



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

**Virtual Meeting\***

**Consent Agenda**

**Tuesday, July 26, 2022, 10:00 AM**

**\*For Commissioners and staff who plan to attend the meeting, please note that the on-site meeting location is the Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd, Glencoe, IL 60022.**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Pursuant to Cook County Code, the Secretary to the Board of Commissioners hereby transmits Consent Calendar Resolutions for your consideration. The Consent Calendar Resolutions shall be published in the Post Board Action Agenda and Journal of Proceedings as prepared by the Clerk of the Board.

[22-0333](#)

**Sponsored by:** TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), LARRY SUFFREDIN, SCOTT R. BRITTON, FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, LUIS ARROYO JR., JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BRANDON JOHNSON, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, PETER N. SILVESTRI and DEBORAH SIMS, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION****HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN**

**WHEREAS**, the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners is pleased to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Chicago Botanic Garden and its vital partnership with the Forest Preserves of Cook County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chicago Botanic Garden grew from a dream before it opened in 1972 by the Chicago Horticultural Society, which presented annual flower shows, displayed at the World's Columbian Exposition and was an active part of World War II's Victory Garden movement; and

**WHEREAS**, over time, ambitions grew through the dedication and creativity of many to bring a botanic garden to Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chicago Botanic Garden opened its doors in the spring of 1972; there was a small greenhouse and just one garden area open to the public and only about 30 staff. Hard work and creativity fueled the early years, and it wasn't all roses as the founders and staff turned machine-sculpted ground into the 28 designed and 4 natural areas enjoyed today; and

**WHEREAS**, during the second decade, the Chicago Botanic Garden grew rapidly developing 14 garden areas in quick succession. The Chicago Botanic Garden focused on community, developing relationships with visitors through new public programs such as plant society shows, festivals, and concerts; and

**WHEREAS**, starting in 1992, the Garden was still growing and added a new priority: plant conservation. The Chicago Botanic Garden launched a science program with a single lab and housed our seed bank, boasting only seven species, in a Sears chest freezer located in a closet. Today, the Negaunee Institute for Plant Conservation Science and Action has international recognition and involves nearly 100 staff and graduate students. In 2001, the Chicago Botanic Garden joined forces with seven partners to form Seeds of Success, a national seed banking project. This collection holds almost 2,000 species of endangered

plants and native plants important for restoration- important, diverse, genetic resources for the next generation; and

**WHEREAS**, in the early 2000s, the Chicago Botanic Garden expanded what it does, how it works, and where it has a presence. The Chicago Botanic Garden launch of Windy City Harvest activated a social justice focus for its work through urban agriculture-jobs training, fresh produce markets, working farms, and community gardens-which developed reciprocal partnerships with 16 Chicago-area neighborhoods. The Chicago Botanic Garden collaborated with Northwestern University to establish the Joint Graduate Program in Plant Biology and Conservation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chicago Botanic Garden continued to grow in this last decade, adapting as living museums do. A new master site plan reflected new priorities in response to a changing environment, community, and organization. The production greenhouses, Shida Evaluation Garden, and Regenstein Learning Campus exemplify these shifts and growth. The build-out of a state-of-the-art production greenhouse and a nursery now has enabled the growth about 80 percent of the plants at the Chicago Botanic Garden. The opening of the Mitsuzo and Kyoko Shida Evaluation Garden doubled the size of our plant evaluation program; and

**WHEREAS**, with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chicago Botanic Garden illustrated its capacity for adaptability through its Windy City Harvest participants who operated as essential workers, feeding communities in great need. The Chicago Botanic Garden's Glencoe campus found new ways to maintain the landscapes, the collection, and plant production capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chicago Botanic Garden will mark its 50th birthday with *Flourish: The Garden at 50*, a series of experiences that celebrate the Garden's extraordinary growth with art installations created from Chicago, national, and international artists connecting visitors with nature in new ways.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners congratulate the Chicago Botanic Garden on its 50th Anniversary and its long and successful partnership with the Forest Preserves of Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to the Chicago Botanic Garden.

[22-0351](#)

**Sponsored by:** TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, LUIS ARROYO JR., SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BRANDON JOHNSON, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS and LARRY SUFFREDIN, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION****HONORING ROBERT FINKE FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN AND COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, Robert F. (Bob) Finke completed nearly ten years of service as Chair of the Chicago Horticultural Society and Chicago Botanic Garden Board of Directors on December 31, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, in his role as Chair, Bob galvanized the Board to commit to continued growth, stewardship, and quality, thereby supporting significant undertakings such as the completion of the North Lake restoration in 2012; the creation of Kleinman Cove and the Grunsfeld Growing Garden in 2012; Windy City Harvest's opening of Legends South Farm and the McCormick rooftop garden in 2013; the completion of the North Branch Trail in 2014; the creation of the Regenstein Learning Campus in 2016; the creation of the Kris Jarantoski campus and its new greenhouses, which were ultimately named in Bob's honor, in 2018; and the creation of the Shida Shade Evaluation Garden in 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, Bob's leadership of the Garden brought tremendous growth and achieved numerous milestones that will benefit the Garden for years to come. Through challenging economic times and capital campaigns, Bob's gracious style, warmth, and love of the Garden enabled him to forge meaningful relationships with individuals and families who are among the Garden's largest donors. He led multiple capital and endowment campaigns, securing gifts that were years in the making, thereby ensuring the Garden's future; and

**WHEREAS**, Bob championed a broad role for the Garden that extended across the region, and this commitment is manifest in the growth of Windy City Harvest, the dedication of the Farm on Ogden; and the initiation of the Veteran Horticultural Therapy partnership with Thresholds; and

**WHEREAS**, Bob has expressed his love for the Garden through frequent visits, service on most of its committees, personal philanthropy, board leadership, and introducing friends to the Garden's great beauty and significant programmatic activities, thereby clearly demonstrating his understanding that people live better, healthier lives when they can create, care for, and enjoy gardens and green space; that beautiful gardens and natural environments are fundamentally important to the mental and physical well-being of all people; and that the future of life on Earth depends on how well we understand, value, and protect plants, other wildlife, and the natural habitats that sustain our world; and

**WHEREAS**, Bob's kindness, insights, friendship, and delight in natural spaces has endeared him to the Board, staff, members, benefactors, volunteers, and so many others. He is a trusted colleague to Board members and valued mentor to executive staff leadership. Through his actions, Bob shows how truly dedicated he is to the Garden and its employees at all levels; and

**WHEREAS**, Bob deeply valued the Garden's relationship with the Forest Preserves of Cook County and sought to support it by whatever means possible; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, on behalf of the 5.2 million residents of Cook County, honors the work and contributions of Robert F. Finke, and herewith expresses its sincere gratitude for the invaluable contributions he made to the Citizens of Cook County, Illinois; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a suitable copy of this Resolution be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and that an official copy of same be tendered to Robert F. Finke.