



From: Toni Preckwinkle, President *TJP*
To: Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners
Date: October 30, 2023
Re: Re-appointments to the Conservation & Policy Council

The Nominating Committee for the Conservation and Policy Council is recommending re-appointment of Laurel Ross, Henrietta Saunders, and Mark Templeton to an additional term on the Conservation and Policy Council. I concur with the committee's recommendation and seek the Board's advice and consent related to the re-appointments.

Short bios for the candidates follow.

Candidates for Re-Appointment to the Conservation & Policy Council

Laurel Ross

- Retired Director of Urban Conservation, Field Museum
- **Expertise:** Conservation, Ecological Restoration, Volunteer Management, Cultural Resources

Laurel Ross has served in numerous leadership positions within the conservation community of Chicago, demonstrating a tremendous commitment to conserving the native environment of Illinois. Laurel was the Director of Urban Conservation for the Field Museum from 2004 to 2014. In this role, she developed and oversaw programs that connected people to nature through environmental education, habitat restoration and collaboration among environmental and cultural organizations. She has also served as Chair of Chicago Wilderness, Director of Conservation Programs for the Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and Director of the North Park Village Nature Center. Laurel has many years of experience as a committed volunteer and leader in environmental stewardship through the Volunteer Stewardship Network of Illinois.

Henrietta (Hank) Saunders

- Former Treasurer for the League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters Education Fund

- **Expertise:** Ecology, Education/interpretation, Management/business, Finance, Volunteer Management, Racial Equity/Diversity & Inclusion

Henrietta (Hank) Saunders is Chairperson of the Natural Resources Commission for the Village of Glenview and a long-time volunteer with the Friends of the Forest Preserves and the North Branch Restoration Project. She currently serves on the boards of [Community Organizing and Family Issues](#) (“COFI”) and [Family Promise Chicago North Shore](#). She previously has served on local, state and national boards of the League of Women Voters as well as the Delta Institute and Faith in Place. She worked in commercial banking, in a small family business, at the UFCW Midwest Health and Benefits Fund and in various nonprofits before retiring. Hank has a BA from Brown University, an MBA in Finance from University of Chicago, an MS in Learning Sciences from Northwestern, and is fluent in Spanish. Her honors include:

- Spirit of the River Award, Friends of the Chicago River, 2015
- Peggy Montes Unsung Heroine Award, Cook County Board of Commissioners, 2016
- Freshwater Hero Award, Freshwater Future, Petosky, MI 2017
- 20th Anniversary Transformative Leader Award, Faith in Place, 2019

Mark N. Templeton

- Clinical Professor of Law and Director, Abrams Environmental Law Clinic, at the University of Chicago
- **Expertise:** Conservation, Finance, Management/Business, Policy & Planning; High-Level Government Experience

Mark N. Templeton has an extensive background in government, finance and strategic planning with a demonstrated focus on environmental and energy issues. He currently serves as Clinical Professor of Law and Director of the Abrams Environmental Law Clinic at the University of Chicago. Prior to this role, Templeton was Executive Director of the Office of Independent Trustees for the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Trust, where he helped ensure that the \$20 billion pledged by BP was available to address claims of affected individuals. He also served in the cabinet of Missouri Governor Jay Nixon as Director of the Department of Natural Resources, where he managed approximately 1,750 employees, supervised an approximately \$300 million annual budget, and oversaw Missouri State Parks. Templeton was Associate Dean and COO at Yale Law School, developed strategies for environmental sustainability at McKinsey & Company and was a senior adviser to the U.S. Delegation to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights. He is also a board member of the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation and the Environmental Law Institute, among other volunteer positions in the community and legal profession.