

**ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION  
MARCH 18, 2025 – 6:26PM  
PRESIDENT KAI SWANSON - PRESIDING**

1. Karen Kinney, County Clerk, called the roll: (Record)

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

**TOTAL PRESENT 16**

R. Brunk, E. Dewith, B. Vyncke

**TOTAL ABSENT 3**

2. President Swanson stated, "Thank you, Madam Clerk. At this time, it's my great pleasure to call forward for a presentation, Dr. Greg Rasmussen. Although Vanderbush will make the introduction, but I can't resist saying it is a wonderful thing to have a person this committed and passionate step away from his primary field of research in Southern Africa and spend some time with us here on the West Coast of Illinois. So, at this time, I'm pleased to turn it over to Mr. Joel Vanderbush, from Niabi Zoo."

Joel Vanderbush stated, "Thank you, Mr. Swanson. You got me?"

President Swanson stated "I got you."

Mr. Vanderbush stated, "Sorry, I dropped my dog. So, many of you may recall, that in November of 2023 into December of 2023, I went to Zimbabwe to work with Dr. Rasmussen.

We have been conservation partners since 2018. And that...this has become probably the most steadfast conservation partnership, definitely in my career...but for sure at Niabi Zoo. And, for us two to work together for that long, just like any relationship, you learn the needs of your partner and you want to provide as much as you can. And, as you learn more about that partner, you discover that there are simple things that we can do to make that relationship better. And, that's how our relationship started from designing their websites, to helping them to train an educator that came over to visit us. And then, the pandemic happened. And, we realized after the pandemic, when we were able to do some work again, that perhaps we actually needed to go help train educators at their sites.

And, we were able to do that during my time there, hiring four new educators as well as training them how to run a bush camp; which he will tell you more about. But, I also want to say that as we continue to participate and continue to understand what more they need, we're able to actually help in a much larger

capacity. One was the (inaudible) of his first children's book by Dr. Rasmussen. And, these are stories that he has experienced himself that we're able to develop into a book. So, I was the editor of this book and contributed a few of the factual pages in the back, based on the work that we do at Niabi Zoo for our animal fact sheets. (Shows piece of art) This little painted dog right here, this is made of snare wire art, from the snare wires that poachers use to kill animals in the wild for the wildlife bushing train; which is one of the most devastating for all animals no matter where. And, Painted Dogs are a bycatch of that for trying to catch the prey that they're setting these snares for. I have rust on my fingertips because this is the actual wire that came out of the African bush. That is then converted into art like this, by artisans that are in Dr. Greg's community. And, we even have some felted painted dogs that staff...that he has hired and trained to develop these pieces of art are now sold at our gift shops and gift shops around the country.

That money then in turn goes back to support those conservation efforts. And, of course, in addition to that...we continue to develop this relationship. Like, we were...we've been teaching at Augustana. I've been teaching there three days a week, teaching a senior inquiry course on conservation methods. And Dr. Rasmussen, this week, is spending Monday, Wednesday and Friday with us in that class and demonstrating all of the conservation methods that I'm teaching about.

They demonstrate it at their sites. And that, I think, is the most common sign of when you develop these kinds of relationships. You want to know that those partnerships are valid, that you invent those organizations, and that they actually live by what they say they're going to do. And, that's the relationship that I have with Dr. Rasmussen and his entire team there in Zimbabwe. And, we are hoping to return in December this year as well as taking one of our zookeepers with us. So, that's going to be another continuation of that.

But, I'm not gonna tell you anything more on that. I'm gonna bring up what is, without a doubt, the...the most prolific wildlife biologist for African Painted Dogs literally, on the face of the Planet Earth. I will tell you, there's one little thing...I worked at a different zoo in the center of Indiana; which you may know that too. And, twenty years ago when I worked there, I worked with Painted Dogs. We had a pair. And, I will tell you this, all of the information that we told to the public other than the fact that they were carnivores and they lived in packs...all of the other information we provided to the public was wrong. And, I can tell you that, as a professional, because it was at those times that Greg was publishing and learning about this very unique endangered species in Africa. So, when I say he literally wrote the book on the species, I am not kidding you, as I have lived that through my own career. So, without further ado, please welcome Dr. Greg Rasmussen."

(Group Applause)

Dr. Rasmussen stated, "Well, good evening. It's an honor to be here tonight, and it's an honor to be in your area. I've been here quite a few times now and I always look forward to coming. Joel said partnership but partnership is always two ways. It's wonderful. When I first met Joel, it wasn't can you help me...he was saying, we want to get dogs but we have no idea on what kind because...and what do they need? Could we do it? What part of the zoo? I said, 'Don't worry about it, I can help.' And, within a week, he had me up at Niabi, here. That's the kind of guy he is. And, that is a partnership. A partnership is a two-way thing...you know, it's not all just give me, give me. You know? So, I believe if I can help you, I can help give you the stamina with helping at the Zoo, the exhibits and anywhere I can contribute. It means a lot to have a partnership.

But, my partnerships actually started with Painted Dogs thirty-eight years ago. Oh, it worked, gosh. Now, normally, you're....(pause) So, I started in 1987, we knew absolutely nothing about dogs. I was actually working with reptiles and somebody said, 'Greg, can you work with Painted Dogs?' 'We've got \$20,000 to spend.' I said, 'No.' I said, I am here to work with reptiles; which I did. He said, 'Well, you've....you're bound to give it a try and you've been recommend as a field officer...you can study anything.' I said, 'Yeah, I'll help you for six months.'

Well, and so it's how it goes. I started in 1987, against the crack backdrop of 150 branded dogs in the country....a species that was a million (inaudible). And, here's the paradigm. This is where I feel that...you know, cross pollination cultures, we all have exactly the same problems, they just look different. For example, Painted Dogs are assaulted by the ranchers through the wolves. The wolves are assaulted by ranchers...and dogs are assaulted by ranchers. We've got lots to share and lots to learn, took me 13 years working with the ranchers and sometimes I you get some, you know...it's an individual parlay going on there. We stopped the shooting. And in the end, we came to an amicable understanding that the middle wasn't my side or your side. The end game was somewhere in the middle. And, that is what we experience with conservation. So now...and the more the ranchers actually said to me, this is where the research come in...this is why I love research. 'But, they're killing all our cattle.' I said, well...let's get to the bottom of that. Let's find out exactly what the numbers are. And, I said what they really are....as a researcher, I need to know and I need that to understand your problem. It turned out the dogs were responsible for 1.7% of their losses. But, plastic bags, however, killed 17%...do the math. So, when I said that to the ranchers...they said...well, I actually said, maybe you should shoot plastic bags. Some took it with some sort of humor and some didn't take it too kindly. But, the reality of it was...and they said, 'But, we hate them!' And, I said, but now we have the problem. And, in the end they all said well, our losses are actually not that great and we are willing to put our guns down, regardless...for the public. And, this is one the big roles that I think good conversationalists and organizations, whether they be us or zoos. Zoos, in particular...I mean, you have zoos in the US that have more people going to than the football games. My audience is, you

know, very small. And so, for you...zoos would be the mouthpiece of conservation, and that's where a big partnership...one of the big partnerships can come along. This is just a little...when Joel said he was out, he won't just be in education and helped me with our camera trap program. It's one of our main to major days because, actually, it was to buy cameras. Law and innovation research have become my mission. If you take a picture of it, you don't have to be there. So, what about the Painted Dogs that I saw with all those years ago? Well, we didn't have the answers and Joel said, what we didn't know was that they would be the most researchable species on the planet. And, we could actually...I wanna say we could learn a lot from nature. And, Painted Dogs was the only species to be where there would be no fighting for leadership, there is no fighting within the pack, and there is no fighting for territory. If we studied them or pursued of being like them, we would all be a lot better off....sort of our consideration and greeting each other five times a day. (Oops, what have I done? I just pushed the wrong button...I don't know.)

So, I just want to share with you, one of my first encounters with the fancy dogs...it says a lot about the species...would probably put me on fire. I study a pack of dogs and I like to follow them for 28 days in a month. And, the one I was following...the one dog was mauled by a lion. I radioed a vet, and I said to the vet...I said, can we do anything? He said, well, what can I do...it's 6:30pm at night? I said, I don't know...I said, I probably, myself, need emotional support. He said, well, come back at 5 o'clock tomorrow morning, and we'll see what we can do. I came back at 5 o'clock the next morning, and the dog was not there. He clearly had been dragged away by a predator. So, thought nothing of it and I continued to follow the pack. And, probably, one of the mind-blowing experiences of my life...one dog kept disappearing to some place, but we had put a tracker on it, a foot tracker. We tracked it together and we got to a point about 10 miles away in another unknown city where he was injured, near dead was this dog. His brother was going back every single day to feed this dog, to clean its wounds. It was the first case ever, of a wild species taking care of its sick and its weak. He did that for three months. And, everyone was saying, oh, this is a savage roost. (Shows slide) Well, for me...that's the same dog six months later and that was the beginning...where my conservation started.

I realized that there is more that we could learn about nature...we should learn about nature. The same options apply to our people who, of course, say this is a bad person and they don't look very far beyond it. So, with that...my journey began with not only studying Painted Dogs relentlessly, but also working in schools, doing a lot of it...I was slightly younger in those days. (Shows slide) Gerald and I both had dark hair when we met. (Ha-Ha) And, I used to go to schools and share with schools in the same way I like to share with the students today in Pakistan what we're really doing and what the real world is like. Of course, that's not necessary in the real world, but my message here with this slide is you don't ever realize how powerful education is when delivered in the right way could be.

Twenty years after that was taken, a young graduate student comes to me and she says, I want to understudy you. And, I said, I didn't know...I said, we'll, put up a few walls as if you were beating down of every wall, I thought. She's like...I really want to, sir. I think well no, I can find a combination. And when I finally said okay...that since that you're old. And, she said, you came into my classroom twenty or eighteen years ago. She said, dressed as a fancy dog. She said, from that moment on...I'm satisfied and I want to become a conservation biologist. That young lady is now a top conservation biologist, leading women in conservation in South Africa. That is the sort of thing that happens at zoos. This is why Zoos, to me, are so important. The mission and the work they do the cross-pollination they do. We can't do it from the field when we're standing at that incident half the time....maybe doing that or to do, we have no power.

So, I didn't realize that I was being a firefighter for zoos and also be the firefighter for conservation of wildlife. And, ultimately, this is the next generation that we have to look after. I don't think there's a person in this room that wants to say, daddy, grand-daddy, why are there no Mountain Lions and why are there no Bobcats? And, that's just my message there.

What we are dealing with today and the challenges we have are very common. There are parallels. You know...you know, they are one of my favorite provisions. You have exactly the same problem where I am. You want to study the area of the road in mine, 50 miles long. We lose four to 8,000 birds per animals annually on a 50-mile section. There are parallels...there are lessons that we can learn from this side of the pond. There are lessons that, hopefully, the people in the US can learn from us. We've tried to do an investigation and we can't unfortunately, put over passes and under passes because we have elephants and giraffes. You can't put an under pass for a giraffe. We tried to think what merchants were trying to say. We didn't know the speed limit of, but like in other parts, we put up road signs, you know, all the way down the road. That seemed like a good idea at the time, until I began my private walks there...and we have elephants that roam free unlike in the US. They were a disaster (Shows slide)

Well, I tried covering up my road signs with barbed wire and razor wire and filled the tube with concrete, but the elephants were still determined to tear it up. (Shows slide) My God, it's ridiculous, isn't it? This is what we are up against. (Shows slide of mangled road sign) (Group chuckles) After a few, I think the elephants have to become my friends. We did have a case where the traps were emptied and I thought, yes, they've gone off with it and I do believe it now. We do all sorts of things and in-fact at the time we took this photograph of the billboard, you know, we are investing money. But, anyway, the money raised needs to go to conservation with these billboards going up on the roads in Zimbabwe. We were where we would get the police on-site...we get parks on-site, and we get the major authorities. The other day, a disturbing...the disturbances we're having, the challenge we're having are all man made. As the numbers are all naturally

increase because with tourism comes water. So, no food, but a lot of water. You increase your numbers because of water, but then die of starvation. Then, something we have...we have tourism and it's a double-edge sword. People are going into the dens and then the pups don't get to feed properly and then losses come from other animal attacks. I look at my cameras almost 20 times a day and don't get much work done. What it does mean is, the pups don't get fed and end up with a short life. This is what a good scientist does. This is why you need a scientist who knows his stuff to make to help that decision. I'm told I couldn't have a say for very long, but the ability for the future is really important. And, I want to say that back in this century...back 30 years later, I am delighted to have Niabi come on board. And, Joel Vanderbush brought in his conservation team. (Shows slide) Here is Joel and the field of us inspiring his and my new generation of educators. Those are skill sets that we do not have. We know what we need...I knew I wanted to live in Bush Camp, but it did like the officer's cartoon where the pile of horses were drove in a pond. They say policy is something you have to put together. (Shows slide) So, this is just some of the take-aways from Joel being with us. These are all the activities that I'm not usually in...they didn't just come and leave. He came, set up something that we are continuing with...but when he comes back...we are gonna keep gonna and you're gonna get better every time.

So, I'm really excited to have my RV as part of the activities the kids are doing...blowpipe belts and radio tracking. And, this is a Bush Camp that we're building. Joe has been helping and the zoo is helping to raise funds to build a Bush Camp, and a Sperm Camp where kids can come and live in for three days. That is the most powerful experience where kids do not just come for a voice pop. They come and live in because then we get them from 5 o'clock in the morning to 8 o'clock at night for three days. Makes a difference. The Bush Camp is not finished yet, and we got to get....we're trying to build a toilet pit; which is in basil rock. We have to drill down in basil rock deep depths some 30-foot hole. It didn't help that the equipment failed and the drill broke down...so, the kids saw it best to see how many kids can we fit in a bucket. (Shows slide of several kids in the scoop of a tractor bucket.)

(Group chuckles)

Just a little commitment to the future. We are very...in most rural areas of our world, women have been denied an education. And, it was nice to hear a woman getting praise tonight for her achievement, not alcoholism. (Group chuckles) (Shows slide) And, um, here is a young lady who was 13 years old who was gonna be taken away from school. Her mother said, I don't have money and I said well, that is what I what to hear because we can fund that. The real reason was because she was girl and she was gonna be denied an education. This young woman passed her Middle School, passed her High School...went to university and became the first woman ever, in an area the size of Delaware and

beyond, to graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree. We can make a difference, but we must do it together. Thank you very much."

(Group applause)

President Swanson stated, "Dr. Rasmussen, are you available to take some questions and comments?"

Mr. Rasmussen stated, "I would welcome some questions, if you have time?"

President Swanson stated, "I am just looking this way and that."

Mr. Rasmussen stated, "You need a (Inaudible)."

(Group laughter)

President Swanson added, "When you are thinking about time...we are on your time."

Mr. Rasmussen replied, "Nah, I am good. I've come all the way from Zimbabwe and I don't go back for a month."

Commissioner L. Moreno was recognized.

Mr. Moreno stated, "Not a question...just a comment. That was the most enjoyable presentation that I think I ever heard. Normally, I am like...God, please come on...but I could sit here and listen to you all day long. Thank you very much, I really appreciate it."

Mr. Rasmussen stated, "It is my absolute pleasure and an honor."

Mr. Vanderbush stated, "Well, they'll have two more opportunities to listen to you. Do you want to tell them that?"

Mr. Rasmussen stated, "Okay, well...we are doing nursery students at the university there...the one is the brew pub."

Mr. Vanderbush clarified, "Fight for Painted Dogs."

Mr. Rasmussen reiterated, "Fight for Painted Dogs tomorrow night."

Mr. Vanderbush added, "...at Front Street Brewery."

President Swanson stated, "Front Street Brewery. Tomorrow night, what time?"

Mr. Vanderbush stated, "Six-thirty."

President Swanson clarified "At 6:30pm at Front Street Brewery."

Mr. Vanderbush added, "It's free to attend."

Mr. Rasmussen stated, "And then, Painting for Painted Dogs on Friday at the zoo. Where all of your lasses are going to show that we all can't paint for squat."

(Group chuckles)

Commissioner Simmer was recognized.

Mr. Simmer asked, "Yeah, uh, when was the last time you were here...was it prior to COVID?"

Mr. Rasmussen answered, "No, no, I've been coming every year with the exception of COVID."

Mr. Simmer stated, "Yeah, I mean we've been doing that series for a while Joel?"

Mr. Vanderbush answered, "Yes."

Mr. Simmer stated, "I mean...that's where I first met him."

Joel stated, "He was one of the very first in our conservation speaker series; which helped to kick that off."

President Swanson stated, "Right."

Mr. Simmer stated, "Which I still have my dog on my desk which is still a constant, conversation piece. I push it to..."

Mr. Rasmussen interjected, "Well, you gotta get a whole pack."

(Group laughter)

Mr. Craver stated, "We have about nine boxes of them at Niabi Zoo. We are one of the hubs for distribution for them in the country."

Mr. Vanderbush added, "So, if you want some, we got 'em."

Commissioner J. Woods was recognized.

Ms. Woods asked, "What age do you start with the children?"

Mr. Rasmussen answered, "As young as possible. Normally, about seven or eight. The youngest child I'm ever taking out to the field, who came with me, a girl was 11 years old. She would come to the Bush Camp in the beginning to start. The idea is to take them all the way through the Graduate program, Master's program, and then some PhDs. And in fact, while I am in the US, I do have US students that I mentor to come over to Zimbabwe for two months at the time. And that's also great for us, for my students. They cross-pollinate with the students in the USA...it's a win-win. I think we need cross-train them to see other cultures because it's not just about conservation, if you can get to see another culture, it's amazing! These partnerships are more powerful than us living on the islands."

Commissioner Enburg was recognized.

Ms. Enburg asked, "I was curious about the book...where can that be purchased at?"

Joel stated, "We will have some at the gift shop at Niabi Zoo. I also happen to be the National distributor of that book, and so, I may have about seven cases of those...but they will be available on both Wednesday and Friday nights at our events as well."

Ms. Enburg stated, "Thank you."

Mr. Rasmussen stated, "You have to remember that Christmas is coming...it's just around the corner or a birthday."

(Group laughter)

President Swanson stated, "It's an Easter basket stuffer!"

Mr. Rasmussen stated, "Now, you are talking!"

President Swanson stated, "Alright...thank you. Are there any other questions...looking around? Well, friends...please join me, once again, in thanking Mr. Rasmussen."

(Group applause)

3. Commissioner Perkins moved to approve the February, 18 2025, Commission minutes, as presented. Commissioner McNeil seconded.

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

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

5. **PRESIDENTS COMMENTS:**

President Swanson stated, "Staff is gearing up for the opening of the season. That'll be, next month for Niabi. And, as was mentioned by Joel, there are all kinds of treats and treasures at the Niabi gift store. So, whenever I get out there with grandkids, we always make a stop and it's always rewarding to see the kinds of things we get because, remember, your purchases support the zoo and all this amazing species conservation work. So, please get out there when it opens. In the meanwhile, get out to the parks as things are go on."

6. Commissioner Adams moved to approve the Forest Preserve Claims and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$177,271.21, as presented. Commissioner Sowards seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

**TOTAL YES**            **16**

**TOTAL NO**            **0**

Motion carried.

7. Commissioner Simmer moved to waive the reading and approve the Resolution regarding the Zoo ARPA Program, as presented. Commissioner Burns seconded.

(Note\*\* Resolution is in pdf format and begins on the next page)

## 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

**WHEREAS**, the balance to finish the project including retainage is now \$1,027,209.85, 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 \$41,597.46 shall be increased from grant revenue to be received in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$41,597.46	131-32-35 767 ARPA24-60	Infrastructure over \$15,000

SECTION 3. Revenues in the amount of \$86,459.40 shall be increased from grant revenue to be received in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

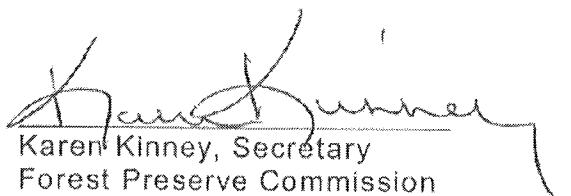
AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$41,597.46	131-32-35 331.10 ARPA24-00	Federal Grants-General Government

SECTION 4. This resolution to become effective immediately.

**ADOPTED** by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 18th day of March, 2025.



Kai Swanson, President  
Forest Preserve Commission



Karen Kinney, Secretary  
Forest Preserve Commission

Commissioner Burns moves to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Simmer seconded.

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

**TOTAL YES 16**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

8. Commissioner L. Moreno move to approve the AFSCME 2025A Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement, as presented. Commissioner Moreno-Baker seconded.

Commissioner Adams moves to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Perkins seconded.

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

**TOTAL YES 16**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

9. Commissioner Enburg moved to approve the Disabled Golf Cart Policy, as presented. Commissioner Layer seconded.

President Swanson stated, "This is something that was put forwarded by staff. This is to provide a special role to provide people who are truly disabled to take their cart in places that other golfers are not unable to, but also restricts certain areas by more mobile golfers."

Commissioner L. Moreno moves to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioners Sowards and Foster seconded.

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

**TOTAL YES 16**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

10. Commissioner Layer moved to approve the 2025 golf cart fees \$17 for 18 holes, \$11 for 9 holes, and \$15 for seniors (weekdays only); fee includes sales tax, as presented. Commissioner Simmer seconded.

Commissioner Simmer asked, "What is the age for seniors?"

President Swanson stated, "Uh, it's \$15.00 for seniors."

Mr. Simmer reiterated, "What is the age?"

President Swanson asked, "Mr. Craver, sorry to interrupt. What do we define as seniors for the golf cart policy?"

Mr. Craver stated, "Um, I cannot answer that at this time."

President Swanson stated, "Rodney wants to know if he can golf at these rates."

Mr. Simmer stated, "I qualify...and no one better to sell it to, we have a \$15.00 thing for weekdays."

Mr. Craver stated, "I am sorry, I don't know...it's 60 or 62."

President Swanson states, "We did discover that these particular rentals were subject to a tax and so we had to restructure it now."

Commissioner Burns moves to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Simmer seconded.

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

**TOTAL YES 16**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

11. **Comments from Commissioners: (None)**

Commissioner Morthland was recognized.

Mr. Morthland stated, "Not that this was directly Commission business, but I was privileged to visit my mother for her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday this morning. It's just to remind you that her family is all over all of these walls back here...her ancestors. And, so, they are a real part of the Rock Island County legacy."

President Swanson stated, "Thank you very much for lifting that up for us, Mr. Morthland. I appreciate that greatly."

Commissioner Mielke was recognized.

Mr. Mielke stated, "The Painted Lion and Painted Dog featured Friday is featured in the Coal Valley Newsletter, and so, hopefully, that will help a little bit more too."

President Swanson states, "Alright, get your drink on...and my wife does a lot of those. And we value the painting and how expensive the wine was when she went."

12. Commissioner Perkins I moved to approve all Routine Reports from the Director and Departments Heads of the Forest Preserve Commission, as presented. Commissioner Adams seconded.

President Swanson stated, "Mr. Lee Jackson is here tonight. I am grateful you are here. While you are here, is there anything you would like to lift up for the commissioners?"

Mr. Jackson answered, "No, I don't think so. Are there any questions from the Report?"

President Swanson asked, "Are there any questions from the Commissioners or Department Heads? Seeing none."

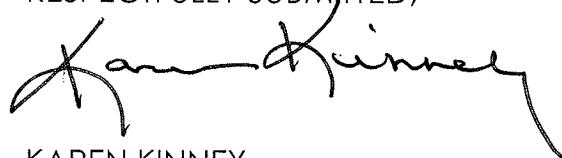
A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

Alright, friends, the next meeting of the Forest Preserve Commission will be Tuesday April 15, 2025, at 5:30pm, following the meeting of the Rock Island County Board in the Rock Island County Office Building, 1504 Third Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois in these Board Chambers!"

President Swanson declared the Forest Preserve Meeting recessed at 7:00pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



KAREN KINNEY  
COUNTY CLERK AND SECRETARY  
OF THE FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

KK: ga/ro