

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION
DECEMBER 17, 2024 – 6:45PM
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, C. Layer, D. Mielke,
L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, E. Sowards,
K. Swanson, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

TOTAL PRESENT 18

P. McNeil

TOTAL ABSENT 1

Madam Clerk Kinney stated, "We have a quorum."

2. President Swanson stated, "Thank you...without...as I see no objection to continue the earlier motion to admit Mr. L. Moreno to allow his remote attendance. I am just looking for an objection. If no objection. Okay, we'll just continue the authorization from the earlier meeting."

Mr. L. Moreno stated, "Thank you."

President Swanson stated, "Thank you, Dr. Moreno. We are glad you are with us."

President Swanson stated, "At this time, I think I am going to turn the floor over to Ms. Palmer, who will introduce the presentation by Bradley Johnson from Sikich; the Annual Financial Report. And, I think we'll get the microphone activated there...ready whenever you are. Thank you."

Ms. Palmer stated, "Kurt, has he joined us?"

Mr. Davis answered, "Yes."

Ms. Palmer stated, "Okay. I wasn't sure how he was holding out on the computer screen, and so... Yes, good evening. We have performed the entirety of the FY end of June 30th 2024, Forest Preserve Commission Audit and the communication letters that you guys are privileged to for management purposes have been presented to you as well as submissions to State and Federal Agencies, as necessary. And, we have this evening by Zoom, Mr. Bradley Johnson, with the CPA Firm of Sikich; who performed the Audit and conjuncture of my office and many other offices. I just want to thank the Forest Preserve District, the Commissioners and, of course, the Treasurer's Office which was very vital as was the HR groups of Rock Island County to perform the audit in a timely manner. So, Bradley, take it away."

Mr. Johnson stated, "Thank you, April. On behalf of Sikich, I would like to thank April Palmer, Director Craver, President Swanson and the Members of the Board for having me here tonight to present the results of the Forest Preserve's Audit year ended June 30, 2024. This part of the Audit process, we issued three separate reports for you tonight to review for your approval. First, we have the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. The Auditor's Communication to the Board of Commissioners Management and lastly, the Grant Accountability Transparency Act cipher. This evening, I will highlight some items in the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and would be happy to answer any questions on any of the other documents you have before you as well. So, starting with page 10 we have the GFOA Certificate of Achievement. I would like to commend the Forest Preserve for voluntarily preparing the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. This report goes well above and beyond the minimal reporting requirements, as per the Illinois Compiled Statutes as well as the general accepted accounting standards. This is prepared in spirit of full disclosure, accountability and transparency. This marks the 13th year receiving this Certificate of Excellence and I congratulate the Forest Preserve for this accomplishment. Next, we will go through pages 21 through 24, the Independent Auditor's Report. The Forest Preserve is responsible for the fair presentation of their financial statements in accordance of generally accepted accounting principles. Our responsibility, as the Forest Preserves auditor, is to issue an opinion on the financial statements, based on our audit procedures in accordance with the generally accepted auditing standards set by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. With that...based on the results of the audit, we have issued a clean, unmodified opinion as the Forest Preserves financial statements present fairly in all material respects the respected financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate being funded in the Forest Preserve as of June 30th 2024. This opinion is the highest level of assurance we can provide. And, I congratulate the Forest Preserve for receiving an unmodified opinion. Lastly, pages 25 and 26, the Government Auditing Standards Opinion. This additional opinion reflects the finance element of the Forest Preserve Audit as of June 30th 2024. During the fiscal year, the Forest Preserve expended greater than \$500,000.00 in combined Federal and State Grant Funds, and that requires this additional opinion. The opinion documents...documents that is a part of our additional testing required by Government Auditing Standards. We did not identify any instances of non-compliance or material inconsistencies that require disclosure. In conclusion, overall the audit process kicked off in June. The reports were filed on time here in December. With that, I would like to specifically thank April and the rest of the Auditor's Office for their help throughout this process. Again, thank you to the Board for having me here to present the 2024 Audit Reports. I am happy to answer any questions."

President Swanson asked, "Thank you, Mr. Johnson. Now, if there are any questions while we have his attention here? Looking around the room...well, you

did such a thorough job, Mr. Johnson, there are no questions visible in the room. Ms. Palmer, is there anything you want to add before we let Mr. Johnson go?"

Ms. Palmer stated, "I don't believe so. Thank you."

President Swanson stated, "Well, we value your partnership with your firm, sir, and thank you for your good work on behalf of the taxpayers of Rock Island County."

Mr. Johnson stated, "Yes, guys...thank you very much for the opportunity."

Ms. Palmer stated, "Thank you, Bradley, for everything you do and your team as well and Nick, who is the Senior Manager on the account, and is hopefully at home with his new born baby. And, Merry Christmas to you guys."

Mr. Johnson stated, "You guys as well, and thank you."

President Swanson stated, "Thank you, sir. Thanks, friends."

3. Commissioner Vyncke moved to approve the Truth-In-Taxation, November 19th 2024, Commission minutes and the December 2, 2024, Reorganizational meeting minutes, as presented. Commissioners Mielke and Brunk seconded.

Commissioner Mielke was recognized.

Mr. Mielke stated, "I just have a correction on page 4 on the regular Forest Preserve meeting minutes...(clears throat) sorry, I shouldn't have had that Dove bar...delicious. (chuckles) The last sentence on page 4 should be terrain before topography, rather than the railroad train. (chuckles) Although there is a train at the zoo"

President Swanson stated, "There is a train at the zoo, but this is for more distinction."

Mr. Mielke added, "It is a minor thing, but I didn't want anyone to think I was associating trains with bats."

(Group laughter)

President Swanson stated, "Thank you for that caption correction, and I'll take that as an editorial change, if there is no objection, that leaves the motion as modified with the correction. Are there any other questions or discussion? Seeing none...this only requires a voice vote."

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

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

5. **PRESIDENTS COMMENTS:**

President Swanson stated, "Just a couple of quick things for those in the room earlier for the County Board meeting...I want to thank Mr. Adams, Mr. Burns and Mr. Vyncke for representing the interests of the Forest Preserve District in negotiations that we have alluded to earlier. The only thing I would add as a reminder for your benefit: A) It is our policy that we don't generally make comments on on-going negotiations, but I would direct your attention to, in April, we received a report that this Commission approved of a compensation study. That study found, among other things that 100% of our employees who are covered by the collective bargaining agreement are above the mean for their prospective positions. The compensation study concluded that Forest Preserve Districts and Park Districts across the State of Illinois including the metropolitan area of Chicago. So, there might be a little disingenuousness to say that there is a lack of respect that they are showing to our very valued employees. I leave it to the leadership of this Commission that they are...every one of them, are above the mean with respect to their work. So, keep that in mind. There will be more pressure to come in all likelihood, but be aware that you have been doing your work to ensure not only to protect the best interests of our employees but also the taxpayers of the county. I thank you all for that work that you do and continue to do. Other than that, things are pretty quiet out at the preserves. You will be happy to know that folks are still coming out and enjoying them and I hope you will too. There is a bit of hiking to be had. Staff are all working on winter maintenance projects and you all probably saw that in the reports as well as our on-going forest management plans. Of course, we will have time later for questions on staff reports."

6. Commissioner Woods moved to approve the Forest Preserve Claims and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$1,230,119.78, as presented. Commissioner Simmer seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno- Baker, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, K. Swanson, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

TOTAL YES 18

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

7. Commissioner Brunk moved to waive the reading and approve the Transfers of Appropriation, as enumerated in your packet. Commissioners Vyncke and Perkins seconded.

Commissioner Enburg moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Burns seconded.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno- Baker, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, K. Swanson, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

TOTAL YES 18

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

8. Commissioner Burns moved to waive the reading and approve the Resolutions regarding Niabi Zoo Improvements ARPA Grant Appropriations, Niabi Zoo Appropriations – Woodward Community Grant, and Designation of Banks and Other Depositories, as presented. Commissioner Simmer seconded.

RESOLUTION

FY 2025 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 \$387,688.26 shall be increased from grant revenue to be received in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:


AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$387,688.26	131-32-35 767 ARPA24-60	Infrastructure over \$15,000

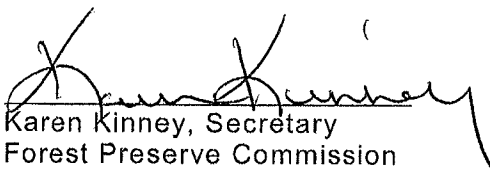
SECTION 3. Revenues in the amount of \$387,688.26 shall be increased from grant revenue to be received in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$387,688.26	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 17th day of December, 2024.


Kai Swanson, President
Forest Preserve Commission


Karen Kinney, Secretary
Forest Preserve Commission

RESOLUTION

RE: Niabi Zoo Fund Receipt of Grant Funds-Woodward Community Grant Fund

WHEREAS, additional funds are required in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to increase the budget for the purchase of observational equipment and increase security throughout Niabi Zoo, and

WHEREAS, (WCGF23) Woodward Community Grant Fund in the amount of \$16,000 was awarded to Niabi Zoo in October of 2022, and

WHEREAS, funds are available from grant funds already received in 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 \$564.46 be transferred from unappropriated funds within the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

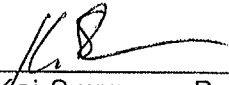
AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$119.96	131-32-35 522.00 WCGF23	Operating Supplies
\$444.50	131-32-35 638.00 WCGF23	Repair & Maintenance

SECTION3. An amount of \$564.46 be transferred from grant funds already received to unappropriated funds within the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$564.46	131-32-35 337.70 WCGF23	Local Grants & Culture

SECTION 4. This resolution to become effective immediately.

ADOPTED by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 17th day of December, 2024.


Kai Swanson, President
Forest Preserve Commission


Karen Kinney, Secretary
Forest Preserve Commission

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION
Resolution
Re: Designation of Banks or Other Depositories

WHEREAS, Nick Camlin, County Collector and County Treasurer, of the County of Rock Island, State of Illinois, and being appointed Treasurer, of the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District by the Board of Forest Preserve Commissioners of the County of Rock Island, State of Illinois has pursuant to the terms of an Act of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois, 70 ILCS 805/8b, requested this Board of Forest Preserve Commissioners of Rock Island County to designate a Bank or Banks or other Depository in which the Funds and Public Monies in the custody of the County Treasurer and monies received by him in the collection of taxes may be kept, and,

WHEREAS, the following designated banks have furnished copies of the sworn Statements of Resources and Liabilities, as furnished to the Comptroller of currency or to the Commissioner of Banks and Trust Companies of Illinois.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSIONERS OF ROCK ISLAND COUNTY, IL aforesaid, that the following named Banks are hereby designated as Depositories in which the funds and monies received by Nick Camlin, County Collector and County Treasurer, and in the collection of taxes may be deposited to-wit:

- American Bank & Trust of Rock Island, Illinois
- Bank Orion of Moline, Illinois
- Blackhawk Bank & Trust of Milan, Illinois
- BMO Harris Bank N.A. (IPRIME custodian) of Chicago, Illinois
- CBI Bank & Trust (fka SENB Bank) of Moline Illinois
- CBI Bank & Trust of Buffalo Prairie, Illinois
- Clock Tower Community Bank (Morton Bank) of Hillsdale Illinois
- Commerce Bank of Kansas City, Missouri
- DuTrac Community Credit Union of Moline, Illinois
- First National Bank of Moline, Illinois
- Gas & Electric Credit Union / Quad Cities Postal Credit Union of Moline, Illinois
- IH Mississippi Valley Credit Union of Moline, Illinois
- Illinois Metropolitan Investment Fund (IMET) of Westchester, Illinois
- Illinois Public Reserve Investment Management Trust (IPRIME) of Naperville, Illinois
- Kone Employees Credit Union of Moline, Illinois
- Midwest Bank of Andalusia, Illinois
- Moline Municipal Credit Union of Moline, Illinois
- Old National Bank (fka First Midwest Bank) of Moline, Illinois
- People's National Bank (fka Reynolds State Bank) of Reynolds, Illinois
- PFM Asset Management LLC (Illinois Trust) of Chicago, Illinois
- Quad City Bank & Trust of Moline, Illinois
- Service Plus Credit Union of Moline, Illinois
- The Bancorp Bank (Paymerang LLC vendor payment services) of Richmond, Virginia
- The Illinois Funds, US Bancorp Fund Services LLC of Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- US Bank N.A. (IMET custodian) of Minneapolis, Minnesota
- US Bank N.A. (Illinois Trust custodian) of St Paul, Minnesota

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each bank herein designated as a depository for such funds or monies shall furnish the said Board of Forest Preserve Commissioners of Rock Island County with a copy of all Statements of Resources and Liabilities which it is required to furnish to the said Comptroller of Currency or Director of Financial Institutions of the State of Illinois while acting as such Depository and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if such funds and monies are deposited in a bank herein designated, as a Depository, the amounts of such deposits shall not exceed sixty-five (65%) of the Capital Stock and Surplus of such Bank and such County Treasurer shall not be discharged from responsibility for any such funds or monies deposited in any bank in excess of such limitation.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSIONERS OF ROCK ISLAND COUNTY, ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS, DECEMBER 17, 2024.


Kai Swanson, Commission President
Rock Island County Forest Preserve District

ATTEST:


Karen Kinney, Commission Secretary
Rock Island County Forest Preserve District

[Seal]

No. _____

Commissioner Adams moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Foster seconded.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno- Baker, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, K. Swanson, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

TOTAL YES 18

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

9. Commissioner Layer moved to approve Jeff Craver, Director, as the FOIA Officer, as presented. Commissioners Burns and Woods seconded.

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

10. Commissioner Mielke moved approve the 2025 regular meeting dates and Holidays, as presented. Commissioner Adams seconded.

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

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
HOLIDAY POLICY

SECTION 19

The Rock Island County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners recognizes the following days of calendar year 2025 as days in which full-time employees shall receive holiday pay. It is the policy of the District to recognize the following days:

New Year's Day, (2025)	January 1, 2025
Martin Luther King's Birthday,	January 20, 2025
Presidents Day,	February 17, 2025
Good Friday,	April 18, 2025
Memorial Day,	May 26, 2025
Juneteenth	June 19, 2025
Independence Day,	July 4, 2025
Labor Day,	September 1, 2025
Columbus Day,	October 13, 2025
Veterans Day,	November 11, 2025
Thanksgiving Day,	November 27, 2025
Friday after Thanksgiving Day,	November 28, 2025
Christmas Eve,	December 24, 2025
Christmas Day,	December 25, 2025
New Year's Day, (2026)	January 1, 2026

The day on which members of the House of Representatives are elected. November 3, 2026

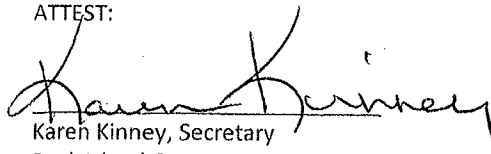
Additionally, no other day shall be considered unless designated by the Board of Commissioners. Only active full-time employees shall qualify for holiday pay. Non-exempt, non-bargaining unit part-time regular or temporary employees shall not qualify for holiday pay.

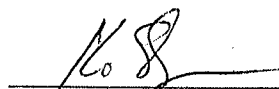
Full-time exempt employees required to work on District observed holiday due to seasonal or continuous operations requirements, shall be allowed to take another day off within a thirty (30) day period following the worked holiday. Holiday pay is not cumulative for full-time exempt employees, therefore, if another day off is not taken in lieu the worked holiday within the thirty-day period, the day of paid time off will be forfeited.

When a holiday occurs on a Saturday it shall be observed on the proceeding Friday and when a holiday occurs on a Sunday it shall be observed on the following Monday with the exception of Niabi Zoo which will observe the actual day the holiday falls for full-time exempt employees required to work.

Full-time non-exempt non-bargaining unit employees shall receive two and one-half times their regularly hourly rate of pay for all hours worked on Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day in lieu of holiday pay or compensatory time off. If an employee does not work a full eight hours shift, those hours not worked shall be considered holiday pay.

ATTEST:


Karen Kinney, Secretary
Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission


Kai Swanson, President
Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission

**Schedule of Regular Meeting Dates for the Rock Island County Forest Preserve
District and Forest Preserve Executive Committee meetings for the calendar
year 2025 pursuant to the Open Meetings Act**

Pursuant to Section 2.03 of the Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/2.03, the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District has prepared and makes available this Schedule of Regular Meeting Dates for the calendar year of 2025. The Rock Island County Forest Preserve District may schedule other special meetings, emergency meetings, and reconvened meetings as deemed necessary and as allowed by law pursuant to Section 2.02 of the Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/2.02, in addition to any amendments or other modifications to the regular meeting date schedule. All regular meetings unless otherwise notified shall take place at 5:30 PM in the Rock Island County Chambers in the Rock Island County Building, 1504 3rd Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois, immediately following the meeting of the Rock Island County Board as follows:

Tuesday, January 21
Tuesday, February 18
Tuesday, March 18
Tuesday, April 15
Tuesday, May 20
Tuesday, June 17

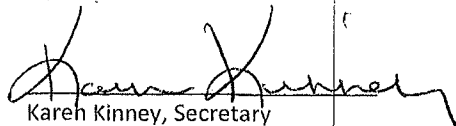
Tuesday, July 15
Tuesday, August 19
Tuesday, September 16
Tuesday, October 21
Tuesday, November 18
Tuesday, December 16

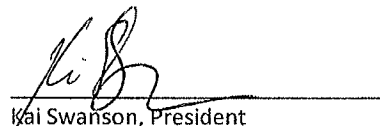
The Forest Preserve Executive Committee will meet at 9:30 AM in the Rock Island County Chambers in the Rock Island County Building, 1504 3rd Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois unless otherwise noted.

Tuesday, January 14
Tuesday, February 11
Tuesday, March 11
Tuesday, April 8
Tuesday, May 13
Tuesday, June 10-Niabi Zoo, 13010 Niabi Zoo Road, Coal Valley, IL 61240
Tuesday, July 8-Indian Bluff Golf Course, 6200 78th Avenue, Milan, IL 61284
Tuesday, August 12-Loud Thunder Forest Preserve, 19406 Loud Thunder Road, Illinois City, IL 61259
Tuesday, September 9-Illiniwek Forest Preserve, 836 State Avenue, Hampton, IL 61256
Wednesday, October 15
Wednesday, November 12
Tuesday, December 9

These schedules of regular meeting dates as adopted pursuant to a vote of the Forest Preserve Commission, of the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District, at the regular meeting on December 17, 2024.

ATTEST:


Karen Kinney, Secretary
Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission


Kai Swanson, President
Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission

Commissioner Burns moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioners Simmer and Layer seconded.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno- Baker, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, K. Swanson, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

TOTAL YES 18

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

11. Commissioner Simmer moved to approve the 2024 Annual Financial Report, as presented. Commissioner Layer seconded.

Commissioner Sowards moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Perkins seconded.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno- Baker, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, K. Swanson, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

TOTAL YES 18

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

12. **Comments from Commissioners: (NONE)**

13. Commissioner Burns moved to approve all Routine Reports from the Director and Departments Heads of the Forest Preserve Commission set forth in your packet, as presented. Commissioner Dewith seconded. (Record)

Commissioner Mielke moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioners Perkins and Foster seconded.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno- Baker, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, K. Swanson, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

TOTAL YES 18

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

President Swanson stated, "With that friends, the next meeting of the Forest Preserve Commission will be Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 5:30pm, in these chambers, following the meeting of the Rock Island County Board in the Rock Island County Office Building, 1504 Third Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois."

President Swanson added, "And, I would just like to say what a pleasure it has been to work with you on these important matters that provide a legacy for all of our children, our grandchildren and our neighbors children and grandchildren. I thank you for your good work. Happy Holidays to everyone. Thank you, we are in recess."

President Swanson declared the Forest Preserve Meeting recessed at 6:59pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Kinney", written over a horizontal line.

KAREN KINNEY
COUNTY CLERK AND SECRETARY
OF THE FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

KK:ro