FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
OCTOBER 14, 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; Nick Camlin, Treasurer; April Palmer, Auditor; Liz Mast, Internal Auditor.

President Swanson called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Executive Committee to order at 9:30 AM on Wenesday, October 14, 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.
TOTAL PRESENT 7
TOTAL ABSENT 0

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

MOTION: Ms. Woods moved to approve the September Committee meeting minutes. Dr. Simmer 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 $401,827.85.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the old and new year claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of $401,827.85. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

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

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

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the resolutions regarding Bike Path Grant, the DFCI Electric Vehicle Charging Grant, and the DFCI OSLAD Grant.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the resolutions regarding Bike Path Grant, the DFCI Electric Vehicle Charging Grant, and the DFCI OSLAD Grant. Mr. Layer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the 2026 Levy ordinances for the General Fund, Niabi Zoological Preserve Fund, IMRF Retirement Fund, Liability Fund, FISSA Fund, Audit Fund, and Development of Forests & Construction of Improvement Fund.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the 2026 Levy ordinances for the General Fund, Niabi Zoological Preserve Fund, IMRF Retirement Fund, Liability Fund, FISSA Fund, Audit Fund, and Development of Forests & Construction of Improvement Fund. 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 asked Mr. Jackson if there was anything he wanted to lift up from his report.

Mr. Jackson stated that construction had begun on all major projects at Niabi. The Dino Dig won't be ready to open in the spring due to issues getting some parts because of tariffs.

President Swanson asked how much longer Niabi would have the Pallas Cat kittens.

Mr. Jackson stated that there wasn't a specific date, but conversations have started. They have been separated from the adult Pallas Cats, and one of them may be sent to Japan. Another project in progress is turning an old concession stand into a turtle conservation center.

President Swanson asked if Ms. Palmer wanted to bring anything to the Committee's attention.

Ms. Palmer stated that the audit is going very smooth because of all the staff involved. A draft is expected at any time now. One quarter of the 2027 fiscal year is already over. There are currently no concerns about the budget numbers.

President Swanson asked Mr. Craver if there was anything he want to lift up from his report.

Mr. Craver stated that the permit for the Bike Path resurfacing project. Staff is waiting on the schedule for the Bluff's parking lot project. The EV charging station projects are slow going due to MidAmerican Energy and the work that they have to do before install can begin. There will be some minor tweaks to the budget before presenting it to the Commission. The weather has significantly impacted revenue this year. The leaves are starting to change, and folks are

coming out to enjoy that. This year's season is almost at an end. The Lone Cedar area at Loud Thunder is having well issues, and staff is looking into how best to address that, and will be using endowment funds for that. There are a lot of winter projects coming up.

Mr. Layer asked if the spillway work had started.

Mr. Craver stated that it has not, and will likely have to wait a bit. The deadline for that work is June.

Dr. Moreno stated that he had noticed that there hasn't been much mention of vandalism this year. Has there been any?

Mr. Craver stated that if there has, it has been very minor and not worth mentioning.

Dr. Simmer asked what the time frame of the work on the spillway was.

Mr. Craver stated that it would be approximately 20 days of actually work. There has been a lot of rain recently, and there is still a heavy flow going over the spillway.

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 9:52 AM.

Submitted by: Cassie Sullivan
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant