



From: Toni Preckwinkle, President
To: Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners
Date: December 15, 2020
Re: Appointment and Re-appointments for the Conservation & Policy Council

After reviewing recommendations from the Nominating Committee, I am recommending that Henrietta (Hank) Saunders be appointed as a member of the Conservation and Policy Council. I am also recommending that Emily Harris, Laurel Ross and Mark Templeton be re-appointed to an additional term.

Short bios for the candidates follow. I seek the Board's advice and consent related to the appointment and re-appointments.

Recommended Appointment to the Conservation & Policy Council

***Henrietta
(Hank)
Saunders***

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

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

Recommended Re-appointments to the Conservation & Policy Council

Emily Harris

Principal, Harris Strategies

As Principal of Harris Strategies, LLC, Emily Harris helps organizations bring big ideas to action. Emily leads strategic plans and designs programs to bring hundreds of partners together around common goals. Her work to make the Chicago region a better place has included initiatives on economic growth, open space conservation, historic preservation, leadership development, disability rights and early childhood education. She has a passion for urban living, social justice and conservation, and is deeply committed to setting collective agendas and getting things done. She created and launched ADA 25 Advancing Leadership--the nation's only independent non-profit focused on civic leadership by people with disabilities. She led the Burnham Plan Centennial focused on metropolitan Chicago's future. She led development of the Next Century Conservation Plan for the Forest Preserves of Cook County and assisted with the development of the World Business Chicago Plan for Economic Growth and Jobs and Cook County Partnering for Prosperity plan. Emily serves on the Boards of Directors of Access Living and the Leadership Fellows Association of Leadership Greater Chicago, and is a member of the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation Strategic Planning Committee.

Laurel Ross

Former Director of Urban Conservation, Field Museum

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 between related 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.

**Mark N.
Templeton**

*Director,
Abrams
Environmental
Law Clinic at
the University
of Chicago*

Mark Templeton has an extensive background in government finance and strategic planning with a demonstrated focus on environmental issues. He currently serves as Director of the Abrams Environmental Law Clinic at the University of Chicago. Prior to this role, Mark 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 1759 employees, oversaw approximately \$300 million annual budget, oversaw Missouri State Parks and directed allocation of approximately \$350 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. Additionally, Mark 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.