

**FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**SEPTEMBER 10, 2024**

**PRESENT:** Committee members –L. Moreno, E. Sowards, D. Mielke, K. Swanson.

**ABSENT:** R. Simmer, J. Woods, C. Layer.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jeff Craver, District Director; Mike Petersen, Illiniwek Superintendent.

President Swanson called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Executive Committee to order at 3:34 PM on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, in the Park Office at Loud Thunder Forest Preserve in Illinois City, Illinois.

D. Mielke, E. Sowards, K. Swanson, L. Moreno.

**TOTAL PRESENT 4**

J. Woods, C. Layer, R. Simmer.

**TOTAL ABSENT 3**

President Swanson called for a motion approving the August Committee meeting and the closed session minutes.

**MOTION:** Dr. Moreno moved to approve the August Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Mielke seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$321,525.24.

**MOTION:** Ms. Sowards moved to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$321,525.24. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the fiscal year 2024 and fiscal year 2025 transfers of appropriation.

**MOTION:** Mr. Mielke moved to approve the fiscal year 2024 and fiscal year 2025 transfers of appropriation. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the resolutions regarding FY25 Appropriations to the General Fund of the District, FY25 Niabi Zoo ARPA Grant Appropriations, FY24 Liability Fund Additional Appropriations.

**MOTION:** Ms. Sowards moved to approve the resolutions regarding FY25 Appropriations to the General Fund of the District, FY25 Niabi Zoo ARPA Grant Appropriations, FY24 Liability Fund Additional Appropriations. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson made three calls for public comment. There were no requests for public comment.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the staff recommended bid for the Wiedenmann Terra Spike GX18 (aerator).

**MOTION:** Dr. Moreno moved to approve the staff recommended bid for the Wiedenmann Terra Spike GX18 (aerator). Mr. Mielke seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson asked if there were any questions for staff regarding the routine reports.

Dr. Moreno stated that the bike station looks great.

Mr. Petersen stated that there are still a few things to be added that staff are waiting on to be delivered. There will be a metal picnic table and a water fountain that has a spigot for dogs to drink as well. Operations at Illiniwek have been fairly steady. People are enjoying the improvements to the roads and the portion of the bike path that goes through the park. However, there are still many repair and maintenance projects that are growing increasingly difficult to put a bandaid on. Much of the infrastructure is aging out, some has really already aged out, and it's a miracle that we've been able to keep it limping along. The septic field for the dump station would not pass a health inspection. The area that we thought was a septic field at Dorrance that the bathrooms and concessions building feed into, isn't actually a septic tank. It's a cistern. Obviously, that would also not pass a health inspection. The parking lot at Dorrance is in desperate need of being redone, and there are also several areas of the bike path, especially near Cordova, that are in dire need of attention.

Dr. Moreno asked if there are any grants that could be used for those repairs.

Mr. Petersen stated that there are some grants that staff is applying for, but infrastructure repair isn't something that grants tend to cover. That means that the District is going to be on its own for funding those maintenance and repair projects.

President Swanson asked if there was any opportunity to tie the septic lines into the public lines.

Mr. Petersen stated that there was. That is the reason that when the District did tie in to the municipal water line, we also had the lift station installed. That way the park will be able to tie

in the sewage lines in future. It is still going to be a significant cost to do that, but staff was looking to the future when doing the previous project. In brighter news, there has been another rare bee found at Amôwa. The Bancrofti Mining Bee, and the three birds orchid that was found last year at Amôwa west, was also found at Amôwa east this year.

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

Ms. Palmer stated that the outside auditors will be in the office in a couple to start the District's audit. The Fund Balances will change as the audit goes on, and things are back dated into the previous fiscal year. The numbers you see now are estimates.

Mr. Craver reminded the Committee of some of the other capital projects in the District that have been put off for many years, and the remaining storm damage repairs that need done at Niabi which was discussed in greater detail last month.

President Swanson called for a motion to enter closed session as per ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) (c) Exceptions: (2) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.

**MOTION:** Dr. Moreno moved to enter closed session. Mr. Mielke seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Mielke, E. Sowards, L. Moreno, K. Swanson.

<b>TOTAL YES</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>TOTAL NO</b>	<b>0</b>

Motion carried.

Closed session began 3:53 PM

Closed session ended 4:17 PM

President Swanson called for a motion to return to open session.

**MOTION:** Dr. Moreno moved to return to open session. Mr. Mielke seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called the meeting adjourned at 4:17 PM.

Submitted by:  
Cassie Sullivan  
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant