

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

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

ABSENT:

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

President Swanson called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Executive Committee to order at 9:31 AM on Tuesday, September 9, 2026, in the second floor conference room in the County Building at 1504 3rd Ave, Rock Island, Illinois.

C. Layer, R. Simmer, J. Woods, L. Moreno, E. Sowards, K. Swanson, D. Mielke(via zoom at 9:37am).

TOTAL PRESENT 7

TOTAL ABSENT 0

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

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to approve the August Committee meeting minutes. Ms. Woods 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 \$378,274.13.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$378,274.13. Mr. Layer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

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

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the transfers of appropriation. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the resolution regarding FY27 Bike Path Grant Improvements.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the resolution regarding FY27 Bike Path Grant Improvements. Ms. Sowards 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 asked if anyone had anything they'd like to lift up from their reports.

Ms. Palmer stated that the District was now past the window to back date into the previous fiscal year. Some grant reimbursements were received recently and were back dated into the previous fiscal year. Once the audit is completed, the beginning balance on the Fund Balance Report will be official. Until then, the beginning balances are estimated.

Mr. Jackson informed the Committee that last month's gift shop report was in the packet. This is the correct month. [Mr. Jackson handed out the report.]

President Swanson asked if the Hyrax was in the same exhibit as the Meercats.

Mr. Jackson stated that they were, and have been in the past.

President Swanson asked how ticket sales for Pints for Preservation was going.

Mr. Jackson stated that sales are on par with last year. Currently around 386 tickets sold.

President Swanson stated that Pints for Preservation is the premier fundraiser for Niabi for the general public. It's important for all Commissioners to be ambassadors for the zoo. Also, of note is that Loud Thunder is once again working with Blackhawk College on projects on the preserve. Illiniwek staff will be planting trees. Jeff, how is the project at the Bluff going?

Mr. Craver stated that the project was going well.

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. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called the meeting adjourned at 9:52 AM.

Submitted by: Cassie Sullivan
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant