

**ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION**  
**APRIL, 2025 – 6:05PM**  
**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, P. McNeil,  
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      19**

**TOTAL ABSENT      0**

2. President Swanson stated, "Well thank you. We are joined tonight by some very important partners of our district. Hillary Waddle, Assistant Pool Administrator at IPARKS and Jason Johnston, Senior Risk Services Consultant at IPARKS. You should all have this flyer. Did anyone else get a copy of this one? We're kind of passing it back and forth. This looks different on the cover. Alright, and make sure you get a chance to look at both of these. To our guests, we'll turn your mic on, and you have the floor. Good luck."

Hillary Waddle asked, "Can everyone hear me?"

President Swanson stated, "Yes, thank you."

Hillary Waddle stated, "Alright, perfect. Thank you so much for having us. As he said, I'm Hillary Waddle. I do a lot of the member services for IPARKS. So, just kind of generically, IPARKS, we are the risk management pool for your district. Our goal is to make risk management easy for our members. So, you guys are one of 180 IPARKS Members that we service in the State of Illinois. So, we just do everything we can. We are the insurance and risk management experts and we just try to make your life easy. These first couple pages, just a little about IPARKS and our board of directors listing. The next page is the IPARKS Risk Team...like I said, myself, Jason Johnston here will talk in a little bit, and then we also have 3 other co-workers, John, Ryan, and Wendy, and they are more like the coverage specialists. The next pages 5 and 6, goes over some of the coverages that we handle for you...and I am going to skip the risk management page because that is Jason's specialty, and he will go into a little bit more depth on that with you. Member resources, so we provide some really cool member resources for you guys. We have a member portal that you can go into called 'Our Resource E-Library', and within there are documents, there's online training, there's video streaming, seminars where we can record webinars that we have Illinois-specific attorneys present different topics. We record those, and house those in there as well for our members to access those whenever they would like. Our documents list is very extensive. We have a lot of really great, what we call, 'Best Practices and

Checklists'. So, our members can go in, and let's say you have a dog park. There's going to be best practices and checklists that you can go in and provide whoever is maintaining that dog park with that checklist. So, a lot of great stuff in there. Our portals, what we call Neogov and Zywave, they are their own separate portals. They will house all of any trainings or education that any of the employees want to take or do, certifications, the required Sexual Harassment Prevention Training that all Illinois employees have to take. We have that both in English and Spanish as well. So, they can take that and the certificate will be on file for you there. So, a lot of great resources. Jeff will reach out to me if he needs something, and we can pull it for him. If we don't have it, Jason does a fantastic job at procuring documents like that. We have some member reimbursement programs that we offer our members. The first one is called the 'Power Grant', that provides each member to choose how they want grant funds from a list of anything that has to do with training or services, that could decrease your risk for any liability, essentially. So, like if Jason comes out, you have something broken that needs replaced, a trip-and-fall hazard, anything like that. Surfacing, you get \$1,500/yr, that runs from January-December. So, each year, you can get \$1,500 for that. We have an Aquatics Grant, that reimburses members \$500 annually for training and monitoring services for your pools. And, then we have a Swing Modification Program, where members are eligible to save \$350, again, annually, to replace swing set parts from playground equipment manufacturers. The last page, you can just kind of see, is our IPARKS Membership, as I mentioned before, we are around 180 Members strong. Does anyone have any questions for me before I turn it over to Jason? Great, thank you."

President Swanson stated, "Don't go far, we will have questions for you."

Jason Johnston stated, "Alright, good evening everybody. My name is Jason Johnston, I do the risk control for all of our IPARKS Members. I've been in the safety field, risk management services for about 20 years now. Been servicing the IPARKS program for seven and a half, going on eight years now. Part of what I do, are on-site inspections; which, that includes, inspecting our member playgrounds. So, to do that, I've gone through the Certified Playground Safety Inspector Course, now three times, that's a certification I have to get every three years...to just identify issues with playgrounds, let our members know if there's problems, if things need replaced, if it's not compliant, that type of thing. I live in Mahomet, down by Champaign, if anybody knows where that's at, and I have the whole State of Illinois. So, I see all 180 Members throughout the state. Depending on their size, some members are seen, and if they're having issues, some members are seen on an annual basis. Some members are seen every two years, and some of our smaller members, maybe one park, maybe two parks, no employee type of thing, they meet every three years. So, this is kind of a risk-control packet. I handed out a few of those. I give that to our members every visit. Jeff will get another copy of this tomorrow. Just going to run through that quickly with you. I am visiting with Jeff tomorrow to visit a couple locations. We saw a handful of locations last year.

One we didn't see last year, we're going to see tomorrow. Hillary mentioned the grants. Again, with you guys, there's about two grants you can use. The third, is our swimming, lifeguard training that you don't have. A lot of our members do have pools...they have access to that. What else...on page 3, services, on-site visits, like I said once, it's either annually, every two years, or every three years for all of our members. If there's claims during those meetings, I'll go over claims issues. Special Requests, that is if one of our members reaches out to me via email, via text, via phone call, with questions about something, all that stuff is a request. So, like that's not on-site, doing an actual assessment of the member risk. I get a lot of questions, every day, about something. That's part of what I do. I can do some training. I don't do a lot of that because a lot of our members have employees spread all over the place, it's just hard to get employees together, which is what Hillary touched on...we do have a lot of online trainings that our members can take on their own time. Moving on to the next page, it just kind of talks about how members can submit claims. They can do that online, electronically if they want. The next page after that, again, it just talks about my territory which again, is I have the whole state. So, it's kind of nice being located centrally since I do a lot of travel. The next couple pages talk more in-depth about our online trainings. We offer a lot of different videos, we use a third-party vendor that offers a lot of employee safety training videos. We also offer resources geared towards Human Resources and Cyber Risk as well. Again, those third-party vendors supply us with a lot of different information at the fingertips of all of our members, that they have access to, with a simple user name and password. One of the last pages here, again, all we do in IPARKS are Park Districts, Conservation Districts, and Forest Preserve Districts. So that's our market, so a lot of our coverage is geared towards those specific industries. We are not your typical commercial insurance carrier. We are a pool of those Park Districts, Conservation Districts, and Forest Preserves. So, we do the risk management; which is what I do...the underwriting, and the claims. The last page, this is important that I give out to all of our members because anytime they add property, anytime they add fencing, for example, a new gazebo, a new shelter, a new playground, a new building...we want to make sure they inform us of those changes so we can get those added to what we call our 'Statement of Values'. That's important because if there's any issues...say there's a claim on a building that's not in the Statement of Values, that's where you have potential issues. So, any time you add a building, Jeff's job is to let one of our other partner's know, Ryan, he's not here today...to say 'hey, we added a \$200,000 shelter, get it added on to the policy', and we add it on to the policy. Other than that, that's about what I do. Like I said, I'm going to ride around with Jeff a little bit tomorrow, go look at some playgrounds and some of the campsites...and that's about it."

President Swanson stated, "Well first, thanks for being here. I know my colleagues may have some questions, but one, just the Risk Control packet, this map has intergradations of green, does that have a risk associated with it? Or just, it's covering the whole state?"

Jason Johnston answered, "Nope, I think that just made it look pretty for our...the marketers who put that together, probably just to make it look nice. I will say, I just added that picture there about two weeks ago, otherwise the picture that I had in there, was about 20 years old."

Hillary stated, "He looked the same."

President Swanson stated, "I'm anxious to hear what others have to ask, but one of the things I have, is that Resource Library, we're the government's body, and I don't know if you have risk litigation programs specific for government. My employer has a risk consultant and we're doing trainings all the time, including our board, right? I don't know if you guys have like a checklist of things that we should be thinking about from a government's perspective in doing our own member training of this Board....whatever kind of rotating basis, anything like that, that we should be aware of?"

Hillary stated, "Nothing like formally that's put together, I mean, like Jason said, everything in there is geared towards, you know..."

Jason stated, "A lot of employee trainings, there's OSHA compliant trainings in there. Now we do not do the Work Comp. I don't know if that was stated earlier but we don't...IPARKS is not do the Work Comp. We have the property, the liability, and the auto, but not the Work Comp. But there are some other trainings in there. But, as far as like a set program for what you guys should be doing, no, it's nothing like that in there. But there's like sexual harassment training in there. There's a lot of built-in safety, HR trainings in those programs."

President Swanson stated, "....and here comes Jeff."

Jeff Craver stated, "Thank you guys. So, what President Swanson, what you were asking for, would be more of what our...the other association the district belongs to, The Illinois Association of Park Districts. They focus on governance, and leadership, and education of not only folks on the ground and directors, but also the Board. So, at the conference in Chicago, they have numerous different sessions geared towards governments. And then also, at the Legislative Conference in May, they kind of tag on a little bit of training there, in which Board Members can kind of interact. Then of course, Drew and Chuck, and yourself, headed the legislative practice. Those are the types of things that are geared towards the...to Board Members. IPARKS is yeah, more operations training for staff, and safety, and like Jason said, they do, they help us out with various coverage for Board D&O, but yeah, they've helped us out with cyber security risk, our fuel tanks, playgrounds...and of course we are lucky enough to have some of the big kickers, or the big problem items...we have a dam, we do forestry, we have a lake, we're next to the rivers...."

President Swanson stated, "Some of you have pools...but I'm curious, how many zoo's and how many dams do you have?"

Jason stated, "We...so, there's you guys have a zoo, and Springfield has a zoo, through the Park District. I think those are the only two zoos. We do have a couple like smaller petting zoos like that, but as far as paid admission zoo's, it'd be you guys and Springfield. Dams, it's more smaller operational dams...but the city engineers still get involved and they have inspections. There's a lot of exposures all over. Not one Park District is unlike the other."

President Swanson stated, "Exactly, and I appreciate you entertaining that question. Commissioner Morthland has a question."

Mr. Morthland stated, "Thank you Mr. President, and this is actually for Jason. It's a little bit off topic, but you mentioned your home town. Are you familiar with Senator Chapin Rose?"

Jason stated, "I am."

Mr. Morthland stated, "I served with him in the house."

Jason stated, "Did you? Yeah, very cool. He's a popular guy around the office. He's been very...he's a very smart guy."

President Swanson stated, "...and he married an Augustana grad and so..."

Jason stated, "Did he really? Well see, I went to Illinois Wesleyan so, there's like a little rivalry there."

(Overlapping chatter)

President Swanson asked, "Any other questions while, we have our guests here with us? Well we know this is a considerable investment in your time....and we appreciate you giving that time to us this evening...so, I'd ask my friends to join me in thanking our guests for being here."

Jason stated, "Thanks so much."

(Group applause)

Hillary stated, "If you wanted to see any more resources, like sent directly to your inbox, we send out e-blasts like about once a week, and we'll attach some of those best practices, checklists, or any of our trainings that we're trying to get out

to our members. We'll link that directly in those e-blasts, so, my email is in the packet. If any of you want to be added, please email me and let me know."

President Swanson stated, "Thank you both very much."

Jason stated, "Thank you."

3. Commissioner Adams moved to approve the March 18<sup>th</sup> 2025, Commissioner minutes, as presented. Commissioner L. Moreno seconded.

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

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

5. **PRESIDENTS COMMENTS:**

President Swanson stated, "The preserves are open for the season so, we want you to get out and do your own first-person inspections. It should be a great season. We're hoping the weather cooperates. Some of you may know, and I know if you read some of this inside the packet, we had a little bit of a hiccup at the zoo. It was totally outside our control. It was a supplier issue on steel; which is required for the Big Cat exhibit. It's a major draw, but we don't want to give anybody an excuse not to go to the zoo, because we've got some new River Otter Exhibits that's going to be very engaging, like the Prairie Dogs. We want us all to be talking up the zoo, getting people out there, because the more revenue we get from admissions, the less pressure there is on finding other sources of revenue. So, if you have questions for me, please hold those until our Director and Department Head Reports a little bit later in the meeting, because I'm just going to mention to Jeff anyway."

6. Commissioner Layer moved to approve the Forest Preserve Claims and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$275,871.33 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, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods.

**TOTAL YES                18**

**TOTAL NO                0**

Motion carried.

7. Commissioner Brunk moved to approve Transfers of Appropriation, as presented. Commissioner Vyncke seconded.

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

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

**TOTAL YES                18**

**TOTAL NO                0**

Motion carried.

8. Commissioner Adams moves to waive the reading and approve the Resolutions regarding the Zoo ARPA Program, and Golf Cart Fleet Program, as presented. Commissioner Foster seconded.

(Note\*\* Resolutions are in .pdf format and begin 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 \$912,392.55, and

**WHEREAS**, the balance of available ARPA funds is \$24,172.05, and

**WHEREAS**, a claim of \$24,172.05 completes the \$1,500,000 in granted funds from Rock Island County, 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 \$78,041.84 shall be increased partially from grant revenue and the remainder from unencumbered funds to be received in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

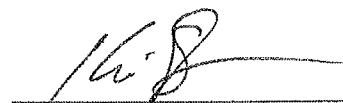
AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$78,041.84	131-32-35 767 ARPA24-60	Infrastructure over \$15,000


SECTION 3. Revenues in the amount of \$24,172.05 shall be increased from grant revenue to be received in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$24,172.05	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 15th day of April, 2025.

  
Kai Swanson, President  
Forest Preserve Commission

  
Karen Kinney, Secretary  
Forest Preserve Commission

**RESOLUTION**  
**RE: Golf Cart Fleet**

**WHEREAS**, additional funds are required in the Forest Preserve Fund #130 for the purchase of golf carts from the existing Indian Bluff Golf Cart Fleet to be incurred in Fiscal Year 2025, and

**WHEREAS**, a new fleet of golf carts is being purchased and the departments of the district have requested carts for operational requirements, and

**WHEREAS**, merely transferring the golf carts to other departments leaves a deficit in the Golf Course Improvement Fund because the overall fleet trade-in values diminish, and

**WHEREAS**, funds are available from unappropriated funds within the Forest Preserve Fund #130, 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 \$25,662.00 be transferred from unappropriated funds in the Forest Preserve General Fund #130 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$7,332.00	130-32-90 764	Machine & Equipment \$1000-4999
\$7,332.00	130-32-91 764	Machine & Equipment \$1000-4999
\$10,998.00	130-32-92 764	Machine & Equipment \$1000-4999

SECTION 3. This Resolution to become effective immediately.

**ADOPTED** by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024.

  
Kai Swanson, President  
Forest Preserve Commission

  
Karen Kinney, Secretary  
Forest Preserve Commission

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

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

**TOTAL YES 18**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

9. Commissioner Burns moved to approve the Agreement for Niabi Zoo and Vander Vending for food services, as presented for the summer. Commissioners Simmer and Woods seconded.

Commissioner Morthland moves to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Mielke seconded.

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

**TOTAL YES 18**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

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

11. Commissioner Mielke moved to approve all Routine Reports from the Director and Departments Heads of the Forest Preserve Commission, as presented. Commissioner L. Moreno seconded.

President Swanson stated, "Mr. Craver, I know you are otherwise occupied, but did you have anything you would like to lift up from various Department Director reports? "

Mr. Craver answered, "Nothing at this time."

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

President Swanson stated, "It appears Mr. Craver has another item of business, what's going on here?"

Mr. Craver stated, "Help yourself, you guys to the swag there...that they left. First come, first serve."

President Swanson stated, "I didn't get a chance to thank them for that."

Mr. Craver stated, "There's two 2x's and one large...hats and tumblers. So, it's kind of bribery..."

President Swanson stated, "Well they didn't ask us for anything...so, technically, yeah...I think this is an demidivous contribution."

Alright, if there is no other business before this commission...I see no hands raised... Please recall that the next meeting of this Commission will be Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 2025, in these Chambers, following the County Board meeting. Friends, we are in recess, thank you for your service."

President Swanson declared the Forest Preserve Meeting recessed at 6:27pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Kinney", written in a cursive style.

KAREN KINNEY  
COUNTY CLERK AND SECRETARY  
OF THE FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

KK: td/ro