



**Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Board of Commissioners**

Journal of Proceedings of the FPD Board of Commissioners

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

10:00 AM

**Cook County Building, Board Room,
118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois**

Issued On: 1/9/2025

ATTENDANCE

Present: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Morita,
Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Moore (1) Excused

CONSENT CALENDAR

There are no Consent Resolutions for this meeting.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

PRESIDENT

[25-0007](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA,
SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BILL LOWRY,
DR. KISHA E. McCASKILL, DONNA MILLER, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON,
SEAN M. MORRISON, ANTHONY J. QUEZADA, MICHAEL SCOTT JR. and MAGGIE TREVOR,
Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED ORDINANCE

**AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE A FOREST PRESERVE NEAR MICHAEL J. O'MALLEY
PRESERVE**

AN ORDINANCE CREATING A FOREST PRESERVE in part of Section 30, Township 35, Range 15, all in Cook County, Illinois near Michael J. O'Malley Preserve in District 6.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois (the "District"), pursuant to the statutes in such case made and provided, has from time to time acquired by purchase, condemnation, gift, grant, devise, or otherwise, lands necessary and desirable for District purposes containing one or more natural forests or parts thereof, or lands connecting such forests or parts thereof, or lands capable of being reforested for the purpose of protecting and preserving the flora, fauna, and scenic beauties within the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois, and to restore, restock, protect, and preserve the natural forests and said lands together with their flora and fauna, as nearly as may be, in their natural state and condition, for the purpose of the education, pleasure, and recreation of the public; and

WHEREAS, the said Board of Commissioners of the District also has acquired in like manner lands for the consolidation of such preserves into unit areas of a size and form convenient and desirable for public use and economical maintenance and improvement, and lands for the purpose of connecting such preserves with forested ways or links in order to increase their accessibility, use, and enjoyment, and lands for improvement by forestation, roads, and pathways, and lands for the purpose of constructing, maintaining, and operating recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the District has in a like manner acquired lands along water courses or elsewhere which, in their judgment, were required to control drainage and water conditions and necessary for the preservation of forested areas acquired or to be acquired as preserves and lands for the purpose of extension of roads and forested ways around and by such preserves and for parking space for automobiles and other facilities not requiring forested areas but incidental to the use and protection thereof.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the District as follows:

Section 1. That a unified Forest Preserve be and the same is hereby created within the District which shall contain and connect lands now owned and lands to be acquired in substantial accordance with the plat now on file in the office of the General Superintendent of the District, which by reference is hereby made part hereof, and for the purposes of said Forest Preserve and for the carrying out of the statutory purposes more particularly set out in the preamble of this ordinance, it is necessary and desirable for the District to own and it shall acquire property hereinafter described in Section 2 of this ordinance, for the purpose of creating a Forest Preserve and for District uses.

Section 2. That the lands referred to in Section 1 of this ordinance are more particularly described as follows:

2730 Sauk Trail, Unincorporated Cook County, Illinois (AKA 2801 E. Sauk Trail, Sauk Village, IL)

THE EAST ONE-HALF OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (E ½ NW ¼) OF SECTION THIRTY (30), TOWNSHIP THIRTY-FIVE (35), RANGE FIFTEEN (15), IN BLOOM TOWNSHIP, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

PIN: 33-30-101-001-0000

SAID PARCEL CONTAINING 3,222,133 SQUARE FEET, OR 73.97 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

Section 3. This ordinance is hereby made and ordained to be severable as to each parcel of land or portion thereof or right of interest in any of the same hereby authorized to be acquired, and failure to acquire any of the said parcels of land described in Section 2 hereof or right of interest in any of the same shall not impair or invalidate the authority by this ordinance granted to hold, own, or acquire any other of said parcels or any right or interest therein, it being the intention of said Board of Commissioners of the District to carry out the general plan provided in this ordinance so far as legally and financially practicable, and to negotiate for purchase, condemn, or otherwise acquire from time to time the parcel(s) of land described in Section 2 hereof and all right or interest therein.

Section 4. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

District 6

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to refer 25-0007 to the Real Estate Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[25-0006](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

WETLAND MITIGATION BANK AGREEMENT AND PROPOSED ACCEPTANCE OF REAL ESTATE DONATION

Department(s): Department of Resource Management

Vendor: HGS, LLC D/B/A RES Environmental Operating Company, LLC, Bellaire, Texas

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into and execute

Good(s) or Service(s): Agreement for HGS, LLC to develop, manage and maintain a wetland mitigation bank on Forest Preserves property in unincorporated Cook County near Sauk Village, and authorization for the Forest Preserves to accept donated property from HGS, LLC with a corresponding deed restriction or similar instrument.

Contract Value: Not to exceed \$10,000.00 in miscellaneous real estate fees, such as closing costs.

Contract Period: From date of execution until Mitigation Bank Closeout as determined by the appropriate federal authorities (the Forest Preserves will assume long-term maintenance responsibilities thereafter).

Estimated Fiscal Impact: Not to Exceed \$10,000.00. After Mitigation Bank Closeout, the Forest Preserves expects to receive approximately \$260,000.00 via a fund established by HGS, LLC and held by the Forest Preserves or a third-party fiduciary for the long-term management, maintenance, and stewardship of the mitigation site.

Accounts: Professional Services 51034.520830; Real Estate Capital Outlay 51006.560010; and all future Professional Services accounts

Contract Number(s): N/A

Concurrences: The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final agreement is subject to legal review and approval.

District(s): 6

Summary: HGS, LLC (“HGS”) is a subsidiary of Resource Environmental Solutions, which provides comprehensive ecological restoration and water resource solutions, serving public and private sector clients with full-delivery, land-based projects that build and sustain natural resiliency in ecosystems. HGS has rights to purchase an approximately (±) 71.7 acre parcel directly adjacent to Forest Preserves property located at Torrence Avenue and Sauk Trail Road near Sauk Village (the “Donation Parcel”). HGS seeks to develop a wetland mitigation bank utilizing all or a portion of this property together with approximately (±) 32.9 acres of Forest Preserves land, subject to the approval of the applicable federal agencies. Upon acquisition of the Donation Parcel and federal approval with respect to the mitigation bank, HGS will conduct ecological restoration of wetlands within the boundaries of the mitigation bank site, as approved by the Forest Preserves. This ecological restoration will benefit wildlife and restore native vegetation. HGS will also sell credits from the wetland mitigation bank to third parties.

Upon approval of the wetland mitigation bank plan, the Donation Parcel owned by HGS will then be donated to the Forest Preserves. Per federal regulations, the Forest Preserves will then be required to record a deed to the donated property that includes a declaration of a restrictive covenant, a deed restriction or a similar instrument restricting use of the property in accordance with the federally-approved Mitigation Banking Instrument and Plan. After Closeout of the Mitigation Bank, the Forest Preserves will then serve as the long-term steward of the mitigation site, which will include the Donation Parcel. The Donation Parcel is more fully described in the legal description included in related Board Item No. 25-0007. The acquisition of the Donation Parcel would advance the goals of the Forest Preserves' Southeast Cook County Land Acquisition Plan, Next Century Conservation Plan, and Acquisition and Disposition of Land Position Paper.

The area of the wetland mitigation bank is expected to total approximately (\pm) 104 acres, which will be restored by HGS at no direct cost to the Forest Preserves. Upon successful completion of all performance standards for a period of at least seven (7) years and the official Closeout of the Mitigation Bank, the Forest Preserves will assume long-term maintenance and stewardship responsibilities for the mitigation site with the support of a monetary fund established by HGS on behalf of the Forest Preserves and held by the Forest Preserves or a third-party fiduciary. If the federal authorities require a third-party fiduciary to hold these long-term maintenance funds per the approved Mitigation Plan, the Forest Preserves will bring the details of any such agreement before the Board for approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to refer 25-0006 to the Real Estate Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[25-0016](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED APPOINTMENT

Appointee(s): Alaka Wali

Position: Member

Department/Board/Commission: Conservation and Policy Council

Effective Date: Immediate

Expiration Date: 12/31/2027

Alaka Wali is curator emerita of North American Anthropology in the Science and Education Division of the Field Museum. Alaka was born in India and came to the United States as a child. Curious about issues of cultural identity, she studied anthropology at Harvard and Columbia, focusing on the challenges facing Indigenous peoples and their efforts to maintain cultural practices and worldviews.

She was the founding director of the Center for Cultural Understanding and Change at The Field Museum from 1995- 2010. During that time, she pioneered the development of participatory social science research and community engagement processes based in museum science. She curated the North American collection, one of the Museum's largest regional anthropology holdings. Since 2000, she has worked closely with ecologists and museum educators to develop innovative community engagement strategies for people living in and around biodiverse regions of the Western Amazon and urban Chicago to expand inclusion of their voices in environmental conservation efforts.

Her research focuses on the relationship between art and the capacity for social resilience. She has authored several books, and published monographs and more than 50 articles on a wide range of topics, including museum practice, political ecology, racialized health disparities and urban anthropology. She has curated numerous exhibitions, pioneering co-curated exhibitions with Native American contemporary artists. She led the curation of the exhibition-Native Truths: Our Voices, Our Stories which opened in May 2022 and broke new ground for the Field Museum with a deeply collaborative approach that privileges the perspectives of Native American scholars, artists and community members. A companion edited volume became available in 2024 from BAR Publishing.

From 2016-2024, Alaka served on the Board of the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation which focuses on land conservation and artistic vitality in Chicago and the Low Country of South Carolina. She has also served on other Chicago region Boards including the Chicago Cultural Alliance and the Latin School of Chicago.

A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Degnen, to refer 25-0016 to the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations . The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[25-0003](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED REAPPOINTMENT

Appointee(s): Jacqui Ulrich, Director, Department of Conservation & Experiential Programming

Position: Member of the Board

Department/Board/Commission: NeighborSpace Board of Directors

Effective Date: 1/15/2025

Expiration Date: Two (2) year term expiring 12/31/2026

Summary: The Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) requests approval of the reappointment of Jacqui Ulrich, Director of the Conservation and Experiential Programming Department (“CEP”) to the Board of Directors of NeighborSpace, an affiliate partner of the Forest Preserves.

NeighborSpace is a nonprofit urban land trust in Chicago that preserves and sustains gardens on behalf of dedicated community groups. NeighborSpace owns and manages property so that community groups can focus on gardening. NeighborSpace-protected gardens give young and old alike an opportunity to get their hands in the earth and enjoy nature, right in their own neighborhoods.

CEP connects diverse audiences to nature through a wide range of educational and outdoor recreation experiences and is also responsible for community engagement and committed to developing relationships with citizens to energize them and connect them to nature. CEP works with program partners at the local level on programming, building relationships with groups to become long-term advocates, stewards and ambassadors of the Forest Preserves.

The Forest Preserves of Cook County, the City of Chicago, and the Chicago Park District worked together to establish NeighborSpace as a non-profit in 1997. These three (3) governmental agencies continue to provide leadership and financial support to protect community-managed open spaces in Chicago.

A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Degnen, to refer 25-0003 to the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations . The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

COMMISSIONERS

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

[25-0005](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Department of Permits, Rentals, and Concessions

Vendor: Indigo Sports, LLC (formerly Billy Casper Golf), a wholly owned subsidiary of Troon Golf, LLC, Scottsdale, Arizona

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into and execute

Good(s) or Service(s): Pavilion Management Services

Contract Value: \$2,686,575.00

Contract Period: 1/1/2025 (retroactive) - 12/31/2029 with two (2) one-year extensions subject to the discretion of the General Superintendent

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2025 \$337,348.00; FY 2026 \$348,345.00; FY 2027 \$359,711.00; FY 2028 \$371,458.00; FY 2029 \$383,599.00; FY 2030 \$421,959.00 (optional); FY 2031 \$464,155.00 (optional)

Accounts: Professional Services 51001.520850

Contract Number(s): #74000015273

Concurrences: The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final agreement is subject to legal review and approval

District(s): 4, 9, 10, 15, 17

Summary: The proposed agreement is for the vendor to manage the Forest Preserves' indoor room rental program. The vendor will oversee third-party rentals at five (5) Forest Preserves pavilions, handling tasks such as reservations, staffing, setup and teardown, daily maintenance, and marketing. The Forest Preserves will pay a monthly management fee and cover all operational expenses. The contract includes financial performance incentives tied to exceeding established targets. The Forest Preserves will retain all rental revenue and anticipate the program will continue to generate positive revenue. The vendor was the sole respondent to the Request for Proposals, which was issued twice following an extensive outreach effort. The vendor has been delivering these services for the Forest Preserves since 2018, consistently ensuring the pavilions remain profitable while maintaining a high standard of performance.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 25-0005. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[25-0004](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Law Enforcement

Request: Refer to Law Enforcement Committee

Report Title: Model Policing

Report Period: 7/1/2024 - 12/31/2024

Summary: Report on the status of achieving the goal of a Model Forest Preserves Police Department.

A motion was made by Commissioner Aguilar, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to refer 25-0004 to the Law Enforcement Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[25-0011](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Departments of Legal and Finance

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Workers' Compensation Report - November 2024

Report Period: 11/1/2024 - 11/30/2024

Summary: The Forest Preserves of Cook County Departments of Legal and Finance are submitting Workers' Compensation Claim Payments for the month of November 2024. Payments total \$94,734.10 for November 2024.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to receive and filed 25-0011. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[25-0012](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Finance and Administration

Request: Refer to Finance Committee

Report Title: American Rescue Plan Act Sub-Award Annual Report

Report Period: 7/26/2022 - 10/31/2024

Summary: This report serves as an annual update on the Forest Preserves of Cook County's (the "Forest Preserves") American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") sub-award funds pursuant to Board Resolution No. 22-0289. This report covers the period of July 26, 2022 through October 31, 2024 and includes Forest Preserves' expenditures and activities for ARPA projects. ARPA funds seek to address the negative health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on communities nationwide. The Forest Preserves remained open throughout the pandemic and saw firsthand how important nature is to the residents of Cook County, with visitor numbers jumping from an estimated 62 million visits per year to 100 million during this time. ARPA funds support the Forest Preserves mission in providing access to nature for all residents of Cook County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to refer 25-0012 to the Finance Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[25-0013](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Finance and Administration

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Procurement and Disbursement Report

Report Period: 11/1/2024 - 11/30/2024

Summary: Submitting the Procurement and Disbursement Report for the period of November 2024. This report is to be received and filed in compliance with Section 1-8-2 (BB) of the District's Code of Ordinances.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to receive and filed 25-0013. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[25-0015](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

Sponsored by: SCOTT R. BRITTON, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

REPORT

Department: Department of Conservation and Experiential Programming

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: American Humane Conservation Certification

Certification Period: 12/16/2024 - 12/15/2025

Summary: On December 16, 2024, the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) was awarded a Certificate of Approval in the American Humane Association’s (“American Humane”) Conservation Certification Program for its Ambassador Animal Program at its six nature centers. In June, the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners re-approved (with updated terms) the agreement with American Humane to have the Forest Preserves’ six Nature Centers go through the certification program (See Board Item No. 24-0077). In October, American Humane had an auditor spend a week at the Nature Centers, observing the Ambassador Animals, reviewing procedures and records and talking with and observing staff as they provided husbandry, enrichment and programming with and for the Ambassador Animals.

The assessment included evaluating the animals’ enclosures, behaviors, food quality, physiological metrics, choice, environmental parameters, care and more. In its assessment, American Humane asked the Forest Preserves to address one item related to two Snapping Turtles at Sagawau Environmental Learning Center and Sand Ridge Nature Center. With an action plan in place for that issue, the final approval was provided by American Humane, which is the first national humane organization in America and the world’s largest certifier of the welfare and humane treatment of animals in working and other environments. American Humane’s animal welfare certification programs are built on the foundation of science and evidence-based practices, with independent third-party leading experts, scientists, behaviorists and ethicists determining what practices are indeed humane.

In its letter to the Forest Preserves upon receiving the certification, Robin R. Ganzert, Ph.D., President & CEO said, “I would like to congratulate you and your team at the Forest Preserves of Cook County for your demonstrated commitment to animal welfare. You have joined an elite group of institutions around the world to earn the *American Humane Certified*™ seal of approval, and I commend you for your dedicated work in providing exceptional welfare to the animals in your care while educating and inspiring the next generation of conservationists.”

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to receive and filed 25-0015. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[25-0008](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Department: Department of Conservation and Experiential Programming

Summary: Forest Preserves of Cook County Calendar of Events and Activities 1/14/2025 - 2/3/2025

Please check the Forest Preserves of Cook County's website for updates and changes.

Saturdays, 1/18 through 2/1; 9am

Beginner Cross-Country Ski Lessons, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont

Learn how to ski with a certified Professional Ski Instructor of America. *Registration required. Registration for each lesson starts the Sunday prior to the lesson week. Reservation link will only be available when snow conditions are skiable. Ages 12 and up. The cost is \$20 per person. Please call (630) 257-2045 or visit the website.*

Sundays, 1/19 through 2/2; 9am

Beginner Cross-Country Ski Lessons, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont

Learn how to ski with a certified Professional Ski Instructor of America. *Registration required. Registration for each lesson starts the Sunday prior to the lesson week. Reservation link will only be available when snow conditions are skiable. Ages 12 and up. The cost is \$20 per person. Please call (630) 257-2045 or visit the website.*

Saturday, 1/18; 8:30am

Bird and Bagel Bird Walk, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest

Join us for bagels inside followed by a guided bird walk with Chicago Bird Alliance. *Registration required. All birding levels are welcome, and binoculars will be provided. Please call (708) 366-6530.*

Saturday, 1/18; 10am - 12pm

MLK Service Day Celebration, Caldwell Woods Wellness Center, Chicago

Give back this MLK day! Join us for a litter clean up in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. *Registration required. Ages 12 and up. Please call (773) 758-8899.*

Saturday, 1/18; 10am - 12pm

Teen Exploration Day: Day of Service, Schiller Woods-East, Chicago

Teens and families can give back this MLK day! Join us for a litter clean up in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. *This event will be held at Grove 10. For more information, please call (312) 533-5751 or visit the website.*

Saturday, 1/18; 10am - 2pm

MLK Day of Service and Brush Pile Burn, Eggers Grove, Chicago

Learn what it takes to keep our preserves healthy and participate in a day of service by removing invasive plant species. *S'mores will be provided. Please call (224) 763-4317.*

Sunday, 1/19; 1:30pm

Conservation at Home: Winter Seed Sowing, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

You can learn about native seeds for winter sowing by making your own winter sowing milk jug. *Registration required. Ages 13 and up. Supplies will be provided. Please call (847) 824-8360.*

Monday, 1/20; 9am - 2pm

MLK Day of Service, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

Drop-in at the nature center and participate in a self-led litter pick-up. *Garbage bags and disposable gloves will be provided. For more information, please call (708) 868-0606.*

Monday, 1/20; 10am - 1pm

MLK Jr. Day of Service, Dan Ryan Woods Pavilion, Chicago

Join us and celebrate MLK with a day of service. The activities include a litter clean-up, crafts and cocoa. *Groups of 10 or more must register for the event. For more information, please visit the website.*

Monday, 1/20; 1pm - 3pm

MLK Day Restoration, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

Join us to improve our natural community by helping remove invasive species. *Registration required. Ages 8 and up. Equipment will be provided. High school students may earn service hours. For more information, please call (847) 381-6598.*

Monday, 1/20; 1pm - 3pm

Martin Luther King Jr, National Day of Service, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Join us to work to make River Trail better on this official day of community service. *Ages 10 and up. Ages 16 and under with an adult. Please call (847) 824-8360.*

Monday, 1/20; 6:30pm

Moon Walk, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs

Learn how to serve your community by reducing light pollution, while enjoying a walk in the largest Urban Night Sky Place in the world. *For more information, please call (708) 839-6897.*

Saturday, 1/25; 9am - 11am

Winter Photography, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Join us for an outdoor workshop focusing on amazing winter scenes. *Registration required. Ages 13 and up. Please call (847) 824-8360.*

Saturday, 1/25; 10:30am - 3:30pm

All About Fire, Thatcher Woods Pavilion, River Forest

Learn safe practices for fire building and containment, make fire-inspired art, build your own fire, and roast a marshmallow. *For more information, please call (312) 533-5751 or visit the website.*

Saturday, 1/25; 11am - 2pm

Snowshoeing, Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center, Chicago

Come out and explore the preserves via snowshoe. *This program will occur when snow depth exceeds 4 inches. Hikes and other activities will be offered if there is no snow. For more information, please call 224-763-4317 or visit the website.*

Saturday, 1/25; 1pm

Winter Walk in the Woods, Camp Sullivan, Oak Forest

Enjoy an afternoon walk in the Preserves. *Snowshoes will be provided when the snow depth exceeds 4 inches. For more information, please visit the website.*

Saturday, 1/25; 2pm

Bird and Bagel Bird Walk, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest

Join us during feeding time to learn about Trailside's outdoor ambassador animals. *Please call (708) 366-6530.*

Saturday, 1/25; 6pm - 8pm

Winter Night Walk, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

Embrace the chilly weather with a brisk nighttime walk, then warm up with a hot beverage. *Please call (708) 868-0606.*

Sunday, 1/26; 10am - 1pm

Lunar New Year Celebration, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs

Welcome good luck and fortune in 2025 by celebrating the Year of the Snake with activities, crafts and performances. *For more information, please call (708) 839-6897.*

Sunday, 1/26; 1pm

Picidae, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

Join us for a short presentation and stroll as we learn about woodpeckers and how they adapt to their environment. *For more information, please call (847) 381-6598.*

Wednesday, 1/29; 10:30am

Children's Lunar New Year, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

Let's learn about the holiday through reading, creating, and celebrating together! *Ages 2-10 with an adult. For more information, please call (847) 381-6598.*

Wednesday, 1/29; 5pm - 7pm

Teen S'mores Night, Dan Ryan Visitor Center, Chicago

Hang out by the fire with friends and enjoy a sweet treat. *S'mores and supplies will be provided. For more information, please call (224) 763-4317.*

Saturday, 2/1 through Friday, 2/28; 9am - 4pm

Underground Railroad Self-Guided Walks, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

Join us as we celebrate Black History Month. You can learn about historical events and people on self-guided walks throughout February. *For more information, please call (708) 868-0606.*

Saturday, 2/1; 10am - 12pm

Winter Workshop: Woodworking, Camp Reinberg, Palatine

Repurpose the common European buckthorn into something new. *Registration required. Equipment will be provided. Ages 10 and up. Ages 10-16 with an adult. Please call (773)758-8899 or visit the website.*

Saturday, 2/1; 11am - 1pm

Black History Month Kickoff Drop-in, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs

Baratunde Thurston is an American writer and conservationist. Join us as we view his award-winning PBS series America Outdoors. *Snacks will be provided. For more information, please call (708) 839-6897.*

Saturday, 2/1; 10am - 12pm

Winter Open Climb, Camp Sullivan, Oak Forest

Join us at Camp Sullivan's indoor climbing wall. *Registration and waiver required. Ages 18 and under must have an adult. 12 individuals per 30-minute time slot. For more information, please visit the website.*

Sunday, 2/2; 10am - 12pm

Poetry Trail: Black History Month, Bemis Woods-South, Western Springs

Join us for a walk on a short, looped trail as we celebrate Black History Month. We will read poetry written by African American authors. *This event will begin at Grove 7. For more information, please call (312) 533-5751 or visit the website.*

Sunday, 2/2; 1pm - 3pm

Makin' Music Bluegrass Jam, Thatcher Woods Pavilion, River Forest

You can make a simple instrument or bring your own. All participants are welcome to join the jam or just listen to the music. *Please call (708) 366-6530.*

Sunday, 2/2; 1:30pm

Groundhog Day, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Learn the story behind this peculiar holiday. *For more information, please call (847) 824-8360.*

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to receive and filed 25-0008. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

COMMITTEE ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

RULES COMMITTEE

[25-0064](#)

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

SECRETARY TO THE BOARD, Lynne M. Turner, presented in printed form a record of the Journal of Proceedings of the regular meeting held on 12/17/24.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Degnen, to approve 25-0064. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[24-0436](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners, that Title 1 - Administrative, Chapter 5 - Forest Preserve District President and Board of Commissioners Rules of Organization and Procedure, Section 2-6 - Standing Committees of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as Follows:

Sec. 2-6. Standing Committees.

The standing committees of the Board, their standing subcommittees and the number of members to be appointed to each (including Chair and Vice-Chair) are as follows:

AUDIT (7) (Chief Financial Officer shall be an ex officio, nonvoting member of the Audit

Committee)

BOTANIC GARDEN (9)

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION (9)

CONTRACT COMPLIANCE (9)

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY (7)

FINANCE (Committee of the Whole) with the following subcommittees with the number of members indicated:

Labor (9)

Litigation (7)

Workers' Compensation (5)

LAW ENFORCEMENT ~~(7)~~ (9)

LEGISLATION AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS (Committee of the Whole)

PENSION COMMITTEE (7)

REAL ESTATE (Committee of the Whole)

RECREATION AND ENGAGEMENT (7)

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION (9)

ZOOLOGICAL (9)

Effective date: This ordinance amendment shall be in effect immediately upon adoption

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Degnen, to approve 24-0436. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

FINANCE COMMITTEE

[25-0009](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE (LITIGATION)

Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Litigation -01/14/2025

The Finance Subcommittee on Litigation met on the above listed date and recommends the following for approval:

Proposed Settlements Approved Fiscal Year 2025 to Present:	\$0.00
Proposed Settlements to Be Approved:	\$0.00

Legal Fees Approved Fiscal Year 2025 to Present:	\$0.00
Legal Fees for 01/14/2025 to Be Approved:	\$49,399.25

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 25-0009. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[25-0010](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE (WORKERS' COMPENSATION)

Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Workers' Compensation - 01/14/2025

The Finance Subcommittee on Workers' Compensation met on the above listed date and recommends the following for approval:

Workers' Compensation Claims approved Fiscal Year 2025 to present:	\$0.00
Workers' Compensation Claims to Be Approved:	\$21,983.69

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 25-0010. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[25-0014](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Finance and Administration

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Corporate Fund Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures

Report Period: 1/1/2024 - 11/30/2024

Summary: Detailed Fund Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures for November 2024.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to receive and filed 25-0014. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

LEGISLATION AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

[24-0455](#)

Sponsored by: KEVIN B. MORRISON and BRIDGET DEGNEN, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

AMENDMENT TO ETHICS ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners, that Title 1 - Administrative, Chapter 13 - Code of Ethical Conduct, Section 1-13-2, Subsection L (7) of the Forest Preserve District Code is hereby amended as follows:

1-13-2: - CODE OF CONDUCT.*L. Political Activity.*

(7) ~~Except as provided by subsection e, Sixty days prior to a general, primary, or special election and ending the day after such election in which an elected Official is a candidate, District funds and or resources may not be used by any elected District Official to print, mail, transmit, or pay for the printing, mailing, or transmission of any newsletters or brochures bearing the proper name of the elected District Official during the period of time design, print, transmit, and/or distribute;~~

a. Print newsletters or brochures bearing the name or image of the elected District Official who is a candidate in an election; Sixty (60) days prior to a general primary election and ending the day after such general primary election; and

b. Public service announcements or advertisements that are on behalf of a District administered program and contains the proper name, image, or voice of an elected District Official who is a candidate in an election that is broadcast or aired on radio or television, printed in a commercial newspaper or commercial magazine, or shared or posted on any District owned website or District owned social media account. Sixty (60) days prior to a general election and ending the day after such general election.

c. Exceptions. The prohibitions in paragraphs 7a and 7b of this section shall not apply to:
~~This Section shall not apply to:~~

(1) Responses to unsolicited inquiries from constituents and other interested parties; or

(2) Informational brochures that are solely related to and accompany any mailing of a property tax bill, notice of property tax assessment, or notice of voter registration or polling place information, or to a brochure mailed to a constituent in response to that constituent's inquiry concerning the needs of that constituent or questions raised by that constituent.

(3) Budget Books (Annual Appropriations Ordinances); annual and other official reports; memos, letters, and other communications on District letterhead; and coverage of press releases on official District events noting speakers or ribbon cutting or other official duties of elected Officials.

d. ~~No public service announcement or advertisement that is on behalf of any District~~

~~administered program and contains the proper name, image, or voice of any elected District Official shall be paid with District funds and broadcast or aired on radio or television or printed in a commercial newspaper or commercial magazine at any time on or after the date that the elected District Official files nominating papers for any elected office, and ending the day after such general election if the elected District Official is a candidate in such primary or general election. This Section shall not apply to any information available or posted by the District or any elected District Official on any District owned website or District owned social media account or broadcast or aired on the "public educational, government access" channels.~~

e. *Permanent Prohibitions.* The proper name or image of any elected Official may not appear on any promotional materials or items if designed, paid for, produced, and/or distributed with public funds or resources, including, but not limited to:

- (1) Bumper stickers;
- (2) Commercial billboards;
- (3) Lapel pins or buttons;
- (4) Magnets;
- (5) Sports teams;
- (6) Items of clothing or apparel;
- (7) Stickers;
- (8) Calendars, with the exception of the annual District wall calendar which highlights and features photographic images of the flora and fauna, historical buildings, and landmarks within the District;
- (9) Vehicles; or
- (10) Equipment.

f. At no time during official district events, shall any Official disseminate or display political promotional material that includes the Official's name and/or image.

Effective date: This ordinance shall be in effect immediately upon adoption.

A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Degnen, to approve as amended 24-0455. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

RECREATION AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

[24-0522](#)

Sponsored by: DONNA MILLER, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION**REQUESTING A MEETING OF THE COOK COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT RECREATION & ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY PROGRAMMING**

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Cook County contains a rich of African American landmarks and historical programming such as Underground Railroad sites, African American Water Trail, Beaubien Youth Outdoor Ambassadors program and Juneteenth events to name a few; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserve District has long included African American history programming as part of its engagement and experiential learning activities with over \$125,000 spent on such activities and programming; and

WHEREAS, the programming and activities take place throughout the year, but also with a special focus during February, which is African American History month; and

WHEREAS, additionally, the Forest Preserve District is investing in infrastructure related to African American history such as the \$4 million improvement project to make the Beaubien Boat Launch site more amenable for groups to gather for Underground Railroad and other activities; and

WHEREAS, in advance of African American History month, it would be beneficial for the Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners to be apprised of planned programming and opportunities for additional investments and programming related to the substantial African American history located in and around the Forest Preserves of Cook County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forest Preserve District of the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby request that a meeting of the Recreation & Engagement Committee be convened in January 2025 to hear presentations from Forest Preserve District staff and organizations that provide African American History programming in the Forest Preserves including programming for Underground Railroad related activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that both Forest Preserve staff and such organizations be prepared to identify additional opportunities and recommendations for African American History programming and experiential learning in the Forest Preserves.

Effective Date: This Resolution shall be effective upon passage.

A motion was made by Commissioner Morrison, seconded by Commissioner Stamps, to defer 24-0522. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

NEW ITEMS

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to suspend the rules to take up new items. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[25-0002](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ITEM AMENDMENT

AMENDING RESOLUTION 23-0384 - APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE, CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES AND MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that, effective upon passage, the following Commissioners are designated and appointed as President Pro Tempore, Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Standing Committees and Subcommittees of the Board.

Section 1. The President Pro Tempore of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners shall be Commissioner Daley.

Section 2. The Chair, Vice-Chair and members of the committees and of the subcommittees of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners shall be as follows:

AUDIT (7 members)

Chair: Degnen

Vice-Chair: S. Morrison

Members: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Lowry, Miller

BOTANIC GARDEN (9 members)

Chair: Britton

Vice-Chair: Morita

Members: Anaya, Daley, ~~Deer~~, ~~Gordon~~, Moore, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Stamps

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION (9)

Chair: Miller

Vice-Chair: ~~Gordon~~

Members: Anaya, Britton, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Stamps

CONTRACT COMPLIANCE (9 members)

Chair: Miller

Vice-Chair: Quezada

Members: Anaya, ~~Deer~~, Degnen, Lowry, Moore, K. Morrison, Scott, Stamps

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY (7 members)

Chair: Degnen

Vice-Chair: Morita

Members: Britton, Miller, K. Morrison, Quezada, Trevor

FINANCE (Committee of the Whole)

Chair: ~~Lowry~~ AnayaVice-Chair: ~~Deer~~ K. Morrison

Members: All Board Members

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE ON LITIGATION (7 members)

Chair: Britton

Vice-Chair: Lowry

Members: Degnen, Morita, S. Morrison, Trevor, Stamps

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE ON WORKERS' COMPENSATION (5 members)

Chair: S. Morrison

Vice-Chair: Trevor

Members: ~~Gordon~~, Morita, Quezada

LABOR (9 members)

Chair: Anaya

Vice Chair: Quezada

Members: Aguilar, Degnen, Lowry, Miller, Moore, K. Morrison, Stamps

LAW ENFORCEMENT (~~7~~ 9 members)

Chair: Moore

Vice-Chair: Aguilar

Members: Britton, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps

LEGISLATION AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS (Committee of the Whole)

Chair: Britton

Vice-Chair: Degnen

Members: All Board Members

PENSION (7 members)

Chair: Gainer

Vice-Chair: Anaya

Members: Daley, Miller, K. Morrison, Trevor, Stamps

REAL ESTATE (Committee of the Whole)

Chair: Anaya

Vice-Chair: Moore

Members: All Board Members

RECREATION AND ENGAGEMENT (7 members)

Chair: S. Morrison

Vice-Chair: Stamps

Members: Aguilar, Anaya, Miller, K. Morrison, Quezada

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION (9 members)

Chair: Lowry

Vice-Chair: Degnen

Members: Anaya, Britton, Daley, ~~Deer~~, Miller, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott

ZOOLOGICAL (9 members)

Chair: K. Morrison

Vice-Chair: Moore

Members: Aguilar, Daley, ~~Deer~~, Miller, S. Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Trevor

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 25-0002. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Scott, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Moore (1) excused

Respectfully submitted,



Secretary

Journal #25-0141

A complete record of this meeting is available at <https://fpdcc.legistar.com>.