

FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
MARCH 11, 2025

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

ABSENT: D. Mielke.

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Craver, District Director; Lee Jackson, Niabi Zoo Director; April Palmer, Auditor; Nick Camlin, Treasurer.

President Swanson called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Executive Committee to order at 9:31 AM on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, in the second floor conference room of the County Building in Rock Island, Illinois.

E. Sowards, K. Swanson, J. Woods, R. Simmer, C. Layer. (L. Moreno arrived 9:47am after roll was called.)

TOTAL PRESENT 6

D. Mielke.

TOTAL ABSENT 1

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

MOTION: Ms. Woods moved to approve the February Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Layer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$177,271.21.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$177,271.21. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson stated that there were no transfers of appropriation this month.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the resolution regarding the Zoo ARPA.

MOTION: Ms. Woods moved to approve the resolution regarding the Zoo ARPA. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Mr. Craver gave a brief update on the delays that the projects have been experiencing.

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 AFSCME 2025A Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the AFSCME 2025A Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement. Ms. Woods seconded the motion.

Mr. Craver stated that he believed Mr. Grafton would be going into more detail in closed session at the County's meeting, so there shouldn't be any need to go into closed session at the District's meeting next week. If the Committee feels differently about that, please let me know, and I'll arrange to have Ms. Sullivan there to take those closed session minutes.

Motion carried.

President Swanson asked if there were any questions from the Committee on the routine reports.

There were no questions.

President Swanson asked Mr. Jackson if there was anything from his report that he wanted to bring to the Committee's attention.

Mr. Jackson stated that it has been very difficult to find a business willing to come in and do the concessions due to the attendance at Niabi.

Mr. Craver stated that staff may need to create a budget for a position to take charge of that duty, since this has been a chronic issue over the past several years. Mr. Jackson has gone beyond simply putting out an RFP for zoo concessions, and it is an important part of the zoo experience.

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

MOTION: Mr. Layer moved to approve all routine reports from the Director and Department Heads as presented. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

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

Submitted by: Cassie Sullivan, Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant