

**ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION**  
**JULY 15TH, 2025 – 5:51PM**  
**PRESIDENT KAI SWANSON - PRESIDING**

1. Karen Kinney, County Clerk, called the roll:

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil,  
D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer,  
E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL PRESENT      18**

**TOTAL ABSENT      0**

President Swanson stated, "Thank Madam Clerk. Now, because this Body just approved in the same formation, the attendance of Mr. Foster remotely, I'll consider that permission continue to be granted unless there is any objection."

President Swanson stated, "There's no objection, we'll keep Mr. Foster online for as long as he is able. Thank you Mr. Foster, for joining us."

President Swanson stated, "We do not have a presentation tonight, I'm going to try to beat Richard's record and get out of here in under 17 minutes, or something like that. We'll see how it goes."

2. Commissioner Vyncke moved to approve the June Commission and Public Hearing minutes, as presented. Commissioner Perkins seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil,  
D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer,  
E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES            18**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS - (NONE)** (Three calls were made.)

4. **PRESIDENTS COMMENTS:**

President Swanson stated, "Under the President's Comments, just a couple of things. We had some visiting family, including a 4 month old grandchild, and then a two, and four year old, and they went to the zoo. They had a great time. So, Mr. Kraver, please thank all the team at the zoo, they're doing a phenomenal job- the older kids too, they were appealing to all of them. I will also let you know that I'm the proud owner of a couple of jars of this year's press of Loud Thunder Honey, if you want your own, I'll sell you mine for a slight mark-up. You can get it for \$13 a jar at Loud Thunder, and it's good, local honey. One other thing, I want to thank Dr. Moreno for stepping in as I was away on family vacation last week for the Executive Committee Meeting. Dr. Simmer were you just stretching that hand or do you have anything you want to say?"

Commissioner Simmer stated, "...also it has the allergens. Fresh honey, a couple times a day, taking some in the morning, taking some at night, will desensitize you to your local pollen or whatever you have..."

President Swanson stated, "Yeah, especially if it is local honey."

Commissioner Simmer stated, "Local, right. It's gotta be local for that. Also, it's very good if you have a cold or anything like that, and it's a natural antibiotic, it's the only thing in the (inaudible) that is edible, crystalizing but still good, to not mold and not decay. So, it's a really good supplement to keep in your diet, very good, all natural."

President Swanson stated, "Thank you Dr. Simmer. Did I say a slight mark-up? I meant a very large mark-up."

Commissioner Simmer stated, "We'll split it".

President Swanson stated, "Thank you Dr. Simmer. But, they do have some more jars out at Loud Thunder, that is the good news."

5. Commissioner Burns moved to approve the Forest Preserve Claims and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$782,014.74, as presented. Commissioner Layer seconded.

Commissioner Adams moves to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Sowards seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil,  
D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer,  
E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES                18**

**TOTAL NO                0**

Motion carried.

6. Commissioner Brunk moved to approve Transfers of Appropriation, as presented. Commissioner Mielke seconded.

Commissioner Burns moves to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Simmer seconded.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil,  
D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer,  
E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES                18**

**TOTAL NO                0**

Motion carried.

7. Commissioner Adams moves to waive the reading and approve the resolutions regarding the General Fund transfer of appropriations to Niabi Zoo Fund, additional appropriation in the Niabi Zoo Fund, and the semi-annual review of closed session minutes, as presented. Commissioner Moreno seconded.

(Note\*\* Resolutions are in .pdf format and begin on the next page.)

**RESOLUTION**

RE: Appropriations to be transferred to Niabi Zoo

**WHEREAS**, additional funds are required in the Forest Preserve Fund #130 to be transferred to the Niabi Zoo Fund #131, and

**WHEREAS**, funds are available from unappropriated funds within the Forest Preserve Fund #130, and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Forest Preserve Commission of Rock Island County, Rock Island, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION 1. An emergency exists as outlined above.

SECTION 2. An amount of \$79,876.01 be transferred from unappropriated funds in the Forest Preserve General Fund #130 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$79,876.01	130-32-10 991.74	Transfer to Niabi Zoo

SECTION 3. This Resolution to become effective immediately.

**ADOPTED** by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July 2025.

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Kai Swanson, President  
Forest Preserve Commission

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Karen Kinney, Secretary  
Forest Preserve Commission

**RESOLUTION**

RE: Niabi Zoo Fund Additional FY 25 Appropriations

**WHEREAS**, additional funds are required for ARPA project expenses in the Niabi Zoo Fund # 131 for FY 25, and

**WHEREAS**, revenue has been collected over budget including a transfer of funds to be received from the Forest Preserve General Fund & DFCI Fund to the Niabi Zoo Fund #131, and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Forest Preserve Commission of Rock Island County, Rock Island, Illinois, as follows:

**SECTION 1.** An emergency exists as outlined above.

**SECTION 2.** An amount of \$83,343.31 be transferred from unappropriated additional revenue funds in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>APPROPRIATION</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
\$46.46	131-32 347.30	Research & Conservation
\$1,387.68	131-32 361.10	Investment Earnings
\$200.00	131-32 362.60	Zoo Owned Housing Rent
\$309.25	131-32 364.10	Contributions from Private Sources
\$1,523.91	131-32 369.93	Refund/rebates for Prior Years
\$79,876.01	131-32-35 391.60	Transfer from General Fund
	ARPA24-00-39160	

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>APPROPRIATION</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
\$83,343.31	131-32-35 767.00	Infrastructure over \$15,000
	ARPA24-60-767	

**SECTION3:** This resolution to become effective immediately.

**ADOPTED** by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2025.

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Kai Swanson, President  
Forest Preserve Commission

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Karen Kinney, Secretary  
Forest Preserve Commission

### Resolution

Rock Island County Forest Preserve District  
Re: Open Meetings Act Review of Minutes of a Meeting Lawfully Closed

**WHEREAS**, the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission strictly adheres to all provisions of the Open Meetings Act as defined in 5 ILCS 120; and

**WHEREAS**, 5 ILCS 120/2.06(c), calls for periodic review of minutes of meetings lawfully closed to determine if the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of these minutes or that the minutes or portions therefor no longer require confidential treatment and are available for public inspection; and

**WHEREAS**, during regular committee meetings held during the month of July, 2025; Rock Island County Forest Preserve has reviewed minutes of closed meetings for all previously held closed sessions.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the following meeting minutes have been determined to contain matters where the need for confidentiality still exists:

<u>Date of Meeting</u>	<u>Reason for Closed Session</u>
08-08-1986	Personnel
12-05-1986	Personnel
02-08-1991	Personnel & Potential Liability
07-10-1992	Personnel
02-05-1993	Investments contracts
05-07-1993	Personnel
08-15-1995	Personnel
08-05-2005	Litigation
09-30-2010	Personnel
10-08-2010	Personnel
12-03-2010	Personnel
03-04-2011	Personnel
04-05-2012	Personnel
06-05-2012	Personnel
06-07-2012	Personnel
06-08-2012	Personnel
06-27-2012	Personnel
06-28-2012	Personnel
10-15-2012	Litigation & Personnel
07-11-2013	Personnel
09-12-2013	Litigation
11-14-2013	Litigation & Personnel
12-12-2013	Litigation & Personnel
01-16-2014	Litigation
11-13-2014	Personnel
02-11-2015	Personnel
04-16-2015	Personnel
10-14-2015	Personnel
11-10-2015	Personnel
02-16-2016	Potential Litigation
03-17-2016	Personnel
04-12-2016	Personnel

06-15-2016	Litigation
01-10-2017	Litigation
04-11-2017	Litigation
01-09-2018	Personnel
11-13-2018	Personnel & Land Acquisition
02-11-2020	Personnel
12-15-2020	Litigation
07-13-2021	Land Acquisition
07-20-2021	Land Acquisition
10-13-2021	Negotiations
01-11-2022	Land Acquisition
06-13-2023	Land Acquisition
03-21-2024	Land Acquisition
05-14-2024	Litigation
09-17-2024	Collective Negotiations
11-13-2024	Collective Negotiations
01-14-2025	Collective Negotiations

This *Resolution* to become effective immediately after passage. Minutes of those meetings determined to be made available for public inspection will be released as per the Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2.06(b).

DONE IN OPEN MEETING THIS 15<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JULY, 2025

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Kai Swanson  
President, Rock Island County  
Forest Preserve Commission

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Karen Kinney  
Secretary, Rock Island County  
Forest Preserve Commission

Commissioner Enburg moves to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Simmer seconded.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES            18**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried.

8. Commissioner Simmer moved to consider the proposal for engineering services from IMEG for the repairs to the Great River Trail, not to exceed \$13,800.00, as presented. Commissioner Dewith seconded.

Commissioner Perkins moves to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Moreno seconded.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES            18**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried.

9. Commissioner Mielke moved to consider the proposal for engineering and administration services from IMEG for the electric vehicle charging station grant at \$64,500.00, as presented. Commissioner Adams seconded.

Commissioner Burns moves to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Simmer seconded.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES            18**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried.



10. Commissioner Burns moved to approve the 2025 District Park Plan. Commissioner Simmer seconded.

Commissioner Vyncke moves to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Adams seconded.

D. Adams, R. Brunk, L. Burns, E. Dewith, C. Enburg, T. Foster, C. Layer, P. McNeil, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno-Baker, R. Morthland, B. Perkins, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

**TOTAL YES                18**

**TOTAL NO                0**

Motion carried.

11. **Comments from Commissioners:**

Commissioner Enburg was recognized, "Thank you. Is there a date yet for the 'Pints for Preservation'?"

President Swanson responded, "Do you know that offhand, Jeff? I'm sure they're zeroing in on something because they get a lot of vendors who come out, but we'll try to make sure we get that date shared with all of the commissioners, and the public, as widely as possible. It's a great way to support the zoo. Thank you Ms. Enburg, thank you."

President Swanson continued, "Any other questions or comments? I hope you get a chance to look at those reports, there's a lot of good things going on. Despite the weather you probably noticed, the weather's not helping us. It helped us earlier in the year, but right now, hopefully things will ease up a little bit."

Commissioner Dewith added, "It ain't snowing".

President Swanson stated, "It ain't snowing, exactly. Thank you."

12. Commissioner Moreno moved to approve all Routine Reports from the Director and Departments Heads of the Forest Preserve Commission, as presented. Commissioner Mielke seconded.

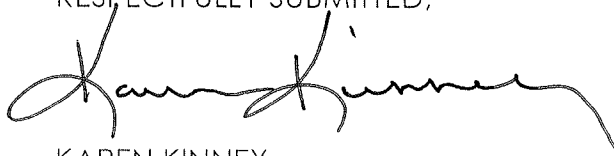
A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

President Swanson stated, "Well friends, the next meeting of this Commission will be Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, following the County Board meeting, in these chambers. ...and with that, friends, wow we did it, Mr. Brunk I beat your record; we are in recess."

President Swanson declared the Forest Preserve Meeting in recess at 6:00 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Kinney", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

KAREN KINNEY  
COUNTY CLERK AND SECRETARY  
OF THE FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

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