

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

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

**ABSENT:**

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dave Adams, District 9 Commissioner; Larry Burns, District 3 Commissioner; Jeff Craver, District Director; Lee Jackson, Niabi Zoo Director; April Palmer, Auditor; Nick Camlin, Treasurer; Jim Grafton, County Administrator.

President Swanson called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Executive Committee to order at 9:32 AM on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, in the second floor conference room of the County Building in Rock Island, Illinois.

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

**TOTAL PRESENT 7**

**TOTAL ABSENT 0**

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

**MOTION:** Dr. Moreno moved to approve the November Committee meeting minutes. Woods seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$1,230,119.78.

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$1,230,119.78. Mr. Layer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

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

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to approve the transfers of appropriations. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the resolutions regarding Niabi Zoo ARPA Grant Appropriations, Niabi Zoo Appropriations – Woodward Community Grant, and Designation of Banks or Other Depositories.

**MOTION:** Dr. Moreno moved to approve the resolutions regarding FY25 Niabi Zoo ARPA Grant Appropriations, Niabi Zoo Appropriations – Woodward Community Grant, and Designation of Banks and Other Depositories. Dr. Simmer 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 2025 regular meeting dates and holidays.

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to approve the 2025 regular meeting dates and holidays. Mr. Layer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve Jeffrey Craver, Director, as the District's FOIA Officer for calendar year 2025.

**MOTION:** Dr. Moreno moved to approve Jeffrey Craver, Director, as the District's FOIA Officer for calendar year 2025. Mr. Mielke seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

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. Simmer moved to enter closed session. Mr. Mielke seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

**TOTAL YES**      7  
**TOTAL NO**      0

Motion carried.

Closed session began 9:36 AM

Closed session ended 10:14 AM

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

**MOTION:** Ms. Woods moved to return to open session. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson asked Mr. Jackson if he could give a brief explanation of SSP, Species Survival Program, and its value and role in the collection inventory.

Mr. Jackson stated that the way most animal populations are managed in North America, Europe, South Pacific and South America. Each region of the world has their own management plan for their species. Population are managed on a species level, not at an institution level. Our finch foxes are part of the population in North America. To maintain the genetic diversity and value of the group, we have to move animals around. The basic idea is that we can manage a species in captivity for 300 years and not have to bring in a member of that species from the wild. That's the goal, though it rarely works that way.

President Swanson asked if there was anything else to be brought to the Committees attention.

Ms. Palmer stated that the final audit should be received tomorrow, and distributed to Commissioners. There will be someone from Sikich to present the audit and answer any questions the Commissioners may have over Zoom.

Mr. Camlin stated that he had sent out the RFQ for the TAW. Institutions have until Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> to get those in for consideration.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve all routine reports from the Director and Department Heads as presented.

**MOTION:** Mr. Mielke moved to approve all routine reports from the Director and Department Heads as presented. Ms. Woods seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Mr. Craver stated that the preserves are having more issues than normal with the homeless. There have been some complaints from staff and the public. Staff is working with the authorities to ensure that preserve rules are followed.

President Swanson called the meeting adjourned at 10:24 AM.

Submitted by:  
Cassie Sullivan  
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant