

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION
JANUARY 20, 2026 – 6:06PM
PRESIDENT KAI SWANSON – PRESIDING

1. Karen Kinney, County Clerk, called the roll:

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, C. Ramos, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, K. Swanson, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods.

TOTAL PRESENT 18

M. Moreno-Baker

TOTAL ABSENT 1

2. **PRESENTATION:** Jessica Lench-Porter, Niabi Zoo—Zoo Keeper II

President Swanson stated, "Thank you Mrs. Kinney we appreciate that very much. We're going to start tonight with a special presentation, so special, that I don't even get to introduce our speaker. I will give that honor to someone who is well known to all of you here, whose professionalism and leadership has benefited Niabi. Thank you, Tammy Schmidt, I am going to turn it over to you to make the introduction."

Ms. Schmidt stated, "Thank you everybody, and Go Bears first of all, I have to start the meeting with that, it was a great season and it will be next year too. I wanted to introduce Jessica Lench-Porter, she has been at the zoo for 21 years, she has been there longer than all of us. She is our Lead Carnivore Keeper, our Lead Keeper really in the whole zoo. We were very proud and honored to be able to send a zookeeper on one of our conservation trips, hosted by the Foundation. I think Jess showed her professionalism and her organizational skills, and her cold approach to a lot of contractors all at once for the last two years getting the Cathouse, and our Bald Eagle exhibit back from the snowpocalypse. So, without further ado, I'll introduce Jess and let her talk about our project for the Painted Dogs in Africa, specifically Zimbabwe."

Ms. Lench-Porter stated, "Thank you, hello everyone, thank you for having me tonight. This was definitely an experience of a lifetime. I was just telling Jeff, Lee and Tammy, this is my first time going out into the "bush" as they were saying. I have done a few other trips, but they've been the all-inclusive, comfort level trips. This was definitely not the same thing. So, I traveled to Zimbabwe, Africa and I was there for about 2 weeks, at the beginning of November. I'm just going to kind of

go through stuff in general, how I mentally processed it all as I was there. When we arrived at the airport in Zimbabwe, mind you we had been flying for about 20 hours. So, as we arrived, this truck came and picked us up and I'm like, ok culture shock here. So, I rode in the back of the truck for about 30 minutes back to the Village of Syngenta where the host I was staying with was at. When we got to the airport, he had brought Greg Rasmussen, who I believe has spoken to the council before. He was obviously the one that I went over to study African Painted Dogs with, and he had brought his education person. His name is Zulu, and Zulu does speak English however, it is very broken English, and as some of you know that the more you're around it, you understand it better. Well, I'm getting off an airplane and sitting in the back of a truck riding back to Greg's house, trying to talk English with him so yes, it was quite an experience right from the start. There is one main road to Greg's, one paved road that goes into Victoria Falls, otherwise it's dirt road off of the main paved road, and it's so bad that as you're driving you have to go back and forth from each side of the road because the bumps and everything are so bad. This is kind of the first experience I get as I'm going and mind you, none of the houses look like back here in the States. There're some businesses, there's some schools along the way. One thing for me, obviously I'm an animal person, I came at the very end of the dry season so that means the donkeys, cows and goats were all free ranging for the most part as you're going along, and they were so thin like skin and bones. So again, this is my first impression as I'm going in, not quite sure what I'm getting in to, although I had the trust of these people that it was going to be a great experience. I did ask about the donkeys, cows and goats that were free ranging, there is a lot of communal land over there, so that means that they're able to just graze. That doesn't mean it is actually private property or anything. The ones that people own have these big cowbells on them so the entire time I was there, you just constantly hear bells ringing all over. However, they can't afford to supplemental feed over there so these animals are basically survival of the fittest throughout the dry season, they just hope that they may get through it. So that was an experience in itself, just to see. This is Greg's place, here is Greg which some of you may recognize. This is his friend Mary, they were our host. When you go to Greg's house, he hosts different people. He hosts college students, then has his whole faculty, and some actually stay on site at his place. So, since we were actually guests, we actually stayed at what's called a rondavel that were by his house. Greg and Mary would cook for us in the evenings. That's my rondavel, I actually had a two bedroom one, and then here's actually the culture shock, big time. This was my bathroom for 2 weeks, I had an outhouse that was personally mine for 2 weeks. I do have to say I have 2 teenage daughters, and I sent them that picture when I got there and said, "look at my bathroom for the week." The one just laughed, the other was like, "are you serious?" So obviously my children are not use to a situation like this. This is it on the inside, you do see a toilet there, I didn't quite get the explanation out of it, but Greg said he will probably never have running toilets there, as long as he's still managing everything because they use too much water. So, you can see the bucket and the shower head, that's

actually what I had to use for 2 weeks to clean up. My bedroom, they had a little sitting area for me. There're no screens or anything on the windows so lizards and spiders roaming everywhere, so it's definitely something you have to get used to, and have the right mindset going over there. So, water collection, like I said, I came at the end of the dry season. All of the water on Greg's property is captured during the wet season, and that's what he uses to sustain himself during the dry season. What I want to show you here is the picture on the left, that's his main reservoir. Obviously, like I said, when I came at the end of the dry season, it had only rained once before I got there, so it's completely empty. You can see that picture in the center, they actually have a trench from the center of their property so, as it rains, it all rushes down into the trench and then fills into the hole. The picture at the very end, that's how much water was there by the time I left. It rained every single day when I was there for 2 weeks, whether it was a sprinkle or a hard downpour. The first set of rain they had already pumped out and taken to the gardens, because the first set has the most amount of sediment in it. Some of you are probably wondering why I am telling you this, the big picture that I want everyone to home with is, we talk about conservation all the time. I hear from Greg what he is doing in the wild, what he's doing out in the field with the African Painted Dogs. What Greg does is truly amazing as far as he represents conservation as a whole. He doesn't just do conservation for African Painted Dogs. He does land conservation, water conservation, solar conservation, you name it. He is truly representing conservation as a whole, and that's why I feel like it's so important that Niabi represents and helps African Painted Dog research, because we're not just helping the Painted Dogs, we're helping everything that has to do with Painted Dogs, so I guess that's why I am sharing all of this side information, just to prove that the research, and the help, and the support that we're giving African Painted Dogs, it doesn't just stop with the actual animal, it encompasses everything. Here is another example, every new structure they build, they have a water reservoir that is created. So, when I talk about conservation as a whole, they re-use everything that they do. They have a worker, his name is Rocky, it's his nickname because they have a giant air compressor that they use to chisel out all these water reservoirs. Then, the rock that they use, they actually grind it up, and then use it as concrete in some of their other buildings. So again, they're using every single resource on the land. The blue buckets you see is actually what they use to collect rain water so obviously, we use the rain water. Greg has also created a system with the gray water, so that's the water you use when you shower and stuff. It's about a 9-month process, but they collect all that water, and then he figured out ways to basically turn it over into water that you can then use. So again, it's pretty incredible the knowledge that Greg has, and he's passed this on to his entire staff. Also, the use of solar, this was one thing I really had to get used to. They don't have electricity, you don't just go just go flip on a switch when you're there. Again, like I said, I started coming towards the beginning of wet season, so there wasn't full sun all the time. There were days we only had power for 2 hours a day, so you get used to that. If you were going out in the field for the

day, you plugged in what you could in hopes when the power turned back on, your stuff would charge. In the middle picture on top, it was hard to get a picture of, there are orange lights hanging there, so those lights are charged by solar so at night you could push the button and we did have some light. You just kind of learned to deal with it. Here on the left they were actually adding more solar panels while I was there. Again, it's just another example of using the land and using the resources that you can. One other thing I did when I was there was help with the Bush Camp. This is the education part when it comes to Niabi. This was a group of about 20 kids that I helped with, they were about 14-year-old boys and girls. So what Greg's staff does, he's got staff that just works with the Bush Camps, and then he has other staff that obviously helps with the structural changes throughout his facility. None of these kids there had ever been to a zoo, so for me to be able to educate them, like they had no idea why African Painted Dog Research Zimbabwe is partnered with African Painted Dog Research USA. They don't understand why zoos have anything to do with conservation out in the wild. So, what I did one of the nights, Joel and I both presented to them, I had pictures of the Painted Dogs at Niabi, different enrichment things, and I walk them through basically the importance of zoos. So, what we're doing here as far as educating people like you, to help with conservation, funding, things like that so they can do things over there. It was really cool, and the kids were super excited about it. They asked a ton of questions, so that was one really important role I had over there. They also have different guides that teach at the Bush Camps. Mind you, they've got 20 kids every other weekend coming in and out. I got the opportunity to teach the guides, and show the guides different ways to teach the kids over here with our Zookeeper chats and different educational stuff I've done throughout the zoo. Just talking to adults on conservation who only a few of them have been to zoos as well, so it's pretty cool just to see the reaction on their face and they are taking in all the knowledge that they can. So, what these Bush camps do, again, I talked about Greg, all-encompassing conservation. Well, these Bush camps are so important because he's starting these kids out young and what do we always say here? It's the kids that are going to move forward in the next generation. He's teaching the kids about pocket gardens, water collection, composting, the research itself with Painted Dogs, um, even just garbage pickup. So, as we were driving back and forth to different places, when we go out in the field or going to Victoria Falls, there's garbage everywhere along the roads. Well, for them it's a common thing, but they don't understand that it shouldn't be a common thing, and what the effects of litter does on the grounds and to the dirt and soil and everything. Just even teaching the kids, you need to pick up the garbage along the way and stuff, so again, he's starting so young with the kids. It's just so cool to listen to a bunch of kids that really don't have anything, like nothing. Seeing these kids, none of their clothes matched, hardly any of their shoes fit. But you know what? They were happy and they were so willing to learn everything that we were giving them. So, that's something to say right there. Pocket gardens, composting, this is one thing that Greg does as well for conservation. The land over there is very

sandy soil. It's not very rich in nutrients at all, so he's got a huge composting program, and actually these bins up here on the left is all compost dirt. He does these pocket gardens, so those are actually trees and they grow them longer with longer taproots because obviously the water is not close to the surface there. They have a woman that actually goes out in to the community and they just give these trees away, and they give the knowledge away of trying to teach the community how to compost, and basically make more use of their land to grow their own crops and things like that. Off to the right is actually Greg's garden. Greg has 22 acres of land and his land is very lush. He's done a lot of work in regenerating the soils since he's been there. If you literally looked from his land to the neighbor's land, his neighbor's land is just solid dirt. So, there's a big difference and it shows, he's trying to constantly show the effort you put into your land is what you're going to get out of it. These people need to get these crops out of it. You're talking, they make a dollar an hour if that. Their village, I learned the Village of Syngenta, there's one hydrant. So, they have to bucket water to their houses to get water because they have one hydrant. So, it really, it hit home a lot. The stuff that we have over here is incredible compared to the resources they have over there. So, here's some more with the Bush Camp, they do go out, they teach them plant identification, insect identification, animal identification. Obviously, there's elephant feces everywhere over in Africa, I don't know if any of you have ever been there. They actually teach the kids how to dissect the elephant dung to see the seeds and the process of breaking things down. The kids love it, again, the more hands-on stuff the better they're going to learn, the more they're going to take away from it. So here was the night that I was talking about that we actually met with all the kids and did the zoo talk as far as teaching them about conservation. Greg also has a science lab, in the third picture over on the right, that's the science lab where we did the presentation, that's where all the research and stuff gets done so the kids can come in there and actually see research happening. The picture to the left, they actually do skull identification. The kids are out so they can see what animals are around in their personal land. Field Work, this was the coolest thing by far for me. We actually, this truck right here, the reason I sent this picture, so this was the crew that went out, it was Joel, which I'm sure you guys have met Joel from Niabi, Conservation Director. So, him and I, and then three other people went out to the field. We were out there for two straight days. The picture on the right is all batteries, when we went out to the field we were collecting camera traps and we were collecting the data off of the camera traps. Then we were putting new data in, changing the batteries. You'll see the solar panels on the field truck, that's, as we were taking the batteries off, they would charge right in the field truck out in the field. So right here on the left, those are actually elephant proof camera trap holders because elephants will just grab the camera traps and throw them and bust them in pieces. The concretes about 6 feet down on the ground. The lid actually has wire, basically kind of like barbed wire tongs on it so they won't, they don't want to pick it up and rip the lid off. They had to experiment quite a bit but just showing you here, this is what the bush looks like since we were at the end of

the dry season, it was not green. We did, we went out on private land and also some public land. But again, you have to have permission to go out on both, the public land that we went on it's not tourist land so the animals that we saw, and that's one thing I have say too is, I had two totally different experiences. When you go out on land, that's not for tourists and you actually see a wild animal they bolt, and you have to be extra cautious when you see elephants and stuff because they aren't used to seeing vehicles out there. I did go out and did a guided tour with Greg on actual tourist grounds, and there was a huge difference between the animal reaction. So, one thing too, on the private land, the picture I have here they're actually pointing to a line in the tree. We had 3 cameras that were actually cut off and disappeared, and that's because there's people on private land that shouldn't be. So, when they see the cameras, they're going to remove the cameras so they don't get caught. Here they have maps of all the cameras, so as we collected the cameras we had to make sure that the location of all their maps were accurate. I think we ended up collecting over 60 cameras in 2 days. The one night we were actually supposed to stay the night out in the bush, which would have been really cool, but I can honestly tell you I was ok that it didn't work out. I was a little nervous about it, but we ended up getting a really bad lightning storm, so it wasn't safe for us to stay out in the bush. Here is the Ranger Station, and I kind of laugh because in my head there's no way this was going to happen, but the Ranger Station has probably about a 3-foot moat that is dug about $\frac{3}{4}$ the way around it, and that is supposed to keep elephants out. Then, they had a single log that surrounded it, and that was supposed to keep the hoof stock animals out. Well, from working at a zoo, I've seen elephants go through much more than that, I didn't really believe that was going to keep them out. I didn't have to test that theory anyway, but here we did stop and even eating over there is totally different. Since the water shortage, just washing the dishes you dump the water in one and then you dump in the next, and dump in the next, and that's how they clean everything. It's just a totally different way of life, but I can honestly tell you I was there for two weeks and I didn't get sick at all, and I would've thought I would have been very sick. Here is what we learned when we took the SD cards out, there's animals of interest, and this again I want to stress, Greg is not just helping African Painted Dogs he is helping every species that lives in this area. All of the camera traps that we collected as we were going through all the data cards we saved all of the animals, and the reason for that is because if someone is researching Giraffe's they can get ahold of Greg and Greg will send him all information on Giraffe's, he can send them information on African Crested Porcupines. Even if someone starts research 10 years from now, Greg has a database from all of these animals he's found and observed on these camera traps. So here, the other interesting thing that was pretty cool is, if we came across trucks in our pictures we had to crop the truck and send them to law enforcement, so he's not only helping animals, he's making sure the right people are where they're supposed to be. These are some of the animals I saw on the camera trap, I didn't get to see some of them in the wild. Unfortunately, I never got to see an

African Painted Dog in the wild, they're a pretty elusive species. It was pretty disappointing and come to find out Joel stayed 2 weeks longer than I did, and he said the week he came back there was a group of about 10 Painted Dogs that they had seen when they went out in the field. So of course, we just missed it, but that's ok. We learned a ton in one thing too, they're using AI now. We are familiar with AI, but they are using AI over there now. All of the animals they use from their camera trap pictures go through an AI program, that way it is not people opinions on if it's the same dog. It is literally scientific measured through AI to see if the spot pattern or color pattern is different, and if it's a different dog or not. I want to stress, Joel, this is his second time going over, he is doing awesome work over there. They talk about Niabi Zoo constantly, they are so grateful for everything that Niabi Zoo does to support them. Niabi Zoo, even though we financially aren't giving them a ton of money, we are helping them in other ways. Just sending Joel over there, sending myself over there, helping them educate, learn, and then bringing back what we learned to people like you guys—basically spreading the word is huge for a facility over there. These shirts were left over from one of the camps Joel had done, to see the excitement on all of these people's faces when they got these shirts. Again, it's just a t-shirt to us it's not a big deal, but they wore these shirts so proud. These are some of the banners that you see right in the center, those were some of our old banners that we took down, so obviously we're not using them anymore—we saved a couple for the zoo here then Joel took some over for them. Zulu, who I met when we first got there who is the education coordinator over there, he made a wire frame the day he was given that sign. That sign is in every picture, like his day was made because of a sign that was handed down from the zoo. I guess I want to stress is that if anyone here is ever interested in getting involved in conservation, it's not just about the money, if you have something else you can give them—whether it's your time, you're good at writing grants, you're good at organizational skills, or you just want to be involved. There are so many other ways that you can be involved than just the financial part of it. So right here, I had to put this slide in, this was the only place next to Greg's house that had WIFI, so everyone tended to go right here. This was where all of our meetings were held, it's in open air and even if it was down pouring, we were in here going through stuff, if we had WIFI. We did meet and talk with some grants with some of his employees that were writing grants. One was writing a camera trap grant, the other was writing some kind of grant about one of the invasive species. Again, as much as removing this invasive species, they're going to compost it and turn it into something that they can use in the soil. So again, conservation as a whole, I'm sorry I know I'm probably going a little long here. Real quick, people have no idea the effects of artificial water holes over in Africa. Does anyone know why there's artificial water holes in Africa? I'm going to make you guys talk, any guesses?"

Commissioner Moreno answered, "To collect water?"

Ms. Lench-Porter continued, "Actually the only reason the artificial water holes are there is for tourists. If you go over there and go to an artificial water hole, the animals are going to come to it, so then they're going to pay money. Obviously yes, there is a water shortage but these animals naturally cycle, and they are adaptive to the shortage of water. So, when you add artificial water, you're actually messing with their lifecycle. The Elephant population has grown it should be around I believe about 6,000, it's like 30,000 to 40,000 elephants now and everyone thinks, oh that's awesome, but look at these pictures. This is the destruction Elephants are doing to all of the bush, so that not only affects Elephants it also affects Hoof stock, Carnivores. Unfortunately, Elephants don't breed during the dry season because there's not enough water, and they have to travel so far to get water. When you add these artificial water holes, they're breeding all year round so, it's not really a good thing. Unfortunately, it's a huge problem over in Zimbabwe and other countries in Africa. They really don't know the answer because unfortunately they need to decrease the Elephant population but, if you take away the water holes the tourism money goes down which obviously we all know they're very dependent on the tourist dollars. It's a pretty big thing, Greg actually wrote a paper and the paper talks about this whole issue. It talks about how it basically effects every level of the bush, and the animals in the bush. If anyone is interested in reading it you can get ahold of Tammy, Lee or Jeff and they can get ahold of me, I have a copy of it. It is about 60 pages, and it will blow your mind how just adding artificial water holes has affected every level over there. I'm almost done I promise. Here are some of the animals I got to see, obviously Elephants everywhere. We did get to see Hippos, Giraffe's, Baboon's everywhere. I never knew the Baboon population was so large, Greg had a troop of about 40 Baboons that lived outside of his property unfortunately, they are considered a nuisance animal over there. People want nothing to do with them, when we drove through Victoria Falls we were sitting there, and there it is just right next to the restaurant just hanging out. They were jumping off the rooftops everywhere. Scorpions, there's a Frog on the right that's blended in, it was just really cool. People want to talk about the big 5 you know, Elephants, Giraffes, Rhinos, everything but there so much more to see than that. The top picture on the right is an example of how skinny the cows were, it was pretty devastating to see that at first. I do have to say a huge thank you to the Niabi Zoo Foundation, they are the ones who funded my trip, so it clearly did not come out of tax dollars. The Foundation does fundraise to help us with conservation and be able to send the staff to different training programs and stuff. Thank you guys for letting me talk and share it, it was definitely a life changing experience and it really makes me appreciate the relationships we have with different conservation programs, and what the zoo is doing. It's pretty huge, does anyone have any questions?"

Commissioner Mielke asked, "I saw you were doing the water reservoirs and water runoff, can they do wells at all? Or they don't have energy from solar to pump water out on the ground, or is the water table just so low?"

Ms. Lench-Porter stated, " I actually don't know the answer to that, I don't know if they have the means to do that. I am going to guess with only having solar, sometimes two hours a day, it wouldn't have the energy to actually pump water out."

Commissioner Mielke continued, " I was thinking maybe even a hand pump but if the water table is so low, it would have to be a pretty deep well, maybe that's the problem."

Ms. Lench-Porter stated, "Yes, it's solid rock through the ground as well. Those holes I had shown what they dug through, you only have about that much dirt and then they have to use a compressor to chisel to get through the rock."

Commissioner Brunk asked, " I was wondering were there any options for reducing the Elephant population that you heard were being discussed? I mean free Elephants to zoos and wildlife parks around the world, you pay shipping? You pay shipping, right?"

Ms. Lench-Porter continued, "To be honest with you, just from the conversations that we had with Greg, in my eyes, the only answer would be is they have to start calling elephants or slowly decrease the water holes which again, is going to slowly kill Elephants to decrease the population."

Ms. Schmidt stated, "There are some countries in Africa, just like the United States has States and people who are very heated to the emotional part of animals, Zimbabwe is very angry with the Elephants. When you talk to local people, they're very angry with them and they would like them to go away. There are some countries like Botswana who will sell them to zoos. The United States imported, I don't know 10, Omaha Zoo was part of three group zoos that have imported Elephants. It's a gazillion dollars, it's a lot of money, it's a lot of quarantine time—nobody's dewormed over there, you're going to bring whatever they have over there. They are hunters out there, people doing illegal things that is why Greg is taking pictures of cars and license plates. I think the President of Botswana will sell them to the highest bidder just to get them out of there, and that is not really looked upon favorably by other countries, and other municipalities within some of the African countries in the continent."

Ms. Lench-Porter continued, "I do have to say when I was over there, when we were on the private land there was Elephant feces as we were hiking through. I asked "what do you do if an Elephant gets on your private land?" One of the guys

that was with, he's been doing the field work for over 20 years now, he said private owners actually want an Elephant on their land, because that means they can hunt it. They can basically have a tourist come in to hunt it and they get money for it."

Ms. Schmidt stated, "In some villages and cultures over there, it is still part of growing up for the male population to go out and hunt your first animal. Some of them will use the dung to put insulation on their bow mounts, they will use it as a fire source for the feces. There's still a lot of rite of passage over there when it comes to taking on a Leopard, to shooting an Elephant and they don't waste it. You see that Greg and the Painted Dog Research Trust use every resource. They will use clothing, they will create furniture, they eat the meat, they will not let it go to waste. They do not just shoot it and move on, hunters will, they'll just grab the ivory and go, or cut off a foot and make a footstool unfortunately. So, there's definitely things going on over there, but it is a desperate situation to get people that have very little and are very happy with what they have, but then have life threatening things going on with a burgeoning population that is absolutely abnormal. It's like our White Tail Deer on a smaller level, we have too many and we have a short hunting window, but then we have people that are anti-hunter, so it's a very tender balance."

Commissioner Ramos asked, "First off, thank you for what you do, I have an 8-year-old that is completely fascinated by the African Painted Dogs. You touched on about the composting program and I was hoping we could hear a little bit more about the program itself, I know is empowering women down there, you know, for employment for them, and kind of a little bit more about that."

Ms. Lench-Porter stated, "Lasuita is her name, she actually graduated and is going back to get her Master's Degree right now. She's the one that focuses on the composting project at Greg's. What I was telling you about with the grants, she's actually the one writing this grant, there is an invasive species that is taking over the fields. Her grant is to actually remove this invasive species and part of that is then she is going to compost it into bags of dirt to give away to other Villages as compost. She's hoping that if it works out, that it's going to generate income for them. Then, she goes around to the different schools and she does different conservation programs about the composting, and she is the one that goes to the communities with the pocket gardens as well. She gets those trees out and then she follows up with them after a year to see if they did what they were supposed to, and that the tree is growing. She is slowly getting the community more involved. I do want to say, when we were in the bush and went to stay overnight, there was actually 2 women that were rangers walking around with rifles which you don't see women employment over there, especially that scale. I also have to mention at Greg's place, the women he has hired, they get paid the same as the men, and

that is a very big deal over there. Greg very much treats everyone as equal, and there is no different between men and female in Greg's eyes."

Commissioner Ramos responded, "That's amazing to hear, that was going to be my next question, so thank you."

Commissioner Simmer stated, "Thank you very much, I've had friends and family that have been over there hunting, it's a very lucrative business for them, besides the meat none of the folks I know, that goes to the villages. It's usually \$12,000.00-\$20,000.00 to go over there and do this, and like I said everything goes to the villages. Everything they ever did, they can't take trophies, they could take some hides and things like that, but every piece is utilized. It was amazing, he said when they would drop an Elephant there's nothing left. When they get done there's some bone and that's about it. They really are very efficient in what they do, and they're very grateful of that. It's kind of a win-win you know? But, like you said they're getting so much they can't—they either need to drop the prices so people can get over there, the guys I knew went over to help reduce populations and hunt some other game animals."

Ms. Lench-Porter continued, "There's a place for it, I mean just like here, we have hunting and there's a place for it. Again, some people for it, some people aren't, but the artificial water holes is just what has created this but again, they need the money. Some people don't want to go over there to hunt, they just want to go over to see the animals and if they pay money and then don't see anything, they're not going to go back or spread the word to go back. It's kind of a vicious cycle."

Commissioner Simmer stated, "Did I mention the devastation from the Elephants? How much they just destroy areas."

Ms. Schmidt stated, "You can hear trees cracking in the distance. You go to these countries, you can hear them breaking the trees out of the ground."

Ms. Lench-Porter continued, "I was completely blown away, I worked with Elephants at Niabi for 8 years when I first started my career so I understand the power and what they can do, but to actually see it out in the bush—and you're talking hundreds and hundreds of miles, thousands of miles, just completely decimated from Elephants."

Commissioner Simmer asked, "Do they have an actual number? What a normal number would be? I know man has encroached and done their thing."

Ms. Lench-Porter stated, "It's supposed to be 4,000-6,000"

Commissioner Simmer continued, "Is what a good population is, what would normally be there if we weren't messing with them?"

Ms. Lench-Porter continued, "Now it's at 30,000-40,000."

Commissioner Westpfahl stated, "Now we as Americans, they show us these commercials on TV about the poor Elephants dying, well then, that's false. It sounds like the Elephant population is just like the Deer population is around here, there's just too many of them."

Ms. Lench-Porter stated, "You have to realize the Elephant population isn't just centralized. In Zimbabwe, where I was at, it's not—every country has the same issues. The African continent is huge, so there probably are some areas that the Elephants aren't doing well, because they're not drawing in the tourists or having artificial water holes. So, I'm sure there are sad stories in some areas, but Africa as a whole—there's very very remote places, and there's also very large cities that have everything you can imagine."

Commissioner Westpfahl continued, "Well, that's just another one of those \$19 a month to save the Elephants you know?"

Ms. Lench-Porter stated, "Well again, that is why I talk about Greg's organizations so much because there are so many conservation efforts wanting your money, but I can speak 100% that every dollar that goes to Greg's Conservation African Painted Dog Research, it's used. I am proof, I lived it for 2 solid weeks and saw it from the ground up. You know there's conservation efforts out there that your dollar doesn't go towards that, so just keep that in mind. If you are willing to give towards a conservation effort, that you're researching it yourself and make sure that your money is going where you think it's going."

President Swanson stated, "Your best bet is probably the Niabi Zoo Foundation. Any other questions? I really appreciate your time and coming and sharing with us. Ms. Ramos, did you have any idea how global your reach was going to be when you joined the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission?"

Commissioner Ramos stated, "It excites me, like is said the African Painted Dogs, my daughter has been obsessed since she was probably 3."

President Swanson continued, "Well this, I must say, is all down to the leadership at Niabi so thanks to you and your colleagues, and to Lee and Tammy and the whole team, for making these incredible stories happen. Thank you very much, and you're welcome to stay for the rest of the meeting, but if you leave no harm no foul."

3. Commissioner Simmer moved to approve the December Commission Minutes, as presented. Commissioner Enburg seconded.

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

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

5. **PRESIDENTS COMMENTS:**

President Swanson stated, "Staff is in the midst of winter maintenance. As you may have seen in your reports Niabi will be testing out some evening hours in the upcoming season. Every third Thursday between May and September they'll be open until, now this note says 7 but the original note said 8, so I don't know what that's going to look like, anything is a welcome experiment. I hope you all noticed in the news that not only did Niabi receive a \$527,800 OSLAD grant, which will make our park much more attractive to families with a splash pad, dinosaur area, outdoor education area-- that's going to be a tremendous magnet for families. Also, the District received a very hard to procure Bike Path Resurfacing Grant, it's easier to get grants to build them, it's harder to get grants to repair them. This was a \$200,000 matching grant, so kudos to the District staff and leadership for making all that good news happen."

6. Commissioner Brunk moved to approve the Forest Preserve Claims and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$430,256.29, as presented. Commissioner Vyncke seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

TOTAL YES 17

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

7. Commissioner Burns moved to waive the reading and approve Transfers of Appropriation, Commissioner Perkins seconded.

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserve Commission of Rock Island County, Illinois, has adopted Annual Budgets and Appropriation Ordinances for the fiscal period beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, and

WHEREAS, it now appears desirable and necessary that certain adjustments be made between Appropriation Items in the Forest Preserve Fund and Niabi Zoo Fund in said Annual Appropriation Ordinances, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Forest Preserve Commission of Rock Island County, Illinois, that the amounts set forth below are hereby transferred from the unexpended balance of certain appropriation items in the Forest Preserve Fund as contained in said Budgets and Appropriation Ordinances to certain other such Appropriation Items within the same Fund, as follows: within the same Fund, as follows:

Amount	Appropriation #	Description	Revised
\$10,000.00 from	130-32-10 991.74	Transfer to Niabi Zoo	\$507,786.00
\$10,000.00 to	130-32-92 768	Machine & Equipment over \$5000	\$65,936.26
\$5,220.00 from	130-32-10 991.74	Transfer to Niabi Zoo	\$502,566.00
\$5,220.00 to	130-32-93 631	Professional Services	\$5,220.00
\$10,000.00 from	131-32-08 638	Repairs & Maintenance	\$0.00
\$10,811.65 from	131-32-08 767	Infrastructure over \$15,000	\$7,188.35
\$20,811.65 to	131-32-18 768	Machine & Equipment over \$5000	\$55,784.31

Rock Island, Illinois on the 20th day of January, 2026.

The Revised Appropriations shall be in full force and effect from and after this date.

Commissioner Adams motioned for previous roll call, Commissioner Moreno seconded.

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

TOTAL YES 17

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

8. Commissioner Dewith moves to waive the reading and approve the resolutions regarding the semi-annual review of closed session minutes, electric vehicle charging station grant in the improvement fund, and installation of a generator to the biodiversity building at Niabi Zoo in the Niabi Zoo Fund. Commissioner Burns seconded.

Resolution
Rock Island County Forest Preserve District
Re: Open Meetings Act Review of Minutes of a Meeting Lawfully Closed

WHEREAS, the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission strictly adheres to all provisions of the Open Meetings Act as defined in 5 ILCS 120; and

WHEREAS, 5 ILCS 120/2.06(c), calls for periodic review of minutes of meetings lawfully closed to determine if the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of these minutes or that the minutes or portions therefor no longer require confidential treatment and are available for public inspection; and

WHEREAS, during regular committee meetings held during the month of July, 2025; Rock Island County Forest Preserve has reviewed minutes of closed meetings for all previously held closed sessions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following meeting minutes have been determined to contain matters where the need for confidentiality still exists:

<u>Date of Meeting</u>	<u>Reason for Closed Session</u>
08-08-1986	Personnel
12-05-1986	Personnel
02-08-1991	Personnel & Potential Liability
07-10-1992	Personnel
02-05-1993	Investments contracts
05-07-1993	Personnel
08-15-1995	Personnel
08-05-2005	Litigation
09-30-2010	Personnel
10-08-2010	Personnel
12-03-2010	Personnel
03-04-2011	Personnel
04-05-2012	Personnel
06-05-2012	Personnel
06-07-2012	Personnel
06-08-2012	Personnel
06-27-2012	Personnel
06-28-2012	Personnel
10-15-2012	Litigation & Personnel
07-11-2013	Personnel
09-12-2013	Litigation
11-14-2013	Litigation & Personnel
12-12-2013	Litigation & Personnel
01-16-2014	Litigation
11-13-2014	Personnel
02-11-2015	Personnel
04-16-2015	Personnel
10-14-2015	Personnel
11-10-2015	Personnel
02-16-2016	Potential Litigation
03-17-2016	Personnel
04-12-2016	Personnel

06-15-2016	Litigation
01-10-2017	Litigation
04-11-2017	Litigation
01-09-2018	Personnel
11-13-2018	Personnel & Land Acquisition
02-11-2020	Personnel
12-15-2020	Litigation
07-13-2021	Land Acquisition
07-20-2021	Land Acquisition
10-13-2021	Negotiations
01-11-2022	Land Acquisition
06-13-2023	Land Acquisition
03-21-2024	Land Acquisition
05-14-2024	Litigation
09-17-2024	Collective Negotiations
11-13-2024	Collective Negotiations
01-14-2025	Collective Negotiations

This *Resolution* to become effective immediately after passage. Minutes of those meetings determined to be made available for public inspection will be released as per the Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2.06(b).

DONE IN OPEN MEETING THIS 20th DAY OF JANUARY, 2026

 Kai Swanson
 President, Rock Island County
 Forest Preserve Commission

 Karen Kinney
 Secretary, Rock Island County
 Forest Preserve Commission

RESOLUTION

FY 2026 Development of Forests & Construction Fund-Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grant Improvements

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserve District was awarded grant funds to install electric vehicle charging stations at District facilities, and

WHEREAS, claims and expenditures for the design and construction documents have been received, 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. Funds in the amount of \$23,400.00 are available from unappropriated funds within Fund #335 Development of Forest and Construction of Improvements until the grant award is received to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$23,400.00	335-32-35 765.00 CCFI31-00-765	Construction in Progress

SECTION 3. Revenues in the amount of \$23,400.00 shall be increased from grant funds to be received to the Development of Forests & Construction Fund #335 in the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$23,400.00	335-32-35 331.70 CCFI31-00-33170	Federal Grant – Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grant

SECTION 4. This resolution to become effective immediately.

ADOPTED by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission,
Rock Island County, Illinois, this 20th day of January, 2026.



Kai Swanson, President
Forest Preserve Commission



Karen Kinney, Secretary
Forest Preserve Commission

RESOLUTION

FY 2025 Niabi Zoo Fund Generator Grant Appropriations

WHEREAS, the Niabi Zoo Foundation was awarded funding from the Hubbell Waterman Foundation to support the installation of generators at Niabi Zoo, and

WHEREAS, the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District will be reimbursed for the generators and supporting infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, construction work has been performed, 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 \$17,948.00 shall be increased from the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$17,948.00	131-32-35 768.00 HWFG24	Machine & Equipment over \$5000

SECTION 3. Revenues in the amount of \$17,948.00 shall be increased from the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$17,948.00	131-32-35 364.10 HWFG24	Contributions from Private Sources

SECTION 3. This resolution to become effective immediately.

ADOPTED by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 20th day of January, 2026.



Kai Swanson, President
Forest Preserve Commission



Karen Kinney, Secretary
Forest Preserve Commission

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

Roll Call:

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

TOTAL YES 17

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

9. Commissioner Mielke moved to approve the 2026 user fees for camping, shelter rentals, golf and Niabi Zoo admission and membership, Commissioner Vyncke seconded.

(*Note, Briefing begins on next page)

Rock Island County Forest Preserve Facility District User Fees

	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Indian Bluff Golf Course							
Season Pass	\$850.00	\$850.00	\$825.00	\$825.00	\$825.00	\$800.00	\$800.00
Couples Pass	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,225.00	\$1,225.00
Junior Pass	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$225.00	\$225.00
Senior Pass	\$775.00	\$775.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$725.00	\$725.00
Weekends & Holidays (18)	\$27.00	\$26.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$24.00	\$23.00	\$23.00
Weekends & Holidays (9)	\$18.00	\$17.00	\$16.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$14.00	\$14.00
Weekdays (18)	\$23.00	\$22.00	\$21.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$19.00	\$19.00
Weekdays (9)	\$17.00	\$16.00	\$15.00	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$13.00	\$13.00
Seniors (Weekdays til Noon)	\$18.00	\$17.00	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$16.00
Juniors (limited times)	\$13.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Leagues (9)	\$17.00	\$16.00	\$15.00	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$13.00	\$13.00
Cart (9) Weekends & Holidays after Noon	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$10.00	\$9.50	\$9.50	\$9.00	\$9.00
Cart (18) Weekends & Holidays	\$17.00	\$17.00	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
Carts (9) Weekdays	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$10.00	\$9.50	\$9.50	\$9.00	\$9.00
Carts (18) Weekdays	\$17.00	\$17.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$14.00	\$14.00
Carts Weekday (Seniors)	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$13.00	\$13.00	\$13.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Sales Tax begin on carts in 2025							
Loud Thunder							
Primitive Camping	\$17.00	\$17.00	\$16.00	\$15.00	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$14.00
Primitive Camping (Nonresident)	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$17.00	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$16.00
Seniors Primitive Camping	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$15.00	\$14.00	\$13.00	\$13.00	\$13.00
Deer Haven Full Hook-up (1 site only) (Nonresident)	\$30.00	\$29.00	\$27.00	\$26.00	\$26.00	\$26.00	\$26.00
Deer Haven Full Hook-up (1 site only) (Resident)	\$27.00	\$26.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$24.00	\$24.00	\$24.00
Deer Haven Full Hook-up (1 site only) (Seniors)	\$26.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$23.00	\$23.00	\$23.00	\$23.00
White Oaks Water/Electric	\$24.00	\$23.00	\$22.00	\$21.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
White Oaks (Nonresident)	\$27.00	\$26.00	\$24.00	\$23.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00
White Oaks (Seniors)	\$23.00	\$22.00	\$21.00	\$20.00	\$19.00	\$19.00	\$19.00
Youth Groups (per person)	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00
Illiniwek							
Primitive Camping	\$17.00	\$17.00	\$16.00	\$15.00	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$14.00
Primitive Camping (Nonresident)	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$17.00	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$16.00
Seniors Primitive Camping	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$15.00	\$14.00	\$13.00	\$13.00	\$13.00
Camping on Pads Water/Electric	\$24.00	\$23.00	\$22.00	\$21.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
Camping on Pads (Nonresident)	\$27.00	\$26.00	\$24.00	\$23.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00
Camping on Pads (Seniors)	\$23.00	\$22.00	\$21.00	\$20.00	\$19.00	\$19.00	\$19.00
Youth Groups (per person)	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00
Riverfront Primitive Camping	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$19.00	\$19.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00

Rock Island County Forest Preserve Facility District User Fees - Page 2

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Riverfront Primitive Camping (Nonresident)	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$21.00	\$21.00	\$21.00	\$23.00	\$23.00
Riverfront Primitive Camping (Seniors)	\$17.00	\$17.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$19.00	\$19.00
Niabi Zoo							
Adults	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$9.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
Adults-Online Advanced Purchase	NA	NA	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$7.00	NA	\$10.00
Active Military	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$8.00	\$10.00	\$10.00
Active Military-Online-Advanced Purchase	NA	NA	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$6.00	NA	\$10.00
Seniors	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$8.00	\$10.00	\$10.00
Seniors-Online-Advanced Purchase	NA	NA	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$6.00	NA	\$8.50
Children (2-12)*	\$6.50	\$6.50	\$8.50	\$8.50	\$6.50	\$8.50	\$8.50
Children (3-12) Online-Advanced Purchase	NA	NA	\$6.50	\$6.50	\$4.50	NA	Free
Children (1 & under) Onsite**	Free						
Children (under-3) Online-Advanced Purchase	Free						
Train Ride (anyone age 2-100) Onsite	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$4.75	\$4.75	\$4.75	\$4.75	\$4.75
Train Ride 100 & older free	NA						
Train Ride (under-one free) Online-Advanced Purchase	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50
Carousel (any rider must have a ticket) Onsite	NA	NA	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$3.50	NA	\$5.00
Carousel (under-one-free) Online-Advanced Purchase	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	NA	\$5.00
Parking Fee Onsite	NA	NA	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00	NA	\$15.00
Parking Fee-Online-Advanced Purchase	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	NA	NA
Bus Parking Fee Onsite	NA						
Bus-Parking Fee-Online-Advanced Purchase	NA	NA	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	NA	NA

* Previously ages 3-12
 ** Previously under 2

Zoo Membership

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Basic Individual Package	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
1-adult							
Premium Individual Package	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$70.00
1-adult; includes a one-time distribution of 2 train & carousel tickets							
Basic Single Parent/Grandparent Family Package	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$70.00
1-adult & up to 4 children							
Premium Single Parent/Grandparent Family Package	\$90.00	\$90.00	\$90.00	\$90.00	\$90.00	\$90.00	\$90.00
1-adult & up to 4 children; includes a one time distribution of 4 train & carousel tickets							
Basic Family/Grandparent Package	\$80.00	\$80.00	\$80.00	\$80.00	\$80.00	\$80.00	\$80.00
2-adults and up to 4 children							
Premium Family/Grandparent Package	\$115.00	\$115.00	\$115.00	\$115.00	\$115.00	\$115.00	\$115.00
2-adults and up to 4 children; includes a one time distribution of 4 train & carousel tickets							
Zoo Booster Package	\$225.00	\$225.00	\$225.00	\$225.00	\$225.00	\$225.00	\$225.00
2-adults & up to 4 children; includes a one time distribution of 5 guest tickets							
Zoo Benefactor Package	\$505.00	\$505.00	\$505.00	\$505.00	\$505.00	\$505.00	\$505.00
2-adults & up to 4 children; includes a one time distribution of 5 guest tickets, 4 train & carousel tickets							

Rock Island County Forest Preserve Facility District User Fees - Page 3

Shelters	2026	2025	2024	2023
Large Shelters any day of the week Indian Bluff, Illiniwek, Loud Thunder	\$85.00	\$85.00	\$85.00	\$85.00
Small Shelters any day of the week Lone Cedar Loud Thunder Horse Corral Areana & Shelter	\$40.00 \$65.00	\$40.00 \$65.00	\$40.00 \$65.00	\$40.00 \$65.00

SITE PLAN
INDIAN BLUFF GOLF COURSE
 6200 78TH AVE
 MILAN, IL 61244



GRAPHIC SCALE
 1" = 100' 0"



TOWNSEND ENGINEERING <small>INCORPORATED</small>	DATE 12-18-1996	DESIGNER J.P.	SCALE AS SHOWN	PROJECT INDIAN BLUFF GOLF COURSE	DEVELOPER M&A WALLINGTON	SHEET NO. C51
	PROJECT NO. 990-0221 2020	CHECKED BY C.M.	PROJECT NO. 990-0221 2020	SHEET NO. C51	ADDRESS 6200 78TH AVE MILAN, IL 61244	

INDIAN BLUFF GOLF COURSE

McCubbin Construction Proposal
August 7, 2025

Item	Description	Qty	Unit	Bid Total
1	Clearing	3	Acre	\$ 63,750.00
2	Grading	22000	CY	\$ 316,360.00
3	Erosion Control	3		\$ 33,750.00
4	Green Construction (Topsoil and Sand Blend)	4000	SF	\$ 46,240.00
5	Green extension (Topsoil Sand Blend	2000	SF	\$ 23,120.00
6	Tee Construction (No. 1)	4300	SF	\$ 36,292.00
7	Tee Construction (No.2)	4300	SF	\$ 36,292.00
8	Tee Construction (No. 3)	4300	SF	\$ 36,292.00
9	Driving Range Tee	20000	SF	\$ 181,200.00
10	Target green on range	0	x	\$ -
11	Target seeding	0	x	\$ -
12	Fareway seeding	50000	SF	\$ 81,000.00
13	Irrigation	25	head	\$ 50,781.25
14	Cart Path	16000	SF	\$ 145,920.00
BID TOTAL				\$ 1,050,997.25

Commissioner Dewith motioned for previous roll call, Commissioner Layer seconded.

Roll Call:

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

TOTAL YES 17

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

10. **Comments from Commissioners**

Commissioner Brunk stated, "Just wondering, the dinosaur area is that real life or?"

President Swanson commented, "Oh yeah, we're going full Jurassic Park. No, I believe it's one of these areas where the kids can play in the sand, and they might

just find a Velociraptor. As a fellow Grandpa, I know you and I will be out there. Thank you, Mr. Brunk."

11. Commissioner Woods moved to approve all routine reports from the Director and Department Heads to the Forest Preserve Commission, Commissioner Simmer seconded.

A voice vote was taken.

Motion Carried.

President Swanson stated, "The next meeting of The Forest Preserve Commission will be Tuesday, February 17th 2026, following the County Board meeting in these chambers."

President Swanson declared the meeting in recess at 6:55pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



KAREN KINNEY
COUNTY CLERK AND SECRETARY
OF THE FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

KK: ah