



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

Zoological Committee

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

9:00 AM

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

NOTICE AND AGENDA

There will be a meeting of the committee or subcommittee of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners at the date, time and location listed above.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Authorization as a public speaker shall only be granted to those individuals who have submitted in writing, their name, address, subject matter, and organization (if any) to the Secretary 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Duly authorized public speakers shall be called upon to deliver testimony at a time specified in the meeting agenda. Authorized public speakers who are not present during the specified time for public testimony will forfeit their allotted time to speak at the meeting. Public testimony must be germane to a specific item(s) on the meeting agenda, and the testimony must not exceed three minutes; the Secretary will keep track of the time and advise when the time for public testimony has expired. Persons authorized to provide public testimony shall not use vulgar, abusive, or otherwise inappropriate language when addressing the Board; failure to act appropriately; failure to speak to an item that is germane to the meeting, or failure to adhere to the time requirements may result in expulsion from the meeting and/or disqualify the person from providing future testimony.

19-0175

Sponsored by: JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A HEARING OF THE ZOOLOGICAL COMMITTEE FOR A REPORT FROM THE SENIOR STAFF OF THE CHICAGO ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY CONCERNING CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE AT BROOKFIELD ZOO

WHEREAS, in 1919, Edith Rockefeller McCormick donated 83 acres of land to the Forest Preserves of Cook County for the sole purpose of creating a large, modern zoological park. In 1921, the Chicago Zoological Society was formed at the recommendation of the Forest Preserves of Cook County to manage Brookfield Zoo, which opened its doors in 1934; and

WHEREAS, Brookfield Zoo is the most popular ticketed cultural destination in the Midwest, with over 2 million visitors every year. The zoo supports nearly 2,000 jobs and has generated over \$670 million in labor income, over \$1.5 billion in economic activity, and over \$211 million in local, state and federal tax revenues over the past 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Brookfield Zoo provides crucial community programming, including early childhood natureplay activities, an elementary and junior high science program hosted at community libraries, and a High School program focused on STEM learning and college readiness. These programs serve mainly under resources communities and reach over 4,000 individuals every year; and

WHEREAS, Brookfield Zoo is an example of a successful public-private partnership. It is owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and operated by the Chicago Zoological Society. The Zoo is an important and valuable asset of the Cook County Forest Preserve District; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Forest Preserve District annually provides \$14 million for the Chicago Zoological Society in support of its world-class operations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby request that a meeting of the Zoological Committee be convened to discuss the status of capital infrastructure at Brookfield Zoo; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a member of the senior staff of the Chicago Zoological Society appear before the Committee and be prepared to update the Committee on Brookfield Zoo's capital infrastructure.

Legislative History: 2/19/2019 FPD Board of Commissioners refer to the Zoological Committee



Secretary

Chairman: Tobolski

Vice Chairman: Moore

Members: Arroyo, Daley, Deer, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison and Silvestri