



CONSENT CALENDAR AGENDA

**Meeting of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners
County Board Room, County Building
Wednesday, February 11, 2015 10:00 A.M.**

CONSENT CALENDAR

15-0169

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

**FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION HONORING JENS JENSEN AND DWIGHT HEALD PERKINS**

WHEREAS, on February 11, 2015, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) is pleased to honor Mr. Jens Jensen and Mr. Dwight Heald Perkins for their extraordinary vision more than 100 years ago in creating the nation’s first forest preserve system dedicated to conservation. Mr. Jensen and Mr. Perkins strove to ensure that the residents of Cook County would forever have access to nature and the natural and cultural history that the Forest Preserves protect; and

WHEREAS, Dwight Heald Perkins and Jens Jensen prepared an open space plan that laid the groundwork for the formation of the Forest Preserves of Cook County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Perkins and Mr. Jensen tirelessly promoted the concept of the forest preserves and generated tremendous public support for the Forest Preserves through such organizations as the *Saturday Afternoon Walking Club* that promoted the exploration of wilderness, the benefits of spending time in nature, and camaraderie; and

WHEREAS, Jens Jensen became one of the most revered landscape architects who promoted the appreciation and use of native plants and Dwight Heald Perkins became a nationally known architect and planner; and

WHEREAS, both of these men serve as role models for all who seek to create resilient and healthy communities that benefit all living creatures; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Arnold L. Randall, General Superintendent, and Toni Preckwinkle, President, and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners, hereby thank and congratulate Dwight Heald Perkins and Jens Jensen for their vision and tenacity to create the Forest Preserve District and thus to protect nature for the benefit of the plants, animals, and people of this region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to the Jens Jensen and Dwight Heald Perkins' descendants as a token of appreciation for Dwight Heald Perkin's and Jens Jensen's service to the Forest Preserves and the citizens of Cook County.

Approved and adopted this 11th day of February, 2015.

15-0157

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE RECEIPT OF PLATINUM ACCREDITATION THROUGH THE 2014 EXCELLENCE IN ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROGRAM FOR BLUFF SPRING FEN

WHEREAS, Bluff Spring Fen located within the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") has received Platinum Accreditation through Chicago Wilderness' Excellence in Ecological Restoration Program ("EERP"); and

WHEREAS, Bluff Spring Fen, a 165-acre preserve located in the City of Elgin in northwest Cook County, holds a diverse community of native plants and wildlife, including 12 species listed as threatened or endangered in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, platinum is the highest level that can be bestowed on a site and is given to celebrate and accredit managing organizations for high-quality restoration and impact on the ground; and

WHEREAS, the EERP is designed to recognize high-quality restoration sites and develop professional standards of excellence in natural resource management and ecological restoration; and

WHEREAS, the primary purpose of the EERP is to promote best management practices in order to improve ecological restoration efforts in the Chicago region and across the nation; and

WHEREAS, participation in the EERP provides agencies with opportunities for self-assessment and to demonstrate on the ground commitment to Chicago Wilderness' Biodiversity Recovery Plan; and

WHEREAS, the EERP outlines professional standards for both internal and external comparisons, thereby raising the credibility for agencies engaged in restoring sites; and

WHEREAS, Bluff Spring Fen is made up of a patchwork of unique natural features including dry gravel prairie, mesic black soil prairie, bur oak savanna, fen, sedge meadow and marsh; and

WHEREAS, Bluff Spring Fen has been dedicated as a State Nature Preserve by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission since 1987; and

WHEREAS, Bluff Spring Fen has benefitted from extensive volunteer participation by the Friends of Bluff Spring Fen; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves does hereby acknowledge this prestigious award and the Forest Preserves' steadfast commitment to protect and restore our region's significant natural resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the Friends of Bluff Spring Fen as a token of appreciation for their service.

15-0158

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE RECEIPT OF THREE (3) 2014 CONSERVATION AND NATIVE LANDSCAPING AWARDS

WHEREAS, the Conservation and Native Landscaping Awards recognize projects within the Chicago region that demonstrate exemplary use of native landscaping, ecosystem restoration, and conservation design; and

WHEREAS, these practices create and protect habitat for a variety of native plant and animal species and result in important environmental benefits for both people and nature; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) has won Conservation and Native Landscaping awards for the following sites: Bartel Grassland, Grand Army of the Republic and Thomas Jefferson Woods, and Somme Nature Preserve; and

WHEREAS, Bartel Grassland, a 585 acre preserve located in the Village of Matteson in southern Cook County, has benefitted from over 10 years of restoration and partial restoration of hydrology to convert former agricultural field to grassland; and

WHEREAS, Bartel Grassland is now home to an increasing variety of native plant species, and serves as valuable breeding habitat for migratory grassland birds; and

WHEREAS, Bartel Grassland has been designated as an Illinois Land And Water Reserve since 2003; and

WHEREAS, Bartel Grassland has benefitted from extensive volunteer stewardship under the leadership of Dick Riner; and

WHEREAS, Grand Army of the Republic and Thomas Jefferson Woods are a part of the Thatcher Woods Complex in the Village of River Forest in central Cook County; and

WHEREAS, Grand Army of the Republic and Thomas Jefferson Woods represent a cross-section of the Des Plaines River Valley and features high-quality examples of remnant floodplain forests, savannas and prairies; and

WHEREAS, Grand Army of the Republic and Thomas Jefferson Woods have been subjected to extensive invasive species removal, opening the savanna to sunlight and activating dormant seeds; and

WHEREAS, Victor and Jean Guarino have dedicated significant volunteer hours to these restoration efforts; and

WHEREAS, Somme Nature Preserve is an oasis of remnant black soil prairie surrounded by degraded natural space; and

WHEREAS, following restoration efforts initiated in the 1970’s, the diversity of plant and animal life at Somme Nature Preserve has rebounded, and in the last three years more intensive restoration has been conducted to expand the prairie; and

WHEREAS, Somme Nature Preserve has benefitted from extensive volunteer stewardship under the leadership of Christiane Rey and Laurel Ross; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves does hereby recognize the receipt of these awards, and the significant contributions that have been made by all parties towards the preservation and restoration of these remarkable sites; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Dick Riner, Victor Guarino, Jean Guarino, Christiane Rey, and Laurel Ross as a token of appreciation for their service...end

15-0156

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

EXPLORE THE FOREST ACTIVITY BOOK, A CENTENNIAL LEGACY PROJECT

WHEREAS, The Forest Preserve District of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) is celebrating its 100th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves developed a Centennial Campaign Plan that included as one of its goals to inspire new people and groups to visit the Forest Preserves; and

WHEREAS, one of the outcomes of that plan was to develop a children’s book to serve as an entry point to the Forest Preserves; and

WHEREAS, The Forest Preserves’ Conservation and Experiential Programming Department worked with Loyola University’s Center for Science and Math Education’s Dr. Linda C. Brazdil, Ph.D., to create a student internship project to create and design a unique activity book for the Forest Preserves; and

WHEREAS, Loyola University student Gretchen Dausch participated in the internship program and worked with staff from the Nature Centers and other programming areas to determine the book’s content; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Dausch drew and designed 24 pages of “Explore the Forest: an Activity Book Celebrating the Forest Preserves of Cook County”; and

WHEREAS, the activity book will be given out to youth and families at the Forest Preserves’ permits office, at information and health fairs and at other activities as a tool to lead youth and families to take advantage of the many offerings at the Forest Preserves; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves does hereby thank Loyola University, Dr. Brazdil and Ms. Dausch for their work on completing the Activity Book and this specific Centennial Legacy Project with this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be memorialized and sent or given to Loyola, Dr. Brazdil and Ms. Dausch.