

**FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
JANUARY 14, 2025**

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

ABSENT: J. Woods, C. Layer.

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Craver, District Director; Todd Collins, Club House Manager; 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 9:35 AM on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, in the second floor conference room of the County Building in Rock Island, Illinois.

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

TOTAL PRESENT 5

J. Woods, C. Layer.

TOTAL ABSENT 2

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

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to approve the December Committee meeting minutes. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$243,421.38.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$243,421.38. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

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

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to approve the transfers of appropriations. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the resolutions regarding the semi-annual review of closed session minutes, Niabi Zoo ARPA Grant Appropriations, and Niabi Zoo Appropriations – Woodward Community Grant.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the resolutions regarding the semi-annual review of closed session minutes Niabi Zoo ARPA Grant Appropriations, and Niabi Zoo Appropriations – Woodward Community Grant. Ms. Sowards 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 user fees for the District.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to approve the 2025 user fees for the District. Mr. Mielke seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the IMEG Agreement for the design and construction documents of Bike Path reconstruction.

MOTION: Mr. Mielke moved to approve the IMEG Agreement for the design and construction documents of Bike Path reconstruction. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Mr. Craver added that hopefully will get Bids out and back by May of this year.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called on Mr. Craver for the discussion of Electric Vehicle Charger assessment report for the District.

Mr. Craver stated that District was award up to \$410,000.00 for installation of electric vehicle charging station at the various facilities. This gives us some nice cost estimates. There are a couple of different options for several of our facilities. Looking at three stations at Loud Thunder. Four at Niabi, which would be eight ports. At Illiniwek there are a couple of different options as well. Such as a spot near the restroom facility, or a spot across the road. There is space for some station in the Amôwa parking lot, and even at Dorrance and the Martin Conservation area. Electric vehicle charging stations are not in great demand at this time, but in the foreseeable future hopefully they will be a great amenity that is offered at District facilities. It is a 20% match grant. There is also the added bonus of getting more electric infrastructure out at the preserves in areas that would benefit the District beyond powering the stations.

President Swanson stated that this did sound like an excellent opportunity for the District.

Dr. Moreno stated that he agreed. It does sounds like a great opportunity. There is one concern that I have. Around the country in remote and isolated locations that have charging

station there have reports of vandalism and theft of copper from the stations. Are there plans to put security cameras out at those locations?

Mr. Craver stated that that's a possibility. While there have been instances of vandalism, and theft, at the preserves, it tends to be few and far between. However, more security would be another bonus to the project.

Mr. Mielke asked if the charging stations would be 24/7.

Mr. Craver stated that the stations would only operate during park hours.

There was a brief discussion on the future of electric vehicles in this country.

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

Mr. Camlin stated that he had received 6 bids for the Tax Anticipation Warrant for Niabi. These still need thoroughly compared to ensure that the best deal for the District is chosen, but there are a couple bids that look good.

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

Ms. Palmer stated that there was nothing specific. The District is half way through its fiscal year, and the budget is looking as expected.

President Swanson asked Mr. Collins if there was anything that he wanted to lift up from his report.

Mr. Collins stated that this was an excellent year for the golf course. Even better than last year, and that's saying something.

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

Mr. Mills stated that, as specified in the report, staff is working on winter maintenance, pesticide licenses, and the forest management plan when weather allows.

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

Mr. Craver stated that Mr. Jackson is on vacation. There was an application submitted for zoo exhibits, so hopefully the District will get that grant.

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. Dr. Simmer 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. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

TOTAL YES	5
TOTAL NO	0

Motion carried.

Closed session began 10:11 AM

Closed session ended 10:39 AM

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

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to return to open session. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson asked if there was anything else that needed the Committee's attention.

No one had anything else for the Committee.

President Swanson called the meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM.

Submitted by:
Cassie Sullivan
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant