

Written Comments For FPD Board Meeting 1/11/2022

	Name	Organization/City
1.	Campsie Grothendieck	Glenview
2.	Diane Moe	Northfield
3.	Anita Mandell	Glenview
4.	Susan Walker	Evanston
5.	Alyse Cohen Burman	The Wildbird Shack
6.	Jodie Wiederkehr	Chicago Alliance for Animals (CAA)
7.	Susan Kelly	Northfield
8.	Karleen McAllester	Wilmette
9.	Barbara A. Weiner	Chicago

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 06, 2022 11:07:42 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 06, 2022 11:13:31 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:48
IP Address: 73.209.197.146

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Campsie Grothendieck
City/Town: Glenview
State: IL
ZIP: 60025

Q2

FPD Board of Commissioners Meeting 1/11/2022 10a

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

Q3

Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

Request for the River Trails Nature Center coyote to be transferred to a more humane living condition in a Sanctuary.

Q4

REGISTER IN FAVOR of a specific item (You may add written comments below)

What do you want to do?

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

I am requesting the caged coyote be allowed to be transferred to a more humane condition which would be the animal Sanctuary in Colorado. This would be at no cost to the residents of Cook County.

Q6

Submitting written testimony only

Please Indicate if you are only submitting written testimony or if you wish to address the Committee live (virtually) at the meeting.

Q7

If requesting to address the Committee live (virtually), please provide an email address and phone number (This is required to receive and an invitation to the virtual meeting).

Email Address

campsienp@netscape.net

Phone Number

8474860813

#2

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 06, 2022 11:48:44 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 06, 2022 11:52:30 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:45
IP Address: 174.216.81.116

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Diane Moe
City/Town: Northfield
State: IL
ZIP: 60093

Q2

FPD Board of Commissioners Meeting 1/11/2022 10a

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

Q3

Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

Transfer of River Trails coyote to a sanctuary.

Q4

REGISTER IN FAVOR of a specific item (You may add written comments below)

What do you want to do?

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

This animal is in so much distress in his current environment. It's heartbreaking to watch him suffer...the endless pacing, nowhere to get away. Please end his suffering, do what's right and send him to a sanctuary. Allow him to engage in natural behaviors.

Q6

Submitting written testimony only

Please Indicate if you are only submitting written testimony or if you wish to address the Committee live (virtually) at the meeting.

Q7

Respondent skipped this question

If requesting to address the Committee live (virtually), please provide an email address and phone number (This is required to receive and an invitation to the virtual meeting).

#3

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 07, 2022 9:01:09 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 07, 2022 9:04:21 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:11
IP Address: 73.210.205.84

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Anita Mandell
City/Town: Glenview
State: IL
ZIP: 60025

Q2

FPD Board of Commissioners Meeting 1/11/2022 10a

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

Q4

REGISTER IN FAVOR of a specific item (You may add written comments below)

What do you want to do?

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

I support transfer of the coyote to a sanctuary to live in more human conditions. We should not continue current inhumane living arrangements.

Q6

Submitting written testimony only

Please Indicate if you are only submitting written testimony or if you wish to address the Committee live (virtually) at the meeting.

Q7

Respondent skipped this question

If requesting to address the Committee live (virtually), please provide an email address and phone number (This is required to receive and an invitation to the virtual meeting).

#4

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 07, 2022 2:17:57 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 07, 2022 2:19:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:14
IP Address: 24.12.194.200

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Susan Walker
City/Town: Evanston
State: IL
ZIP: 60202

Q2

FPD Board of Commissioners Meeting 1/11/2022 10a

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

Q3

Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

Q4

REGISTER IN FAVOR of a specific item (You may add written comments below)

What do you want to do?

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

Please transfer the coyote to a refuge.

Q6 **Submitting written testimony only**

Please Indicate if you are only submitting written testimony or if you wish to address the Committee live (virtually) at the meeting.

Q7 **Respondent skipped this question**

If requesting to address the Committee live (virtually), please provide an email address and phone number (This is required to receive and an invitation to the virtual meeting).

#5

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, January 09, 2022 4:32:00 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, January 09, 2022 4:44:52 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:52
IP Address: 98.206.252.156

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Alyse Cohen Burman
Organization (if any): The Wildbird Shack
City/Town: Mt. Prospect
State: IL
ZIP: 60056

Q2

FPD Board of Commissioners Meeting 1/11/2022 10a

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

Q3

Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

none

Q4

PROVIDE WRITTEN COMMENT FOR INFORMATION ONLY (You may add written comments below)

What do you want to do?

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

January 11, 2022

Cook County President and Commissioners:

Thank you to the Cook County Forest Preserves and especially Michele Mottlowitz and her exceptional staff at River Trail Nature Center for all they do to preserve our natural wonders.

The Wildbird Shack and River Trail Nature Center have worked side by side for 6 years to bring educational programs to many of my customers which includes: schools, retirement communities, memory care facilities, garden clubs and local libraries. It is extremely gratifying to watch a student become awed by a close up view of an owl or kestrel. Or, an individual with dementia able to touch the feathers of a hawk or see the skull of a bald eagle. This engagement has been a priceless gift when a non responsive individual smiles. The benefits River Trail and all of the Cook County Forest Nature Preserves offer are a marvel.

At the beginning of the pandemic, the River Trail Nature Center was a sanctuary for many of my customers and myself as well. Walking on the paths and identifying with nature, listening to birds and the animals that call River Trail their home, was a way to release anxiety. Becoming one with nature saved many people from a deep depression.

There are not enough words to express my appreciation for Michele Mottlowitz, and her most dedicated staff of Naturalists. Their professionalism and respect for the animals has brought the joy of nature to my customers. River Trail Nature Center is an amazing oasis with an incredible staff. This group, without a doubt, has brought new breath and depth to our educational programs and the beauty of birds.

All the best,

Alyse Cohen Burman

Alyse Cohen Burman
The Wildbird Shack
Owner

854 E. Northwest Highway, Mt. Prospect IL 60056 - www.wildbirdshack.com
847-873-0409 - alyse@wildbirdshack.com

Q6

Submitting written testimony only

Please Indicate if you are only submitting written testimony or if you wish to address the Committee live (virtually) at the meeting.

Q7

If requesting to address the Committee live (virtually), please provide an email address and phone number (This is required to receive and an invitation to the virtual meeting).

Email Address

alyse@wildbirdshack.com

Phone Number

847-561-9279

#6

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, January 09, 2022 5:07:46 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, January 09, 2022 5:20:33 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:47
IP Address: 76.198.24.252

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Jodie Wiederkehr
Organization (if any):	Chicago Alliance for Animals (CAA)
City/Town:	Chicago
State:	IL
ZIP:	60645

Q2

FPD Board of Commissioners Meeting 1/11/2022 10a

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

Q4

REGISTER IN FAVOR of a specific item (You may add written comments below)

What do you want to do?

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

On behalf of the Chicago Alliance for Animals (CAA) more than 3000 members, I'm urging you to please use your power to release Rocky, the coyote, from the River Trail Nature Center and allow him to go to the sanctuary, that has offered to rescue him, anesthetize him for travel and rehabilitate him - all at \$0 cost to taxpayers. Thank you very much for your time and consideration. Best, Jodie Wiederkehr, Founder and Executive Director, CAA

Q6

Submitting written testimony only

Please Indicate if you are only submitting written testimony or if you wish to address the Committee live (virtually) at the meeting.

Q7

If requesting to address the Committee live (virtually), please provide an email address and phone number (This is required to receive and an invitation to the virtual meeting).

Email Address

ChicagoAllianceForAnimals@gmail.com

Phone Number

773-726-0589

#7

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, January 09, 2022 5:57:20 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, January 09, 2022 6:03:26 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:05
IP Address: 73.9.13.1

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Susan Kelly
City/Town: Northfield
State: IL
ZIP: 60093

Q2

FPD Board of Commissioners Meeting 1/11/2022 10a

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

Q4

PROVIDE WRITTEN COMMENT FOR INFORMATION ONLY (You may add written comments below)

What do you want to do?

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the proclamation that was submitted by Commissioner Britton at the November meeting in memoriam of my late husband, William Kelly. It was meaningful to our family that his life of service to Cook County was recognized before you.

I'm writing today not only as a citizen of Cook County, but as an educator who has worked in tandem with the staff at River Trails Nature Center in Northbrook for over 20 years to educate children and families using the Mighty Acorns Program. In 1999, East Prairie obtained a grant to begin an outdoor education program, working with staff at the Chicago Botanic Gardens and at River Trails Nature Center. Since 2011, our Mighty Acorns programming has taken place at the nature center in Northbrook. I have arranged multiple visits per year for third, fourth and fifth graders from East Prairie along with parent and adult volunteers. As such, our school has visited River Trails 54 times for a total of over 3000 individual visits. Naturalists from RTNC have also come to East Prairie for educational visits, and during the pandemic, we have even zoomed for educational programming. As an educator, I also wrote a letter in support of a grant that the naturalists at RTNC wrote and obtained.

Additionally, my oldest two sons completed their Eagle Scout Projects at River Trails and two of my younger children completed the Junior Naturalist Program there.

Having a local nature center dedicated to education is invaluable. Many of the students in my school have never been to the forest or seen native animals such as eagles, hawks, owls and coyote prior to our visits. Seeing live animals firsthand sparks students' interest in animals and local ecosystems in ways that would not be possible by simply reading books or science materials. Nature Center staff rehab and care for animals who are unable to be released into the wild. The animals at River Trails are treated humanely, responsibly, and ethically. Staff follow guidelines established by the USDA and the state of Illinois in the rehab and daily care of the animals at the nature center. Never have I had concerns about the staff or facilities at River Trails Nature Center, and of the thousands of people I have brought to the nature center on field trips or sent by personal recommendations, I have never heard any concerns about the treatment of the animals under the care of the naturalists.

We are fortunate to have such an amazing facility in Cook County to further the education of our students.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Q6

Submitting written testimony only

Please Indicate if you are only submitting written testimony or if you wish to address the Committee live (virtually) at the meeting.

Q7

Respondent skipped this question

If requesting to address the Committee live (virtually), please provide an email address and phone number (This is required to receive an invitation to the virtual meeting).

#8

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 10, 2022 8:58:38 AM
Last Modified: Monday, January 10, 2022 8:59:47 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:09
IP Address: 73.176.247.4

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Karleen McAllester
Organization (if any):	-
City/Town:	Wilmette
State:	IL
ZIP:	60091

Q2

FPD Board of Commissioners Meeting 1/11/2022 10a

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

Q4

PROVIDE WRITTEN COMMENT FOR INFORMATION ONLY (You may add written comments below)

What do you want to do?

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

Please do the right thing. The coyote on display in a small cage at the River Trail Nature Center in Northbrook should be sent to the Wild Animal Sanctuary outside Keenesburg, Colorado.

There are no good reasons to keep a coyote in a cage:

Children today are educated and aware--they're sad to see improperly caged animals.

Showing children there's nothing to worry about coyotes is a bad idea--

the last thing we need is someone trying to pet a coyote.

Where is the concern for the animal itself? Coyotes need a lot of territory and pack socialization.

Cook County does not need a coyote in a cage to see a coyote. Anyone who visits FPD will see a coyote in its natural habitat. I have.

Coyotes even live in Chicago and have raised pups in parking garages.

Please take action and send this coyote to a more appropriate habitat.

Q6

Submitting written testimony only

Please Indicate if you are only submitting written testimony or if you wish to address the Committee live (virtually) at the meeting.

Q7

If requesting to address the Committee live (virtually), please provide an email address and phone number (This is required to receive and an invitation to the virtual meeting).

Email Address

karleensm@gmail.com

Phone Number

847-644-2524

Barbara A. Weiner
175 N. Harbor Drive
Unit 1803
Chicago, IL 60601

January 10, 2022

To: Cook County Board of Commissioners Regarding Forest Preserve Meeting re River Trail Nature Center Keeping the Coyote on January 11, 2022

I am sorry I was not given the opportunity to speak to the Board on behalf of Chicago Nature Seekers. In 2017 I created the Chicago Nature Seekers. This program is designed to introduce underserved children to nature. Since 2017 I have worked with about 10 underserved schools and brought more than 1000 children to River Trails and other nature centers to learn about nature. This year, in October and November I brought 400 3rd and 4th grade students out in spite of COVID, for a wonderful field trip. My students live in areas where the parks have been closed for most of the pandemic. They have not had field trips or hardly any coordinated outdoor experiences. The trip to River Trails is one they will remember for the rest of their life—they learned so much and were out in nature.

All children need to experience nature, but especially children in urban areas really need this kind of experience and access. They can't look out their windows and see deer or even squirrels. They need to see live animals and be told why they should care about them and their environment.

Those who object to the care given the coyote at River Trail need to come out on one of our Chicago Nature Seekers trips, and listen to the naturalists explain how the coyote got there, how they care for it, and why protecting coyotes is important. Hearing the love from the Rangers, and then watching the children watch the coyote with amazement and asking questions is what makes it worth it for me to fund these adventures. The children learn to appreciate the importance of protecting animals. My students are required to send thank you notes to tell me what they liked or didn't like about the nature trip. (They always like everything). Many of them specifically mention the coyote. They learn why this coyote can't live alone in the woods anymore and how the staff play with him and make sure he is well cared for.

Having live animals be it snakes, turtles, disabled hawks, the coyote or anything else introduces the children to real animals and the importance of making sure we don't destroy their habitats. One of my goals in creating Chicago Nature Seekers is in the hopes that I will help create a group of people who when they become adults will care about the environment and work to assure it is protected.

The Forest Preserve Nature Centers always include live animals. This is why I bring these underserved children to your wonderful centers. They get to have an outdoor experience that also includes live animals as well as great naturalists and wonderful exhibits. In the

same way that the hawk and eagles who can no longer live on their own are cared for at River Trails, the coyote is such a valuable animal for a learning experience.

Please don't let some group that doesn't truly understand the impact of having an enclosed coyote who is well cared for, and would be dead if left on its own, ruin the educational opportunity that really enhances the experience of these Cook County children to recognize that they can appreciate nature and their behavior can make a difference in how our environment is protected.

Please go to Chicagonatureseekers.org to see some of the children enjoying the wonderful facilities you have. When things hopefully are better in the Spring we would be honored to have you come to our programs and watch with delight the sheer amazement and joy of these elementary school children in discovering nature. Please don't let the misguided concern for the coyote of a few people ruin the incredibly amazing educational experience of hundreds of children.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Weiner