

**FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**APRIL 9, 2024**

**PRESENT:** Committee members –L. Moreno, E. Sowards, R. Simmer, C. Layer, K. Swanson, J. Woods.

**ABSENT:** D. Mielke.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jeff Craver, District Director; Lee Jackson, Niabi Zoo Director; Ben Mills, Loud Thunder Ranger; April Palmer, Auditor; Nick Camlin, Treasurer.

President Swanson called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Executive Committee to order at 9:34 AM on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room of the Rock Island County Building, Rock Island, Illinois.

L. Moreno, R. Simmer, C. Layer, E. Sowards, K. Swanson, J. Woods.

**TOTAL PRESENT 6**

D. Mielke.

**TOTAL ABSENT 1**

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

**MOTION:** Dr. Moreno moved to approve the March 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 \$1,103,406.25.

**MOTION:** Ms. Woods moved to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$1,103,406.25. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

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

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to approve the transfers of appropriation. Mr. Layer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the resolutions regarding Illiniwek Recreation Trail Grant Appropriations, Niabi Zoo Fund Prairie Dog & ARPA Grant Appropriations, Niabi Zoo Fund Improvements ARPA Grant Appropriations, Niabi Zoo Receipt

of Grant Fund – Woodward Community Grant, and Development of Forest & Construction of Improvements Fund Loan from Forest Preserve General.

**MOTION:** Dr. Moreno moved to approve the corrected resolutions regarding Illiniwek Recreation Trail Grant Appropriations, Niabi Zoo Fund Prairie Dog & ARPA Grant Appropriations, Niabi Zoo Fund Improvements ARPA Grant Appropriations, Niabi Zoo Receipt of Grant Fund – Woodward Community Grant, and Development of Forest & Construction of Improvements Fund Loan from Forest Preserve General. Ms. Woods 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 ordinance establishing the compensation of members & officers of the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission.

**MOTION:** Dr. Moreno moved to approve the ordinance establishing the compensation of members & officers of the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson asked if the Committee had any questions regarding the routine reports of the District.

There were no questions.

President Swanson asked Mr. Mills if there was anything he'd like to lift up from his report.

Mr. Mills stated that there was nothing in particular to highlight, but the park is open for camping.

President Swanson asked Mr. Jackson if there was anything he'd like to bring to the Committee's attention.

Mr. Jackson stated that the Prairie Dogs would be populating the exhibit tomorrow. Both the Foundation and Niabi are running funding drives to raise money for the repairs at the zoo.

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

Mr. Craver stated that staff had hoped to present some bids at the Commission meeting next week, but due to timing issues there are no bids to present. Hope to present those bids in May. At the office at Loud Thunder there have been several technical issues in the past several weeks. The internet is extremely slow, and the office will be transitioning to Starlink

soon for internet service. The phone system has changed to an internet based system. At Illiniwek Forest Preserve Langman is in the process of fixing the waterlines that they cut. The lift station project has been delayed. Illiniwek is therefore having to delay their camping season opening.

President Swanson reminded the Committee that this would be the last Executive Committee meeting held in the County Building until October. May's meeting will be at Living Lands and Waters floating classroom. Then June through September would be held at each of the Forest Preserves as has become the tradition of the Committee. There are also a couple of public opinion meetings to be held in the coming months. One on April 30<sup>th</sup>, and the other on May 14<sup>th</sup>. For more information, please feel free to contact Mr. Craver.

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

**MOTION:** Dr. Moreno moved to approved the routine reports of the District. Mr. Layer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called the meeting adjourned at 9:52 AM.

Submitted by:  
Cassie Sullivan  
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant