

**FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES  
APRIL 8, 2025**

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

**ABSENT:**

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

President Swanson called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Executive Committee to order at 9:31 AM on Tuesday, April 8, 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, D. Mielke, L. Moreno.

**TOTAL PRESENT 7**

**TOTAL ABSENT 0**

President Swanson called for a motion approving the March Committee meeting minutes.

**MOTION:** Ms. Woods moved to approve the March 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 \$275,871.33.

**MOTION:** Dr. Moreno moved to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$275,871.33. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

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

**MOTION:** Ms. Woods moved to approve the transfers of appropriation. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the resolutions regarding the Zoo ARPA, and Golf Cart Fleet.

**MOTION:** Mr. Mielke moved to approve the resolution regarding the Zoo ARPA, and Golf Cart Fleet. Mr. Layer 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 Concessions Agreement for Niabi Zoo and Vander Vending.

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to approve the Concessions Agreement for Niabi Zoo and Vander Vending. Ms. Woods seconded the motion.

President Swanson asked if this was solely vending machines or if there would be live people in the concession buildings that people are used to.

Mr. Craver stated that there would be people in the concession buildings. The District did not receive any proposals for the concessions for Niabi this year. In the past few years it's been very difficult to get businesses interested in doing the concessions at Niabi.

Mr. Jackson stated that Vander Vending would be doing regular concessions that people have been used to. There will only be the concessions building near the entrance open. The Wolf Ridge building has been closed for two years. Niabi does own all the equipment that are in those buildings.

Motion carried.

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

There were no questions.

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

Ms. Palmer stated that the only things of note were that Niabi had used the remainder of the ARPA money, and has not needed to dip into the TAW money yet.

There was a brief discussion on the advertising of what's happening at Niabi, including press releases.

Mr. Craver briefly touched on the beginning of the open season for the preserves.

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

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

Motion carried.

President Swanson called the meeting adjourned at 9:54 AM.

Submitted by: Cassie Sullivan  
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant