

**FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
AUGUST 11, 2026**

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

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: B. Westfphal, District 19 Commissioner; 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, August 11, 2026, in the second floor conference room in the County Building at 1504 3rd Ave, Rock Island, Illinois.

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

TOTAL PRESENT 7

TOTAL ABSENT 0

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the July Committee minutes.

MOTION: Mr. Layer moved to approve the July Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Mielke 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 \$379,108.91.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$379,108.91. Ms. Woods seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson asked if the member of the public would like to make comment.

There was no request for public comment.

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 FY26 Conservation in Action Exhibit, FY26 Bike Path Grant Improvements to the Great River Road project, FY 26 Improvement Fund OSLAD grant project improvements at Niabi Zoo, FY26 Electric Vehicle Charging Station grant improvements, FY27 Improvement Fund OSLAD grant project improvements at Niabi Zoo, FY27 Conservation in Action Exhibit.

MOTION: Ms. Woods moved to approve the resolutions regarding FY26 Conservation in Action Exhibit, FY26 Bike Path Grant Improvements to the Great River Road project, FY 26 Improvement Fund OSLAD grant project improvements at Niabi Zoo, FY26 Electric Vehicle Charging Station grant improvements, FY27 Improvement Fund OSLAD grant project improvements at Niabi Zoo, FY27 Conservation in Action Exhibit. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Chenoweth Construction proposal for the Dinosaur Dig project at Niabi Zoo.

MOTION: Mr. Mielke moved to approve the Chenoweth Construction proposal for the Dinosaur Dig project at Niabi Zoo. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the staff recommended bid for the Great River Road Trail Resurfacing from North of Cordova to County Line.

MOTION: Ms. Woods moved to approve the staff recommended bid for the Great River Road Trail Resurfacing from North of Cordova to County Line. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the staff recommended bid for the Indian Bluff Parking Lot.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the staff recommended bid for the Indian Bluff Parking Lot. Mr. Layer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the staff recommended bid for the Splash Pad at Niabi Zoo.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to approve the staff recommended bid for the Splash Pad at Niabi Zoo. Mr. Mielke seconded the motion.

Mr. Mielke asked when the splash pad would be open.

Mr. Craver stated that it would depend on weather, but should be done by the end of this year.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the staff recommended bid for the Outdoor Education Deck at Niabi Zoo.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to approve the staff recommended bid for the Outdoor Education Deck at Niabi Zoo. Ms. Woods seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson asked the Committee if anyone had objection to taking all the IMEG agreements as one motion.

No one had any objections to taking all the IMEG agreements as one motion.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the IMEG agreement for the Lake George Dam Maintenance Improvements in the amount of \$11,800.00, the IMEG agreement for construction observation for the Indian Bluff parking lot project, and the IMEG agreement for construction observation services for the Great River Road resurfacing project.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to approve the IMEG agreement for the Lake George Dam Maintenance Improvements in the amount of \$11,800.00, the IMEG agreement for construction observation for the Indian Bluff parking lot project, and the IMEG agreement for construction observation services for the Great River Road resurfacing project. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Mr. Craver stated that there are still some things to figure out with the pedestrian bridge at the base of the spillway.

Motion carried.

President Swanson asked if anyone had anything they'd like to lift up from their reports.

Mr. Camlin stated that there would be a meeting with S&P coming up soon to discuss an upgrade to the District's credit rating. The last upgrade from S&P was in 2017.

Ms. Palmer stated that the audit would begin soon. Revenues and expenses can still be back dated into the old fiscal year.

Mr. Jackson stated that the VR equipment in the education center will be there through this year and next year.

Mr. Craver stated that there were a couple resolutions that had been left off the agenda, but would be on the Commission agenda. Staff has submitted the application for the Lake George access improvements to OSLAD.

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

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

Motion carried.

President Swanson called the meeting adjourned at 9:59 AM.

Submitted by: Cassie Sullivan
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant