



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

Minutes of the Zoological Committee

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

9:00 AM

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

ATTENDANCE

Present: Moore, Arroyo, Daley, Miller and Silvestri (5)

Absent: Tobolski, Deer, K. Morrison and S. Morrison (4)

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Vice Chairman Moore asked the Secretary to the Board to call upon the registered public speakers, in accordance with Cook County Code, Sec. 2-107(dd)

1. Jean Franczyk - Chicago Botanic Garden
2. Stuart Strahl - Chicago Zoological Society
3. Students - North Park Elementary
4. Benjamin Cox - Friends of the Forest Preserves
5. Sam Vergara - Chicago Botanic Garden
6. Chris Gladwin - Ocient Inc
7. Nina Duenas - El Valor
8. Aaron Koch - The Trust for Public Land

9. Daniel Suarez - Audubon Great Lakes
10. Prof. Mark Templeton - Conservation Policy Council
11. Dr. Phalese Binion - Westside Ministers Coalition
12. William Miller - The Nature Conservancy
13. David Branigan - Palos Restoration Project
14. Patricia Hayes - Orland Grassland Volunteers
15. Jerry Adelman - Openlands
16. Patricia Provenzano - Friends of the Forest Preserves
17. John Spencer - Chicago Model Masters
18. Jon Quail - Friends of the Chicago River
19. Michael Diaz - Misericordia
20. Evelyn Barker - Chicago Heights, Illinois
21. Brenda Elmore - Friends of the Forest Preserve
22. Laura Stanek - Nature Exploration Academy

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.

No action taken

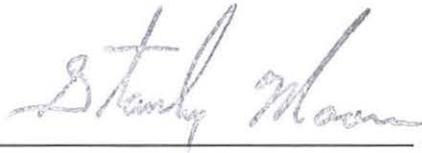
ADJOURNMENT

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

Ayes: Moore, Arroyo, Daley, Miller and Silvestri (5)

Absent: Tobolski, Deer, K. Morrison and S. Morrison (4)

Respectfully submitted,



Chairman



Secretary

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