

**FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES  
MAY 12, 2026**

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

**ABSENT:** C. Layer.

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

President Swanson called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Executive Committee to order at 9:30 AM on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, in the second floor conference room in the County Building at 1504 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Rock Island, Illinois.

D. Mielke, R. Simmer, K. Swanson, L. Moreno, E. Sowards, J. Woods.

**TOTAL PRESENT 6**

C. Layer.

**TOTAL ABSENT 1**

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

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to approve the April Committee meeting minutes. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the old year and new year claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$605,595.57.

**MOTION:** Ms. Woods moved to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$605,595.57. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

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

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

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the resolutions regarding FY 2026 General Fund – Amôwa Forest Preserve Invasive Species Removal Project, FY 2026 DFCI EV

Charging Station Grant Improvements, FY 2026 General Fund – Loud Thunder Trail Bridge Project, and FY 2026 Niabi Zoo Fund Appropriations.

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to approve the resolutions regarding FY 2026 General Fund – Amôwa Forest Preserve Invasive Species Removal Project, FY 2026 DFCI EV Charging Station Grant Improvements, FY 2026 General Fund – Loud Thunder Trail Bridge Project, and FY 2026 Niabi Zoo Fund Appropriations. Ms. Woods seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve laying on display for thirty days the FY27 Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinances for the General Fund, Niabi Zoological Preserve Fund, IMRF Retirement Fund, Liability Fund, FISSA Fund, Audit Fund, and Development of Forests & Construction of Improvements Fund.

**MOTION:** Dr. Moreno moved to approve laying on display for thirty days the FY27 Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinances for the General Fund, Niabi Zoological Preserve Fund, IMRF Retirement Fund, Liability Fund, FISSA Fund, Audit Fund, and Development of Forests & Construction of Improvements Fund. Ms. Woods seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Ordinance establishing the compensation of members and officers of the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission.

**MOTION:** Mr. Mielke moved to approve the Ordinance establishing the compensation of members and officers of the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission. Ms. Woods 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 Intergovernmental Agreement between City of Moline and the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District.

**MOTION:** Mr. Mielke moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between City of Moline and the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Retainer Agreement with MindFire Communications in the amount of \$80,225.00.

**MOTION:** Dr. Moreno moved to approve the Retainer Agreement with MindFire Communications in the amount of \$80,225.00. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the purchase of mower from Heritage Tractor in the amount of \$34,261.13.

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to approve the purchase of mower from Heritage Tractor in the amount of \$34,261.13. Ms. Woods seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the purchase of a gator from Heritage Tractor in the amount of \$13,599.76.

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to approve the purchase of a gator from Heritage Tractor in the amount of \$13,599.76. Mr. Mielke seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to enter closed session as per ILCS 120/2 (c) (11) – Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting; Kilgore v. RICFPD; Case No. 4:24-cv-04145-SLD-RLH, United States District Court Central District of Illinois Rock Island Division.

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to enter closed session. Ms. Woods seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Mielke, E. Sowards, K. Swanson, L. Moreno, R. Simmer, J. Woods.

<b>TOTAL YES</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>TOTAL NO</b>	<b>0</b>

Motion carried.

Closed session began 9:37 AM

Closed session ended 10:02 AM

President Swanson called for a motion to return to open session.

**MOTION:** Dr. Moreno moved to return to open session. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

There was a brief discussion on calls from constituents regarding property tax increase. Committee members are to direct calls to the Director.

President Swanson reminded the Committee of the Poker Walk on May 16<sup>th</sup> at Niabi Zoo.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the routine reports of the District.

**MOTION:** Dr. Moreno moved to approve the routine reports of the District. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called the meeting adjourned at 10:10 AM.

Submitted by: Cassie Sullivan  
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant