



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

**Journal of Proceedings of the FPD Board of Commissioners**

**10:00 AM**

**Tuesday, June 10, 2025**

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

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Present:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison,  
S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

**25-0212**

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**CELEBRATING THE CAREER AND HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF MARTIN HASLER**

**WHEREAS**, on March 7, 1983, Martin (Marty) Hasler was sworn in as patrol officer for the City of Berwyn, Illinois and over the next thirty (30) years, moved up the ranks from Detective, to Sergeant, to Watch Commander, to Division Commander; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2013, Marty worked as a Law Enforcement Professional with Engility Corporation and was deployed to Afghanistan where he trained the United States Army and the Afghan National Army on law enforcement-based operations; and

**WHEREAS**, upon returning from Afghanistan, Marty joined the Forest Preserves of Cook County in 2014 as Deputy Commander for the Department of Law Enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, as Deputy Commander, Marty supervised sergeants and officers, managed the Field Training Program, conducted Internal Affairs Investigations and served as the Command Staff Supervisor of the FPCC-PD Investigations Unit. He managed law enforcement support for the Forest Preserves' biggest events, including Maple Syrup Festival, Fall Festival, Freese Memorial Paddle, Des Plaines Canoe and Kayak Marathon, Share the Trails, Native American Pow Wow, Jewish Festival, World's Largest Stepper Event, Ragnar Relay Race, and Elk Grove Village Bike Club Pit-Stops; and

**WHEREAS**, Marty led a years-long effort to update all Forest Preserves' law enforcement policies and procedures and handled this difficult process with a steady hand and an open mind, listening carefully and balancing a broad range of concerns to ensure that officers have the information they need to act professionally and fairly while protecting district lands and keeping visitors safe; and

**WHEREAS**, Marty helped launch and build the Trail Watch program that trains volunteers to be a visible presence and make visitors to the preserves feel safe and welcome; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to serving as the Forest Preserves' representative to the City of Chicago Hate Crime Coalition, Marty was also a founding member of the Forest Preserves' Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (REDI) Committee and later helped establish the Police REDI team; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2021, Marty was promoted to First Deputy Chief of Police for the Forest Preserves' Department of Law Enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout his tenure, Marty helped build a culture of trust between the Forest Preserves' police and residents visiting the preserves. In an annual survey conducted by Penn & Associates, visitors to the forest preserves are asked to rate police based on their knowledge, professionalism, and whether they are easy to approach, helpful and friendly and customers consistently give very positive ratings to the Forest Preserves' police; and

**WHEREAS**, after forty (40) years of honorable public service, on May 30, 2025, Marty Hasler retired as the First Deputy Chief of Police for the Forest Preserves of Cook County; and

**WHEREAS**, in the words of Chief of Police, Theresa Odum, "We thank Marty for the positive impact he has had on the Forest Preserves and for his devotion and service to the people of Cook County. We wish him a long and happy retirement."

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that President, Toni Preckwinkle, along with the members of the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners, and on behalf of all citizens of Cook County, do hereby thank Marty Hasler on a long career of public service and thank him for his many contributions to the Forest Preserves of Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to Marty Hasler in recognition of his career, contributions to the Forest Preserves of Cook County and his commitment to public service.

**A motion was made by Commissioner K. Morrison, seconded by Commissioner Aguilar, to approve on the Consent Agenda 25-0212. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

**25-0230**

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**RECOGNIZING SHEDD AQUARIUM FOR RECEIVING AN OUTSTANDING SUPPORT ORGANIZATION AWARD FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION OFFICIALS**

**WHEREAS**, in June 2025, Shedd Aquarium (Shedd) was honored with an Outstanding Support Organization award from the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials that recognizes organizations that make a significant contribution to benefit park and recreation programs, facilities, operations, or organizational support; and

**WHEREAS**, Shedd, a world-renowned aquarium, research and conservation institution and long-time partner of the Forest Preserves of Cook County (Forest Preserves), was recognized for its efforts to protect, restore, and research freshwater ecosystems with the Forest Preserves and to develop environmental education opportunities for visitors, local communities, and students of all ages; and

**WHEREAS**, Shedd biologists monitor and study the health and populations of frogs, salamanders, turtles and mussels and other wetlands species who make the forest preserves their home, in order to help guide conservation efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, Shedd has been instrumental in the protection of native animals, including the Illinois state endangered Blanding's turtle, working in partnership with the Forest Preserves to successfully rear baby Blanding's hatchlings for their eventual release within the forest preserves; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of the Forest Preserves' ecological stewardship program, Shedd's adoption of Bob Mann Woods and Skokie Lagoons has helped remove invasive species allowing amphibian populations to recover; and

**WHEREAS**, Shedd is dedicated to building a community of support for wetland habitats and the plants and animals that depend on them by recruiting and providing support to new volunteers, developing volunteer leaders, and leading volunteer workdays; and

**WHEREAS**, Shedd engages high school and college students in the study of biodiversity at Forest Preserves' sites where they learn to identify invasive species and the impact they have on these habitats and wildlife populations; and

**WHEREAS**, Shedd's public engagement and outreach efforts encourage people to make changes in their daily lives to reduce plastic pollution and to limit the flow of plastics into our region's waterways ; and

**WHEREAS**, Shedd through its exhibit spaces and programs, highlights the importance of protecting the Great Lakes, our local species and the habitats they depend on; and

**WHEREAS**, Shedd generously shares expertise and resources through collaborative projects with the Forest Preserves that improve the health of our local watersheds, our native flora and fauna and actively engages residents to care for the forest preserves; and

**WHEREAS**, Shedd is deserving of this award because of their commitment to collaborative conservation and to protecting some of the region’s most vulnerable and fragile ecosystems and wildlife.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, and the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County thank and congratulate Shedd Aquarium for receiving Outstanding Support Organization Award from the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to Shedd Aquarium as a token of appreciation for their service to the Forest Preserves of Cook County and the residents of Cook County.

**A motion was made by Commissioner K. Morrison, seconded by Commissioner Aguilar, to approve the Consent Agenda 25-0230. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

**Daisy Feidt, Conservation and Policy Counsel**

**PRESIDENT**

**25-0237**

**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)~~ (11)

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 (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 Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Daley to suspend the rules for Ordinance Amendment 25-0237.**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya , seconded by Commissioner McCaskill, that this Ordinance Amendment be approve. The motion carried by a voice vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

25-0236

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

**PROPOSED PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ITEM AMENDMENT**

**AMENDING RESOLUTION 25-0083 - 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, Moore, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Stamps, Trevor

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION (9 members)

Chair: Miller

Vice-Chair: Trevor

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

CONTRACT COMPLIANCE (9 11 members)

Chair: Miller

Vice-Chair: ~~Quezada~~ McCaskill

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

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY (7 members)

Chair: Degnen

Vice-Chair: Morita

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

FINANCE (Committee of the Whole)

Chair:Anaya

Vice-Chair: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:McCaskill, Morita, ~~Quezada~~ Vásquez

LABOR (9 members)

Chair:Anaya

Vice Chair:~~Quezada~~ Stamps

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

LAW ENFORCEMENT (9 members)

Chair:Moore

Vice-Chair:Aguilar

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

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~~ Vásquez

**RULES AND ADMINISTRATION (9 members)**

Chair:Lowry

Vice-Chair:Degnen

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

**ZOOLOGICAL (9 members)**

Chair:K. Morrison

Vice-Chair:Moore

Members:Aguilar, Daley, McCaskill, Miller, S. Morrison, ~~Quezada~~, Scott, Vásquez

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner McCaskill, to approve 25-0236. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

**25-0221**

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

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE**

**AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE A FOREST PRESERVE NEAR CERMAK WOODS**

**AN ORDINANCE CREATING A FOREST PRESERVE** in part of Section 36, Township 39 North, Range 12, East of the Third Principal Meridian, all in Cook County, Illinois near Cermak Woods in District 16.

**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; and

**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 a 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:

3850 Columbus Blvd, Unincorporated Riverside Township, Cook County, Illinois

LOT 10 IN BLOCK 5 IN RIVERSIDE LAWN, BEING A SUBDIVISION IN SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 39 NORTH, RANGE 12, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

PIN: 15-36-310-012-0000

SAID PARCEL CONTAINING 6,098 SQUARE FEET, OR 0.14 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 16.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to refer 25-0221 to the Real Estate Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**PROPOSED PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE**

**Department(s):** Legal Department

**Other Part(ies):** 3850 Columbus LLC (Owner of Record)

**Request:** It is respectfully requested that this proposed purchase be approved.

**Description of Real Estate:** 3850 Columbus Blvd, Unincorporated Riverside Township, Cook County, Illinois

**Section:** N/A

**Parcel(s):** PIN: 15-36-310-012-0000

LOT 10 IN BLOCK 5 IN RIVERSIDE LAWN, BEING A SUBDIVISION IN SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 39 NORTH, RANGE 12, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

SAID PARCEL CONTAINING 6,098 SQUARE FEET, OR 0.14 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

**Fiscal Impact:** \$130,000.00 purchase price plus closing costs up to \$10,000.00 (up to \$140,000.00 in total).

**Accounts:** Real Estate and Land Acquisition Fund 51006.560010

**District(s):** 16

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) has identified a parcel of land for acquisition that would add to the Forest Preserves’ current holdings near Cermak Woods (the “Property”). The Property, commonly known as 3850 Columbus Blvd, Unincorporated Riverside Township, Cook County, Illinois, consists of approximately 0.14 ± acres.

Through negotiations, the Owner of Record (the “Seller”), has agreed to sell the Property to the Forest Preserves for the sum of ONE HUNDRED THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$130,000.00) plus closing costs up to \$10,000.00 (up to \$140,000.00 in total). The purchase price is based upon two (2) M.A.I. appraisals obtained by the Forest Preserves and is subject to the Forest Preserves’ satisfactory completion of its due diligence.

Permission is now sought, upon satisfactory completion of all due diligence and negotiation of any and all required documentation as determined by the Forest Preserves Legal Department, to effectuate payment in the amount of the purchase price plus closing costs as full compensation for the acquisition of the Property.

This land acquisition advances the goals of the Forest Preserves' Land Acquisition Plan, and Acquisition and Disposition of Land Position Paper.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to refer 25-0222 to the Real Estate Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

**25-0213**

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

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

FEE SCHEDULE

**BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners, that Schedule 22 of the Annual Appropriation Ordinance for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County for the year commencing January 1, 2025 is hereby amended as follows:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Discount Hourly Rate</u>
Row Boat	\$30	\$25
Single Kayak	\$25	<del>\$20</del> <u>\$22.50</u>
Tandem Kayak	\$35	<del>\$30</del> <u>\$31.50</u>
Canoe	\$30	\$25
<del>Electric Motor Boat</del>	<del>\$30</del>	<del>\$25</del>
<u>Pedal Boat</u>	<u>\$30</u>	<u>\$27</u>
<u>Fishing Boat with</u>	<u>\$35</u>	<u>\$31.50</u>

Battery and Trolling Motor

\*Discount days apply to Mondays during the season

\*Veterans, students and seniors, with proper documentation, may qualify for a reduced rate of 10% on stated Boat House rental fees only at the Maple Lake Boathouse.

\*Fees listed above represent not to exceed fees that the District's vendor may charge

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

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to refer 25-0213 to the Finance Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

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

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

AMENDMENT TO ETHICS ORDINANCE

**BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners, that Title 1 - Administrative, Chapter 13 - Code of Ethical Conduct, Sections 1-13-1 and 1-13-2 of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Code of Ordinances are hereby amended as Follows:

**1-13-1: DEFINITIONS.**

**1-13-2: CODE OF CONDUCT.**

Click for full text: <https://bit.ly/25-0196>

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

**A motion was made by Commissioner Degnen, seconded by Commissioner Anaya, to refer 25-0196 to the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

**COMMISSIONERS**

**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT**

**25-0216**

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF AN ADDITION TO BUSSE FOREST NATURE PRESERVE**

**WHEREAS**, on May 13, 2025, at the 250th meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, a 767-acre expansion of Busse Forest Nature Preserve was approved for dedication and registration as an Illinois Nature Preserve; and

**WHEREAS**, dedication of a site as a nature preserve provides the highest level of protection for land in Illinois, and is granted only to natural areas of exceptional ecological or cultural significance; and

**WHEREAS**, this dedication and registration expands the boundaries of the existing 446-acre Busse Forest Nature Preserve by 493 acres, and adds 274 acres of adjacent buffer to the site located in Elk Grove Village in northwest Cook County; and

**WHEREAS**, Busse Forest Nature Preserve was first dedicated in 1965 as Illinois' third nature preserve, and with these additions is now recognized as the 7th largest nature preserve in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the site consists of high-quality remnant mesic upland forest, dry-mesic woodland, northern flatwoods, and freshwater marsh. Subtle changes in topography foster an intermingling of these natural communities which support immense biological diversity, including over two hundred seventy-five (275) species of native plants; and

**WHEREAS**, authority to submit this addition for registration was granted by the Board of Commissioners on April 16, 2024 per Board Item No. 24-0169 pursuant to Section 9 of the Cook County Forest Preserve District Act (70 ILCS 810/9); and

**WHEREAS**, with this addition the Forest Preserves of Cook County currently owns and manages twenty-seven (27) dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves and six (6) Land and Water Reserves totaling approximately 11,735 acres; and

**WHEREAS**, expansion of Busse Forest Nature Preserve advances the goal set forth in the Next Century Conservation Plan to dedicate and register 20,000 acres of eligible lands for Illinois Nature Preserve protection.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby acknowledge the dedication and protection of this addition to Busse Forest Nature Preserve, and the Forest Preserves of Cook County's steadfast commitment to protect and restore our region's significant natural resources.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Trevor, to approve 25-0216. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

**25-0233**

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY BOARD RESOLUTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS)**

**WHEREAS**, in 2003, Homeland Security Directive (HSPD)-5 directed the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to develop and administer a National Incident Management System (NIMS), which would provide a consistent nationwide approach for Federal, State, and local governments to work together more effectively and efficiently to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size or complexity; and

**WHEREAS**, the collective input and guidance from all Federal, State, and local homeland security partners has been, and will continue to be, vital to the development, effective implementation and utilization of a comprehensive NIMS; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary and desirable that all Federal, State, and local emergency agencies and personnel coordinate their efforts to effectively and efficiently provide the highest levels of incident management; and

**WHEREAS**, to facilitate the most efficient and effective incident management it is critical that Federal, State, and local organizations utilize standardized terminology, standardized organizational structures, interoperable communications, consolidated action plans, unified command structures, uniform personnel qualification standards, uniform standards for planning, training, and exercising, comprehensive resource management, and designated incident facilities during emergencies or disasters; and

**WHEREAS**, the NIMS standardized procedures for managing personnel, communications, facilities and resources will improve the Forest Preserves of Cook County's ("Forest Preserves") ability to utilize federal funding to enhance local agency readiness, maintain first responder safety, and streamline incident management processes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Incident Command System components of NIMS are already an integral part of various Forest Preserves' management activities, including current emergency management training programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks (9-11 Commission) recommended adoption of a standardized Incident Command System; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County uses NIMS pursuant to Cook County Resolution 05-R-464.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners, that the National Incident Management System (NIMS) is established as the Forest Preserves' standard for incident management.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Trevor, to approve 25-0233. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

**Request:** Requesting authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into a Partnership Agreement with the American Fisheries Society, Bethesda, Maryland.

**Reason:** The proposed agreement will authorize the Forest Preserves to participate in the American Fisheries Society’s Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program, a paid summer internship and mentoring initiative that recruits high school students from underrepresented backgrounds to engage in fisheries science and aquatic resource management. The 8-week summer program will provide an intern the opportunity to get hands-on experience alongside Forest Preserves fisheries biologists to manage lakes and fish populations in Cook County. Said intern will receive hands-on training in ecological restoration, monitoring, data collection, and analysis while exploring careers in fisheries conservation. The American Fisheries Society will recruit the interns for the program, while the Forest Preserves staff will supervise their daily programmatic activities.

**Contract Period:** Date of execution - 12/31/2027

**Fiscal Impact:** Not to exceed \$13,500.00 (\$4,500.00 per calendar year)

**Account(s):** Professional Services 51036.520840; Grant and Mitigation 51010.521314 and 51010.521444; and all future Professional Services accounts

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

**District(s):** Districtwide

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Trevor, to approve 25-0235. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

**25-0183**

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CONTRACT**

**Department(s):** Department of Facilities and Fleet

**Vendor:** Atlas Bobcat, LLC, Elk Grove Village, Illinois

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

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Two (2) T770 T4 Bobcat Compact Track Loader 44 with options

**Contract Value:** \$147,702.15

**Contract Period:** One-time purchase

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2025 \$147,702.15

**Accounts:** ARPA 51032.560265; and Construction and Development 51031.560105

**Contract Number(s):** #7400016289

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

Piggyback contract based on a Cooperative Procurement Agreement with no MWBE participation goals.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves of Cook County is requesting the purchase of an additional two (2) T770 T4 Bobcat Compact Track Loader 44 with options. Previous purchase of one (1) Bobcat Model T770 Track Loader with various attachments was approved by the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners on 12/17/2024, Board Item No. 24-0495. The loaders will be assigned to the Department of Landscape Maintenance for field operations. Similar to the previous purchase, this proposed purchase is based on Sourcewell Contract #020223-CEC, expiring 4/17/2027, with Doosan Bobcat North America, fulfilled by local authorized dealer, Atlas Bobcat, LLC.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Trevor, to approve 25-0183. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

**25-0228**

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CONTRACT**

**Department(s):** Department of Facilities and Fleet

**Vendor:** Johnson Controls Security Solutions, LLC, Oak Brook, Illinois (Formerly operated as Tyco Integrated Security)

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

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Contract for Monitoring of Fire Alarm Services and associated specific pieces of equipment

**Contract Value:** \$3,420.00

**Contract Period:** Five (5) years from the Date of Execution; after initial 5-year term, agreement auto renews annually until terminated

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2025 \$342.00, FY 2026 \$684.00, FY 2027 \$684.00, FY 2028 \$684.00, FY 2029 \$684.00, FY 2030 \$342.00

**Accounts:** Professional Services 51001.520840

**Contract Number(s):** #74000016341

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

The Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Ordinance is not applicable due to the contract value per year being equal to or less than \$25,000.00.

**District(s):** 16

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves is seeking authorization to enter into this proposed contract on a sole source basis for the monitoring of fire alarm systems and associated equipment at its Salt Creek Maintenance Headquarters in North Riverside.

The proposed contract is to maintain these required services for an initial period of five (5) years, followed by automatic annual renewals until terminated. The Forest Preserves will comply with applicable procurement code provisions to increase, as needed, the contract amount for any renewal term(s). If the Forest Preserves elects to terminate this contract at any time during the initial five (5) year term, payment in full for the remainder of the five (5) years is required.

Alarm services agreements are often form agreements that apply to a general class of customer, which is the case here as well. Thus, the proposed new contract may include some nonstandard provisions for the Forest Preserves, particularly with respect to interest for late payment, disclaimers, limitations on liability, warranties, indemnification, venue, governing law, and termination. The Forest Preserves has used this vendor since at least 2016.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Trevor, to approve 25-0228. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

**25-0234**

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CONTRACT**

**Department(s):** Department of Facilities and Fleet

**Vendor:** Trane U.S. Inc., Davidson, North Carolina

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

**Good(s) or Service(s):** HVAC Products, Installation, Labor Based Solutions and Related Products and Services

**Contract Value:** \$1,000,000.00

**Contract Period:** Date of Execution through 8/31/2027, with one (1) five-year optional renewal to be exercised at the discretion of the General Superintendent subject to the renewal of the underlying contract on which the piggyback contract is based.

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2025 \$71,000.00, FY 2026 \$142,000.00, FY 2027 \$142,000.00, FY 2028 \$142,000.00, FY 2029 \$142,000.00, FY 2030 \$142,000.00, FY 2031 \$142,000.00, FY 2032 \$77,000.00

**Accounts:** Property Maintenance 51001.540350

**Contract Number(s):** #74000016196 (Piggyback Contract - Omnia Partners Contract #3341)

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

The Vendor has met the Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Ordinance via direct participation.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves would like to piggyback off an existing Omnia Partners Contract (#3341) between Racine County, Wisconsin and Trane U.S. Inc (“Trane”) for HVAC supplies and services. The Forest Preserves contract would have a value of up to \$1,000,000.00. The Forest Preserves will utilize this agreement to supplement its own in-house union HVAC technicians to service Trane equipment at Forest Preserves locations. Under this contract, Trane will also be able to design and install equipment when Forest Preserves staff are unable to.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Trevor, to approve 25-0234. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

**25-0210**

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**PROPOSED AUTHORITY TO EXERCISE CONTRACT EXTENSION OPTION**

**Department(s):** Department of Facilities and Fleet

**Vendor:** A B Petroleum Services, Inc., Crystal Lake, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to extend and increase contract

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Supply and delivery of unleaded and diesel fuel

**Original Contract Period:** 7/6/2021 - 7/5/2025 with three (3) one-year optional renewal extensions to be exercised with the approval of the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners.

**Proposed Contract Period Extension:** 7/6/2025 - 7/5/2026

**Total Current Contract Amount Authority:** \$3,975,307.60

**Original Approval:** 6/22/2021, \$3,125,897.60; Amended 7/27/2021 \$3,125,307.60

**Previous Increase(s):** 11/22/2024, \$150,000.00 Administrative Increase; and 12/17/2024, \$700,000.00 Board Approved

**This Increase Requested:** \$1,200,000.00

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2025 \$600,000.00, FY 2026 \$600,000.00

**Accounts:** Automotive Operation and Maintenance 51001.540250

**Contract Number(s):** #74000009187 issued under solicitation #21-53-006083

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

The Vendor has met the Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Ordinance via direct participation.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves put out a public solicitation in 2021 for the supply and delivery of unleaded and diesel fuel to twenty (20) Districtwide fueling stations. The Forest Preserves is requesting a \$1,200,000.00 increase and will exercise the first of three (3) one-year renewal extensions. The requested increase should provide the appropriate funding for the next twelve (12) months of this contract.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Trevor, to approve 25-0210. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

**25-0211**

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**REPORT**

**Department:** Department of Permits, Rentals and Concessions

**Request:** Refer to Finance Committee

**Report Title:** 2024 Fee Waiver and Discount Report

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

**Summary:** Under the Forest Preserves of Cook County Code of Ordinances, certain discounts are granted to veteran or non-profit organizations with respect to recreational use of Forest Preserves of Cook County property or amenities. Additional discounts may be offered at the discretion of the General Superintendent. The Forest Preserves of Cook County implemented a Fee Waiver Policy (Policy Number: 02.30.00) establishing the process for when discounts or waivers would be granted. The policy requires an annual report to the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners on discounts and waivers for the sake of transparency. The Fee Waiver and Discount Report describes specific discount categories and various passes issued pursuant to Forest Preserves of Cook County Board Approved Resolution No. 16-0314, approved July 12, 2016.

In 2024, the Forest Preserves of Cook County issued a total of \$216,655.40 in fee waiver permit discounts to various groups. In addition, a total of three thousand six hundred and ninety (3,690) passes with an estimated value of \$90,647.00 were distributed across various programs, partners and/or events.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Trevor, to refer 25-0211 to the Finance Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**PROPOSED INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT AMENDMENT**

**Department(s):** Office of the General Superintendent

**Other Part(ies):** Chicago Zoological Society, Brookfield, Illinois

**Request:** To extend an agreement between the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) and the Chicago Zoological Society (the “Zoo”) for a period of one (1) year to allow time to adequately consider and negotiate a new agreement

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Maintenance and operation of a zoological park on lands of the Forest Preserves, commonly known as the Brookfield Zoo Chicago

**Agreement Period:** 4/8/1986 - 4/7/2026

**Proposed Extension:** 4/8/2026 - 4/7/2027

**Fiscal Impact:** N/A (other than funding through annual budget appropriation)

**Accounts:** N/A

**Agreement Number(s):** N/A

**District(s):** 16

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves and the Zoo seek authorization to amend Section 15 of the April 8, 1986 “Agreement Between the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois and the Chicago Zoological Society For the Maintenance and Operation of a Zoological Park on Lands of the Forest Preserve District,” to extend the term for one (1) year. The Zoo has operated a zoological park on Forest Preserves property for over ninety (90) years-since 1934. The April 8, 1986 Agreement between the Forest Preserves and the Zoo is set to sunset on or about April 7, 2026. The parties seek additional time in order to adequately consider and negotiate the terms of a new agreement between the parties, by extending the April 8, 1986 Agreement for an additional term of one (1) year, until April 7, 2027. In the last five (5) years, an average of 10% of the Forest Preserves budget has been allocated to the Zoo. Final amendment is subject to legal review and approval.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to refer 25-0197 to the Zoological Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**REPORT**

**Department:** Office of the General Superintendent

**Request:** Receive and File

**Report Title:** Conservation and Policy Council Monthly Report

**Summary:** Created in 2014, the Conservation and Policy Council advises the President, Board and the General Superintendent about conservation policies and practices, including the implementation of the Next Century Conservation Plan’s vision of vibrant, ecologically healthy and welcoming forest preserves system.

Each month, a member of the Conservation and Policy Council will provide a verbal report detailing the work that the Conservation and Policy Council is doing as well as their recommendations to the Board regarding policies, practices, and other strategic initiatives of the Forest Preserves.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Morrison, to defer 25-0242. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

**25-0029**

**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:** 4/1/2025 - 4/30/2025

**Summary:** Submitting the Procurement and Disbursement Report for the period of April 2025. The 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 Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Morrison, to receive and filed 25-0029. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**REPORT**

**Department:** Departments of Legal and Finance

**Request:** Receive and File

**Report Title:** Workers' Compensation Report - April 2025

**Report Period:** 4/1/2025 - 4/30/2025

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves of Cook County Departments of Legal and Finance are submitting Workers' Compensation Claim Payments for the month of April 2025. Payments total \$108,714.24 for April 2025.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to receive and file 25-0226. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

**25-0215**

**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 6/10/2025 - 6/30/2025.

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

**Wednesday, 6/11; 8pm**

**Women's Night Out: Full Moon Empowerment, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Join us for an evening designed to empower, connect and inspire women. *Registration required. For women, ages 18 and up. The cost is \$10 per person. Please call (847)824-8360.*

**Thursday, 6/12; 5pm—7pm**

**Wellness in Woods: Gardening 101, Caldwell Wellness Center, Chicago**

Join us for a series of talks about gardening and the incredible effect plants can have on your well-being. *Registration required. Please call (773)758-8899.*

**Saturday, 6/14; 8am—10am****Birding Is Accessible, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland**

Join us for a short, slow-paced 0.3-mile walk along our ADA-accessible Pines Trail followed by a feeder watch. *Registration required. Please call (708)868-0606.*

**Saturday, 6/14; 9am—12pm****Busse Lake Outdoors Day and Fishing Derby, Busse Lake Boating Center, Elk Grove Village**

Join us for a free fishing derby, nature play, animal encounters and more! You can enjoy local food and win prizes. *Registration required. This event will be held at Grove 25. For more information, please visit the website.*

**Saturday, 6/14; 11am—3pm****Beaubien Woods Celebration, Beaubien Woods, Chicago**

Celebrate the wonders of nature and immerse yourself in the beauty of Beaubien Woods. Whether you're an outdoor enthusiast or just looking for a memorable family outing, there's something for everyone at this celebration. This event will feature a wide range of activities to enjoy which include archery, canoeing and engaging activities from our community partners. *Registration is not required, but it is encouraged. Canoe slots are limited, so it will be on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, please visit the website.*

**Sunday, 6/15; 1pm****Wildlife Pride Walk, Spears Woods, Willow Springs**

Join us for a guided walk on a 2.5-mile trail. You can learn about the diverse relations and anatomy of wildlife in the Forest Preserves.

**Tuesday, 6/17; 5pm—7pm****Pond Paddle, Thatcher Glen Pond, River Forest**

Enjoy the afternoon outdoors by paddling. Instructions, equipment, and kayaks will be provided. *Registration required. Please call (312)533-5751.*

**Tuesday, 6/17; 7pm—9pm****Little Red Rocks, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs**

Enjoy music and poetry at sunset! Participants can perform or listen to music and poetry on an open-mic night on the grounds. *Registration required. Please call (708)839-6897.*

**Wednesday, 6/18; 7pm—8:30pm****Naturalist Night Out: Bats, Spears Woods, Willow Springs**

Join us for a themed stroll under the World's Largest Urban Night Sky Place. *For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

**Thursday, 6/19; 2pm—4pm****Juneteenth River Boat Tour, Beaubien Woods Boat Launch, Chicago**

Paddle along the African American Heritage Water. *Registration required. This event is presented by Beaubien Woods Youth Outdoor Ambassadors and the Midwest Underground Railroad Network. For more information, please visit the website.*

**Thursday, 6/19; 5pm—7pm**

**Juneteenth River Boat Tour, Beaubien Woods Boat Launch, Chicago**

Paddle along the African American Heritage Water. *Registration required. This event is presented by Beaubien Woods Youth Outdoor Ambassadors and the Midwest Underground Railroad Network. For more information, please visit the website.*

**Thursday, 6/19; 6pm—7:30pm**

**Juneteenth Freedom Ride, Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center, Chicago**

Join us for a cycling celebration on a 16-mile loop trail. *Participants must bring their own bike and helmet. This program is presented by the Major Taylor Trail Keepers and Black Girls Bike. For more information, please visit the website.*

**Friday, 6/20; 10am**

**Juneteenth River Boat Tour, Beaubien Woods Boat Launch, Chicago**

Paddle along the African American Heritage Water. *Registration required. This event is presented by Beaubien Woods Youth Outdoor Ambassadors and the Midwest Underground Railroad Network. For more information, please visit the website.*

**Saturday, 6/21; 10am—2pm**

**Trailside Pride Celebration, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest**

Celebrate PRIDE with a day of activities including walks, speakers, music and more! *For more information, please call (708)366-6530.*

**Saturday, 6/21; 11am—1pm**

**American Indian Summer Solstice, Schiller Woods — East, Chicago**

Join the American Indian Center of Chicago for a celebration of the sun's power with dancing, storytelling and sun-themed art. *This event will be held at Grove 13. For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

**Saturday, 6/21; 11am—3pm**

**Juneteenth Jubilee, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland**

Celebrate freedom, family and country with activities, presentations, performances and exhibits highlighting Black history, arts and culture. *For more information, please call (708)868-0606.*

**Saturday, 6/21: 12-6pm**

**Juneteenth Celebration, Dan Ryan Pavillion, Chicago**

Please come out and celebrate Juneteenth to commemorate the emancipation of enslaved people in the United States. *For more information call the Cook County 4th District Commissioner's office at 773-785-4213.*

**Saturday, 6/21 through Sunday, 6/22; 5pm**

**Camping 101: Overnight, Camp Bullfrog Lake, Willow Springs**

This program is part workshop and part campout! Participants can learn camping skills then spend the night. *Registration required. The cost is \$50 per family of 6 people. For more information, please visit the website.*

**Sunday, 6/22; 1pm**

**Insect Architects, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Explore the work of the master builders and manipulators of the insect world.

**Sunday, 6/22; 1:30pm**

**Serpent Safari, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Join us and learn about local snakes.

**Monday, 6/23 through Friday 6/27; 8:30am—12:30pm**

**Craft Camp, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland**

Get creative and learn some new crafting skills. *Registration required. Ages 6-13. Project materials may vary. The cost is \$25 per child. Please call (708)868-0606.*

**Tuesday, 6/24 through Thursday 6/26; 10am—1pm**

**Teens in the Field: Reptile and Amphibian Workshop, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs**

This workshop will blend career immersion, classroom learning, field investigations and close-up encounters to connect teens to Herpetology. *Registration required. Ages 16-22. For more information, please call (708)839-6897.*

**Wednesday, 6/25; 9am—3pm**

**ENTICE Workshop: Butterflies and Moths, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont**

This workshop focuses on Illinois butterflies and moths. *Registration required. The program is presented with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Continuing Professional Development Units also known as CPDUs are available. For more information, please visit the website.*

**Thursday, 6/26; 10am**

**Walk and Talk: LGBTQ2S+ Environmentalists, Caldwell Wellness Center, Chicago**

Celebrate Pride Month with a nature walk highlighting local and national LGBTQ2S+ conservationists. *Registration required. Please call (773)758-8899.*

**Thursday, 6/26; 2pm**

**Walk and Talk: LGBTQ2S+ Environmentalists, Caldwell Wellness Center, Chicago**

Celebrate Pride Month with a nature walk highlighting local and national LGBTQ2S+ conservationists. *Registration required. Please call (773)758-8899.*

**Thursday, 6/26; 5:30pm**

**Camping 101, Camp Reinberg, Palatine**

Join us for a 1.5-hour workshop to learn basic camping skills like setting up a tent, building a fire, dress for the weather and more! *For more information, please visit the website.*

**Thursday, 6/26; 7pm**

**Native Cooking Demonstration, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Join us for a cooking demonstration using local foods, focusing on seasonality and traditional preparation. *Registration required. This program is presented by Chef Jessica Walk of the First of the Menominee Nation. Please call (847)824-8360.*

**Friday, 6/27; 8pm–9pm**

**Evening Firefly Walk, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest**

Enjoy a guided walk as twilight settles in and the fireflies begin to twinkle. *Registration required. This program is intended for families. Please call (708)366-6530.*

**Saturday, 6/28; 10am–12pm**

**International Mud Day Celebration, Caldwell Wellness Center, Chicago**

Dress to get messy! Join others around the globe for a morning of splashing, squishing, mud creations and more. *For more information, please call (773)758-8899.*

**Saturday, 6/28; 12pm–2:30pm**

**Nature Obstacle Course, Twenty-Sixth Street Woods–West, LaGrange Park**

Families can drop in and attempt an obstacle course created from natural materials. The activities include nature play as well as arts and craft. *For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

**Saturday, 6/28; 7pm–9pm**

**Nature at Night: Campfire Cooking, Camp Shabbona, South Holland**

Join us for an evening of exploration at the campground! *Registration required. This program is bilingual and will also be offered in Spanish. Please call (708)868-0606.*

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to receive and file 25-0215. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

**COMMITTEE ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION**

**25-0252**

**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 05/06/2025.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Degnen, seconded by Commissioner Anaya, to approve 25-0252. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE (LITIGATION)**

Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Litigation - 6/10/2025

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: \$3,500,000.00  
Proposed Settlements to Be Approved: \$0.00

Legal Fees Approved Fiscal Year 2025 to Present: \$258,528.90  
Legal Fees for 6/10/2025 to Be Approved: ~~\$207,699.39~~ \$207,524.39

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Scott, to approve as amended 25-0225. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

**25-0192**

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**REPORT**

**Department:** Department of Facilities and Fleet

**Request:** Refer to Finance Committee

**Report Title:** Annual Energy Expense Report

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

**Summary:** On 1/26/2021, the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners authorized the Forest Preserves of Cook County to enter into agreements recommended by Ameresco, Inc. (Board Item No. 21-0125). Previously, on 10/20/2020, the Board of Commissioners had approved a contract with Ameresco, Inc. to provide, in part, procurement of electricity, natural gas, and renewable energy (Board Item No. 20-0363). On 11/14/2023, the Board of Commissioners approved an extension of the contract with Ameresco, Inc. until 9/30/2025 (Board Item No. 23-0452). As required by Board Item No. 21-0125, this report provides a monthly breakdown of related energy payments made during fiscal year 2024.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Scott, to receive and file 25-0192. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

**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:** 1/1/2025 - 4/30/2025

**Summary:** Detailed Fund Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures for April 2025.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Scott, to receive and file 25-0030. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

**25-0186**

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

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE**

**AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE A FOREST PRESERVE NEAR SWEET WOODS**

**AN ORDINANCE CREATING A FOREST PRESERVE** in part of Section 15, Township 35 North, Range 14, East of the Third Principal Meridian, all in Cook County, Illinois near Sweet Woods in District 5.

**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; and

**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 a 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:

20278 Cottage Grove Ave., Glenwood, Cook County, Illinois

THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 15, TOWNSHIP 35 NORTH, RANGE 14 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN (EXCEPT THE SOUTH 66 FEET THEREOF CONVEYED TO CHICAGO DISTRICT PIPELINE COMPANY, A CORPORATION, BY DEED RECORDED AS DOCUMENT 14832873 AND EXCEPT THE NORTH 49.5 FEET OF THE SOUTH 115.5 FEET OF THE EAST 660.0 FEET THEREOF, CONVEYED TO CHICAGO DISTRICT PIPELINE COMPANY, A CORPORATION, BY DEED RECORDED ON SEPTEMBER 3, 1958 AS DOCUMENT 17306418), IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

PIN: 32-15-200-012-0000

SAID PARCEL CONTAINING 1,613,462 SQUARE FEET, OR 37.04 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

TOGETHER WITH A 60.00-FOOT WIDE NON-EXCLUSIVE CONDITIONAL INGRESS AND EGRESS EASEMENT FROM JOE ORR ROAD ALONG THE EASTERN PROPERTY BOUNDARY OF PIN 32-15-200-011-0000.

SAID EASEMENT CONTAINING 67,500 SQUARE FEET, OR 1.55 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 5...end

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Scott, to approve 25-0186. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

**25-0187**

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**PROPOSED PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE**

**Department(s):** Legal Department

**Other Part(ies):** Chicago Title Land Trust Company as Successor Trustee to the First National Bank in Chicago Heights, as Trustee under Trust Agreement dated May 11, 1966 and known as Trust Number 540; Walter J. Nykaza, Beneficiary (“Owners of Record”)

**Request:** It is respectfully requested that this proposed purchase be approved.

**Description of Real Estate:** 20278 Cottage Grove Ave, Glenwood, Cook County, Illinois

**Section:** NA

**Parcel(s):** PIN: 32-15-200-012-0000

THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 15, TOWNSHIP 35 NORTH, RANGE 14 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN (EXCEPT THE SOUTH 66 FEET THEREOF CONVEYED TO CHICAGO DISTRICT PIPELINE COMPANY, A CORPORATION, BY DEED RECORDED AS DOCUMENT 14832873 AND EXCEPT THE NORTH 49.5 FEET OF THE SOUTH 115.5 FEET OF THE EAST 660.0 FEET THEREOF, CONVEYED TO CHICAGO DISTRICT PIPELINE COMPANY, A CORPORATION, BY DEED RECORDED ON SEPTEMBER 3, 1958 AS DOCUMENT 17306418), IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

SAID PARCEL CONTAINING 1,613,462 SQUARE FEET, OR 37.04 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

TOGETHER WITH A 60.00-FOOT WIDE NON-EXCLUSIVE CONDITIONAL INGRESS AND EGRESS EASEMENT FROM JOE ORR ROAD ALONG THE EASTERN PROPERTY BOUNDARY OF PIN 32-15-200-011-0000.

SAID EASEMENT CONTAINING 67,500 SQUARE FEET, OR 1.55 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

**Fiscal Impact:** \$2,960,000.00 purchase price plus closing costs up to \$10,000.00 (up to \$2,970,000.00 in total).

**Accounts:** Real Estate and Land Acquisition Fund 51006.560010

**District(s):** 5

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) has identified a parcel of land for acquisition that would add to the Forest Preserves’ current holdings near Sweet Woods (the “Property”). The Property, commonly known as 20278 Cottage Grove Ave, Glenwood, Cook County, Illinois, consists of approximately 37.04 ± acres. The Property has natural and fallowed land and contains a part of Third Creek.

Through negotiations, the Owners of Record (the “Sellers”), have agreed to sell the Property to the Forest Preserves for the sum of TWO MILLION NINE HUNDRED SIXTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$2,960,000.00) plus closing costs up to \$10,000.00 (up to \$2,970,000.00 in total). The purchase price is based upon two (2) M.A.I. appraisals obtained by the Forest Preserves and is subject to the Forest Preserves’ satisfactory completion of its due diligence.

Permission is now sought, upon satisfactory completion of all due diligence and negotiation of any and all required documentation as determined by the Forest Preserves Legal Department, to effectuate payment in the amount of the purchase price plus closing costs as full compensation for the acquisition of the

Property.

This land acquisition advances the goals of the Forest Preserves’ Southeast Cook County Land Acquisition Plan, Next Century Conservation Plan, and Acquisition and Disposition of Land Position Paper.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Scott, to approve 25-0187. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

**25-0162**

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**REPORT**

**Department:** Department of Finance and Administration

**Request:** Refer to Contract Compliance Committee

**Report Title:** Forest Preserves of Cook County Annual Business Diversity Report FY 2024

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

**Summary:** In July 2012, state legislation authorized the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to establish provisions to address the underuse of Minority- and Women-Owned businesses with respect to procurement contracts. An ordinance establishing the program’s parameters and guidelines was passed in 2012 and amended in subsequent years by the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners. To remedy historic inequity and to facilitate greater inclusion, the Forest Preserves established aspirational contract goals for the participation of Minority- and Women-Owned businesses as set forth under the Forest Preserves of Cook County Code of Ordinances.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Anaya, to receive and file 25-0162. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

**NEW ITEMS**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner McCaskill, to suspend the rules. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

**25-0258**

**Sponsored by:** KEVIN B. MORRISON, FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, TARA S. STAMPS, MAGGIE TREVOR and JESSICA VÁSQUEZ, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**DECLARING THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY’S SUPPORT OF THE INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES AND BROOKFIELD ZOO CHICAGO**

**WHEREAS,** the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) was established by the Museum and Library Services Act (MLSA) on September 30, 1996; and

**WHEREAS**, as a federal agency that administers discretionary programs, IMLS is funded through the annual federal appropriations process; and

**WHEREAS**, with its budget, IMLS supports a vast range of museums, including art, history, natural history, nature centers, botanical gardens, and zoos; and

**WHEREAS**, IMLS provides essential funding and guidance for the vast collections of museums across America, acting as community anchors, supporting youth and senior citizens, serving people with disabilities, and helping veterans heal; and

**WHEREAS**, beyond education, museums, zoos, aquariums, and libraries are economic engines, providing jobs, driving tourism, and serving as community cornerstones; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2024, IMLS awarded \$11,347,695 in grants to Illinois institutions, with \$3,214,842 awarded specifically for museum services; and

**WHEREAS**, we in Illinois have seen the great benefit this IMLS funding has on our local community as it has supported groundbreaking programs at Brookfield Zoo Chicago, including local community

engagement initiatives, profound international research studies, and internal accessibility endeavors; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 180 million people visit United States zoos and aquariums each year, contributing more than \$22.5 billion to the American economy, with Brookfield Zoo Chicago welcoming 2 million of those visitors annually; and

**WHEREAS**, for decades, IMLS has played a critical role in advancing the capabilities of zoos and aquariums by funding foundational research on their importance to conservation, supporting the creation of a nationwide network of early childhood nature play programs, and enabling groundbreaking multi-institutional welfare studies for species like elephants and dolphins, backing cutting-edge research in reproductive technologies to enhance population sustainability, and promoting greater accessibility in zoos and aquariums for staff, volunteers, and visitors of all abilities; and

**WHEREAS**, museums cannot do this vital work without the support and funding they receive from agencies like IMLS; and

**WHEREAS**, support for museums is overwhelmingly popular, with 96% of Americans saying they would approve of lawmakers who act to support museums and 96% of Americans saying they want to maintain or increase federal funding for museums; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 14, 2025, the Trump Administration issued Executive Order 14238, ‘Continuing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy’ which directs that, among other agencies, the IMLS’s “non-statutory components and functions...shall be eliminated to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law, and...shall reduce the performance of their statutory functions and associated personnel to the minimum presence and function required by law”; and

**WHEREAS**, IMLS’s impact and support for Brookfield Zoo Chicago cannot be overstated, with the Brookfield Zoo being awarded over \$1.5 million in programs and grants from IMLS over the last 5 years; and

**WHEREAS**, these grants have been directed towards supporting the Zoo's impactful programs and projects focusing on animal welfare, accessibility, and education; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the Administration's gutting of IMLS, Brookfield Zoo Chicago was notified of the termination of several grant-funded programs; and

**WHEREAS**, this included Grant MA-251511-OMS-22, 'Behavioral Diversity as a Potential Positive Indicator of Welfare', a project that was designed to help animal care staff at accredited zoos and aquariums across the United States evaluate positive animal welfare, focusing on continuous improvement in animal care and management; and

**WHEREAS**, under this program, the Zoo would develop lists of behaviors across animal species, train researchers to observe the varieties of behaviors exhibited by each animal, and use chemical analyses to determine the relationships between various behaviors and stress hormones, with a goal of providing a new tool for monitoring animal welfare to be shared with institutions across the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, Brookfield Zoo Chicago also received termination notice for Grant MG-249218-OMS-2, 'The Zoo and Aquarium Radiology Database: A collaborative resource to advance veterinary care' that addresses a continuous challenge veterinarians face in the evaluation of health and disease in wild animals - the lack of adequate and freely available veterinary images such as x-rays, ultrasound, and CT scans for reference from healthy animals; and

**WHEREAS**, this project would establish the Zoo and Aquarium Radiology Database, the first and only free centralized database site for radiology images from zoo animals, which would enable further disease research and evaluation of population health, supporting the continued stewardship of living collections and species sustainability in the wild; and

**WHEREAS**, under these two grants, animal care staff can focus on enhancing animal welfare resulting in visitors experiencing healthy, engaged animals, elevating their overall zoo experience which in turn can lead to increased visitation by satisfied customers, continuing to bolster local economic growth within communities around zoos and aquariums across the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, IMLS has since notified Brookfield Zoo Chicago of the reinstatement of these grants in accordance with a Preliminary Injunction Order under *State of Rhode Island, et al. v. Trump et al.*, but notes that a pending appeal may affect the reinstatement of the grants in the future; and

**WHEREAS**, the permanent gutting of IMLS would be a huge blow for zoo and museum innovation and local community services and engagement; and

**WHEREAS**, protecting this essential agency is critical to preserving the vital role museums, libraries, zoos, and aquariums play in education, the economy, and community infrastructure across the country and in our own local communities; and

**WHEREAS**, though the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia granted a temporary restraining order to block the Trump Administration's dismantling of IMLS on May 1, 2025, it remains crucial that we continue to uplift our support for IMLS, the work it does nationally, and its impact here in Cook County through Brookfield Zoo Chicago;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby declare its unwavering support for the Institute of Museum and Library Services and all the amazing work it does here in Cook County, including its work with the Brookfield Zoo Chicago; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners expresses its strong concern over plans to defund the Institute of Museum and Library Services or any other such agencies, programs, or departments who have been legally allocated their due federal funding.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to refer 25-0258 to the Zoological Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

**25-0256**

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

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

**GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT APPOINTMENT**

**BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners, that Title 1 - Administrative, Chapter 6 - Forest Preserve District Officers and Employees, Section 9 - Personnel Provisions, Subsection A.2. - Appointment of Treasurer and Chief Attorney, of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as Follows:

**1-6-9: PERSONNEL PROVISIONS.**

*A. Selection and Appointment of Officers and Employees:*

\* \* \* \*

2. Appointment of General Superintendent, Treasurer, and Chief Attorney: The President shall, subject to the approval of the Board, appoint the General Superintendent, Treasurer, and Chief Attorney of the Forest Preserve District.

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

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Morrison, to refer 25-0256 to the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Commissioner ALMA E. ANAYA, seconded by Commissioner MICHAEL SCOTT JR., to adjourn. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

**Excused Absence:** Britton, Lowry, Moore and Morita (4)

Respectfully submitted,



Secretary

Journal #25-0289

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