

**FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
JUNE 9, 2026**

PRESENT: Committee members– C. Layer, L. Moreno, E. Sowards.

ABSENT: D. Mielke, R. Simmer, K. Swanson, J. Woods.

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

Dr. L. Moreno called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Executive Committee to order at 9:33 AM on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, in the second floor conference room in the County Building at 1504 3rd Ave, Rock Island, Illinois. There was no quorum.

L. Moreno, E. Sowards, C. Layer.

TOTAL PRESENT 3

D. Mielke, R. Simmer, K. Swanson, J. Woods.

TOTAL ABSENT 4

Dr. Moreno stated that there was no quorum, and therefore, no actions could be taken.

Dr. Moreno asked if the member of the public would like to make comment.

Mr. Wells stated that he spoke with ranger Ben Mills, and he suggested that I come here. I fish on the lake, and there's more and more traffic on the lake. Some of the people that are coming out are bringing portable stereos. On a quiet evening you can hear two people talking in another boat at about five hundred feet. If someone takes a speaker, and cranks it up, you can hear it on every corner of the lake. So I was hoping that maybe make the use of these speakers a privilege, and not a right. If Someone is out there blasting one of these speakers, I should be able to say, "hey can you turn that off please". Then they would shut it off. If you go to the website, it says that Lake George is an idle place for a quiet day of kayaking, paddle boarding and fishing. The other day when I was there, I was bringing my boat in, and there was a paddle boarder. They were blasting a speaker. It must have been hooked up to their phone because it quit. I told them thanks for turning it off, and they looked at me and turned it back on louder.

Dr. Moreno stated that unfortunately, sound and volume are subjective. I do understand your concern, and this will be passed along to staff. However, sound is subjective, and sound on a lake is going to bounce, especially when you're surrounded by trees.

Mr. Wells stated that there is a fishing issue. Lake George has a population of hybrid strippers. They're great to fish for. They do something that most other species don't. They work as a team and they corral the gizzard shad to the surface. They take their tails and slap them at the surface and it stuns them. That slap is what you listen for, and you can't hear it if there's someone with speakers on.

Dr. Moreno stated that it is a mixed use lake, so the District is trying to balance the needs of all users. Will make note, and let staff know about the concern.

Mr. Wells stated that he wasn't saying that no one can use speakers. All I'm saying is that it is a privilege, not a right. I think people have the right to the quiet that's advertised on the website. Should be simple enough for someone to say, "hey, can you turn that down please". I would suggest that there be a sign put up that says, "Use of personal speakers is a privilege."

Dr. Moreno stated that he didn't know if the District could do that, but will definitely pass along the concern to staff. Thank you for coming out.

Dr. Moreno stated that since there wasn't a quorum, there wasn't any action that could be taken, but if there was anyone present who wanted to bring something to the Committee's attention, please go ahead.

Ms. Palmer stated that the end of the fiscal year is nearly here. The reports show the same trends that the District has been seeing over the past few months. Niabi is looking better than last year. Niabi also hasn't had to use all the money that the General Fund assistance that was budgeted. Hopefully business keeps up, and the zoo can make it to the end of the fiscal year without having a negative fund balance that will need cleaned up again. Time will tell. Will be speaking to the outside auditor's next month to get planning on the end of year audit.

Dr. Moreno called the meeting adjourned at 9:11 AM.

Submitted by: Cassie Sullivan
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant