



**FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

Consent Agenda

Tuesday, September 13, 2016, 10:00 AM

Consent Agenda

FPD Board of Commissioners

September 13, 2016

16-0317

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHICAGO WILDERNESS

WHEREAS, in 1996, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (the District) was one of 34 organizations that joined to form Chicago Wilderness, a new and unprecedented partnership of public and private organizations dedicated to working together to preserve and improve nature conservation in our metropolitan region; and

WHEREAS, Chicago Wilderness works across geographic and political boundaries, to include regional watersheds and ecosystems that interconnect and span from southwestern Wisconsin through northeastern Illinois, northeastern Indiana and into the southwestern tip of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, twenty years later, Chicago Wilderness now has more than 200 member organizations all working to improve the health of natural communities and the quality of life of human communities in this region; and

WHEREAS, Chicago Wilderness has become a model for conservation leadership in an urban/suburban matrix, resulting in national and international recognition and inspiring the formation of the Metropolitan Greenspace Alliance, a national network of urban conservation coalitions working to promote a collaborative approach of knowledge sharing and best practices across major metropolitan areas; and

WHEREAS, Chicago Wilderness, through its launch of the Leave No Child Inside initiative, highlighted the importance of nature and unstructured time outdoors to the healthy physical, mental and emotional development of children and resulted in the passage of the Children's Bill of Outdoor Rights in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Chicago Wilderness is continually evolving to best advance our shared vision for a thriving and resilient environment that benefits all who call this region home. In 2015, Chicago Wilderness completed a strategic planning effort that resulted in a renewed focus of the alliance's mission and articulated six (6) critical conservation strategies to: 1. Protect our oak ecosystems; 2. Support 12 priority species; 3. Improve our water; 4. Engage private and public landowners; 5. Streamline data for members use; and 6. Broaden our constituency; and

WHEREAS, the District has recently completed its Next Century Conservation Plan and recognizes that the benefits of implementing this plan will result in a healthy, diverse and beautiful natural environment, cleaner air and water, opportunities for nature-related businesses, jobs and tourism, healthy and active communities, educational enrichment and research opportunities, and an enhanced quality of life for everyone in Cook County. The District also recognizes that this work cannot be accomplished without the help of partners; and

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WHEREAS, Chicago Wilderness has provided numerous benefits to the District and has aided the District in advancing its mission to acquire, restore and manage lands for the purpose of protecting and preserving public open space with its natural wonders, significant prairies, forests, wetlands, rivers, streams, and other landscapes with all of its associated wildlife, in a natural state for the education, pleasure, and recreation of the public now and in the future; and

WHEREAS, Chicago Wilderness has created numerous resources and tools that help the District and other alliance members to better protect nature, engage people, implement green infrastructure, and communicate with a united voice the importance of protecting the natural and cultural heritage of this region; and

WHEREAS, the District has always actively participated in Chicago Wilderness serving on committees and working groups. The District's General Superintendent, Arnold Randall, has served as the Chair of the Chicago Wilderness Executive Council since 2012; and

WHEREAS, the District looks forward to continuing its participation in the Chicago Wilderness alliance to share expertise and leverage resources effectively for the benefit of all who call this region home; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, on behalf of ourselves, staff and Cook County residents do hereby congratulate Chicago Wilderness on 20 years of visionary leadership and collaborative conservation, and as a founding member of this remarkable initiative, pledge to continue our efforts to provide leadership in managing diverse land and water habitats; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be spread upon the permanent Record of proceedings of the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, and that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Chicago Wilderness.

16-0373

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING ROBERTO GONZALEZ AND JEFFREY KAUFMAN, FOREST PRESERVE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE

WHEREAS, on Sunday, July 24, 2016, Officer Roberto Gonzalez and Officer Jeffrey Kaufmann played an instrumental role in saving the lives of two young women whose canoe had tipped over in Busse Lake in Elk Grove Village, Illinois. Hearing cries for help, the officers were able to pull the young women, who had been in the water for some time, out of the water. One of the girls was unconscious and the officers were able to resuscitate her by administering CPR. Both girls were responsive by the time the ambulance arrived and were declared in good condition after arriving at St. Alexian Hospital. Both girls have made a full recovery; and

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WHEREAS, Officer Gonzalez has served with the Forest Preserves' Law Enforcement Department since January 2005 where he is a deeply valued employee with a distinguished record; and

WHEREAS, Officer Jeffrey Kaufmann, is military veteran and a recent recruit who joined the Forest Preserves' Law Enforcement department in January 2015 and has already impressed his colleagues with his conduct and positive attitude; and

WHEREAS, both officers exemplify the mission of the Forest Preserves' Law Enforcement Department which patrols the nearly 70,000 acres of the Forest Preserves' holdings 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to ensure the welfare of the public and assist the public in the enjoyment of the forest preserves; and

WHEREAS, the Law Enforcement Department is committed to ensuring that every officer is trained in proper water rescue and is adept at administering CPR and other life-saving practices ; and

WHEREAS, the officers were equipped with the water rescue kit provided by the Department of Homeland Security demonstrating the benefits of leveraging resources and collaboration; and

WHEREAS, both Officer Gonzalez and Officer Kaufmann are to be commended for their swift and clear reactions that resulted in a successful rescue in what was a dangerous and precarious situation; and

WHEREAS, Officer Gonzalez and Officer Kaufmann have rendered an invaluable service to these young women and their families and friends; and

WHEREAS, both officers are an inspiration and example to their fellow officers and all Forest Preserve employees; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize Officer Gonzalez and Officer Kaufmann for their outstanding service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ceremonial copies of this resolution be sent to Officer Roberto Gonzalez and Officer Jeffrey Kaufmann.

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16-0374

Sponsored by: JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

CHICAGO ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY SADDENED BY LOSS OF OLDEST ANIMAL RESIDENT AT BROOKFIELD ZOO: COOKIE COCKATOO

WHEREAS, Chicago Zoological Society staff and those from around the country are mourning the loss of one of Brookfield Zoo's most beloved and well-known animals: Cookie, an 83-year-old Major Mitchell's cockatoo who passed away on August 27, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Cookie was the oldest resident at the zoo and the only remaining member of the original animal collection, which dates back to 1934, when the zoo first opened. Cookie, who lived well beyond the life expectancy for his species, arrived at Brookfield Zoo at the age of 1 from Taronga Zoo in Australia; and

WHEREAS, the popular bird, who was certified by the Guinness World Records as the oldest living parrot in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Cookie's popularity grew over the years and he touched many people's lives. He received many cards, letters, toys, and pictures from admirers around the world. Those admirers include a holy man and healer from Mysore, India, who founded a parrot sanctuary there, and who came to Brookfield Zoo in 2013 specifically to visit Cookie; and

WHEREAS, Cookie resided for many years in the zoo's Reptiles and Birds (formerly known as Perching Bird House). His birthday became a popular event and was attended by hundreds of zoo visitors each year; and

WHEREAS, in September 2009, Cookie retired from being on exhibit and took up his permanent residence in the staff's office. There he enjoyed the constant companionship of the staff he knew so well. He also received various enrichment items to occupy his time and stimulate his mind; and

WHEREAS, Cookie lived a long life at Brookfield Zoo where all of his physical and mental health were tended to by dedicated and expert staff who treasured him; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chicago Zoological Society be honored for their exceptional care of animals and that Cookie's life inspire us to do our part to care for all of Earth's creatures.