the agenda is a discussion on land acquisition, commonly known as Stone's Apple Orchard. In your packet, there are four tracks going up for auction. Is there a motion to consider acquisition of one or more of the parcels to be auctioned?"

Commissioner Mielke moved and L. Moreno seconded.

President Swanson stated, "Now, at this time if this motion were to carry, I would then entertain a motion if anyone wants to go into closed session to discuss things in greater detail. At this point, if there is no further discussion, I would entertain a motion to adopt the previous roll. This is just to entertain a consideration. If this motion passes, we would entertain a second motion, if you want to go into closed session."

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

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

TOTAL YES 14

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

President Swanson stated, "Okay, with that...if you would like to go into closed session to go into greater detail of the project at hand, but because it is a real estate acquisition...I am looking around to see if anyone would appreciate that? To go into closed session, then, I will read this: I would entertain a motion to enter

closed session to discuss setting acquisition strategy, as per 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(5) - Discussion of the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired."

Commissioner Vyncke moved and seconded L. Moreno seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

TOTAL YES 15

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried. Time is 7:04pm

Ms. Oberbroeckling asked, "Do you need me to be excused?"

President Swanson stated, "I think we are going to be pretty quick, I think."

Mr. Craver stated, "Considering Ms. Winstead's (Oberbroeckling) reputation and with Elections and her years of service here, I think she's good."

Ms. Oberbroeckling stated, "Okay."

President Swanson stated, "We'll vouch for ya."

Mr. Craver stated, "Yep."

Ms. Oberbroeckling stated, "Thank you."

Ms. Kinney asked, "Who is recording? You, Jeff?"

Ms. Oberbroeckling stated, "I am recording, still."

President Swanson stated, "Okay."

We are in Closed Session Time is 7:04pm

Time is 7:20pm

16. Commissioner McNeil moved to go back into open session. Commissioner L. Moreno seconded

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried. We are back in open session.

17. President Swanson stated, "I would entertain a motion to grant staff discretion to pursue acquisition, as discussed in closed session."

Commissioner Brunk moved and Commissioner Perkins seconded.

President Swanson asked, "Are there any further questions or discussion? Seeing none. I entertain a motion to adopt the previous roll call?"

Commissioner Dewith moves to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioners Burns and Enburg seconded.

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

TOTAL YES 15

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

President Swanson stated, "Alright. Well, thank you for that good discussion. Any Comments from Commissioners? Anything anyone wants to lift up? I know you all can't wait to see those gosh darn Prairie Dogs."

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

19. Commissioner Woods moved to approve all Routine Reports from the Director and Departments Heads of the Forest Preserve Commission as enumerated in your packets, as presented. Commissioner Sowards seconded. (Record)

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

President Swanson stated, "I do want to thank Mr. Craver, who just completed a term as President of The Illinois Association of Conservation Districts, and I want to thank you for taking your leadership to the state-wide level and wish you a very good vacation with your family. Uh, three terms?"

Mr. Craver answered, "Two terms."

President Swanson reiterated, "Two terms....two terms. And, I remind you the next meeting of the Forest Preserve Commission will be Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 5:30pm, following the meeting of the Rock Island County Board in the Rock Island County Office Building, 1504 Third Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois in these Chambers. Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for your work. We are in recess."

President Swanson declared the Forest Preserve Meeting recessed at 7:21pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Kinney", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

KAREN KINNEY
COUNTY CLERK AND SECRETARY
OF THE FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

KK:ro