

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, October 18, 2025 10:59:29 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, October 18, 2025 11:00:59 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:30
IP Address: 108.90.60.71

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: **Melanie Stewart-Clarke**

Q2

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners Meeting 10/21/2025 10a

Q3

Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

25-0377

Q4

What do you want to do?

REGISTER IN FAVOR of a specific item (You may add written comments below)

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

Respondent skipped this question

Q6 **Submitting written testimony only**

Please Indicate if you are only submitting written testimony or if you wish to address the Committee live (virtually) at the meeting.

Q7 **Respondent skipped this question**

If requesting to address the Board or Committee live (virtually or in-person), please provide an email address and phone number (This is required to receive and an invitation to the virtual meeting).

Q8 **Respondent skipped this question**

If addressing the Board or Committee live (in-person or virtually), do you require translation services?

Q9 **Respondent skipped this question**

If yes, which language do you need translated?

#2

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, October 18, 2025 12:06:18 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, October 18, 2025 12:07:59 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:41
IP Address: 98.212.54.44

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Martha Clarke
City/Town: Chicago
State: IL
ZIP: 60618

Q2

Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners Meeting 10/21/2025 10a

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

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25-0377

Q4

REGISTER IN FAVOR of a specific item (You may add written comments below)

What do you want to do?

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

The employees of the Botanic Gardens are invaluable and deserve representation!

Q6

Submitting written testimony only

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Q7

If requesting to address the Board or Committee live (virtually or in-person), please provide an email address and phone number (This is required to receive and an invitation to the virtual meeting).

Email Address

marthac.clarke@gmail.com

Phone Number

8479778335

Q8

Respondent skipped this question

If addressing the Board or Committee live (in-person or virtually), do you require translation services?

Q9

Respondent skipped this question

If yes, which language do you need translated?

#3

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, October 18, 2025 5:20:25 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, October 18, 2025 5:22:32 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:07
IP Address: 108.90.60.71

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Matthew Clarke
City/Town: Morton Grove
State: IL
ZIP: 60053

Q2

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners Meeting 10/21/2025 10a

Q3

Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

25-0377

Q4

What do you want to do?

REGISTER IN FAVOR of a specific item (You may add written comments below)

Q5 Respondent skipped this question

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

Q6 Submitting written testimony only

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Q7 Respondent skipped this question

If requesting to address the Board or Committee live (virtually or in-person), please provide an email address and phone number (This is required to receive and an invitation to the virtual meeting).

Q8 Respondent skipped this question

If addressing the Board or Committee live (in-person or virtually), do you require translation services?

Q9 Respondent skipped this question

If yes, which language do you need translated?

#4

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, October 19, 2025 11:19:33 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, October 19, 2025 11:56:38 AM
Time Spent: 00:37:04
IP Address: 104.28.104.24

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Anonymous
City/Town:	Buffalo Grove
State:	IL
ZIP:	60089

Q2

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners Meeting 10/21/2025 10a

Q3

Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

25-0377

Q4

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REGISTER IN FAVOR of a specific item (You may add written comments below)

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

Support Garden Workers!

Q6

Submitting written testimony only

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Q7

Respondent skipped this question

If requesting to address the Board or Committee live (virtually or in-person), please provide an email address and phone number (This is required to receive and an invitation to the virtual meeting).

Q8

Respondent skipped this question

If addressing the Board or Committee live (in-person or virtually), do you require translation services?

Q9

Respondent skipped this question

If yes, which language do you need translated?

#5

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, October 19, 2025 12:12:06 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, October 19, 2025 12:14:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:16
IP Address: 71.239.166.213

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Brian Chapp
State: IL
ZIP: 60089

Q2

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners Meeting 10/21/2025 10a

Q3

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25-0377

Q4

What do you want to do?

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Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

Support garden workers.

Q6 **Submitting written testimony only**

Please Indicate if you are only submitting written testimony or if you wish to address the Committee live (virtually) at the meeting.

Q7 **Respondent skipped this question**

If requesting to address the Board or Committee live (virtually or in-person), please provide an email address and phone number (This is required to receive and an invitation to the virtual meeting).

Q8 **Respondent skipped this question**

If addressing the Board or Committee live (in-person or virtually), do you require translation services?

Q9 **Respondent skipped this question**

If yes, which language do you need translated?

#6

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, October 19, 2025 12:49:10 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, October 19, 2025 1:09:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:19:53
IP Address: 149.75.162.61

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Kris Grant
City/Town: Des Plaines
State: IL
ZIP: 60016

Q2

Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners Meeting 10/21/2025 10a

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

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25-0377

Q4

REGISTER IN FAVOR of a specific item (You may add written comments below)

What do you want to do?

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

We are Chicago Botanic Garden members and I was a teacher in Glencoe for 30+ years. We regularly visit the Garden and participate in CBG programs. We are so impressed with the knowledge, helpfulness and professionalism of the Garden staff. They go out of their way to welcome and teach visitors of all ages. The CBG depends on their employees, full time, part time and seasonal, to work with the public, to grow, set up and maintain everything that is the magical Chicago Botanic Garden. These employees are asking for and deserve the right to form a union. They know what they need. CBG should get out of the way and provide card check neutrality, and stop trying to discourage and intimidate employees from joining. Let them have a vote.

Q6

Submitting written testimony only

Please Indicate if you are only submitting written testimony or if you wish to address the Committee live (virtually) at the meeting.

Q7

Respondent skipped this question

If requesting to address the Board or Committee live (virtually or in-person), please provide an email address and phone number (This is required to receive and an invitation to the virtual meeting).

Q8

Respondent skipped this question

If addressing the Board or Committee live (in-person or virtually), do you require translation services?

Q9

Respondent skipped this question

If yes, which language do you need translated?

#7

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, October 19, 2025 4:03:14 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, October 19, 2025 4:05:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:04
IP Address: 69.216.126.123

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Thomas Grant
City/Town: Rolling Meadows
State: IL
ZIP: 60008

Q2

Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners Meeting 10/21/2025 10a

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

Q3

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25-0377

Q4

REGISTER IN FAVOR of a specific item (You may add written comments below)

What do you want to do?

Q5 Respondent skipped this question

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

Q6 Submitting written testimony only

Please Indicate if you are only submitting written testimony or if you wish to address the Committee live (virtually) at the meeting.

Q7 Respondent skipped this question

If requesting to address the Board or Committee live (virtually or in-person), please provide an email address and phone number (This is required to receive and an invitation to the virtual meeting).

Q8 No

If addressing the Board or Committee live (in-person or virtually), do you require translation services?

Q9 Respondent skipped this question

If yes, which language do you need translated?

#8

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, October 19, 2025 5:02:09 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, October 19, 2025 5:05:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:51
IP Address: 103.103.98.54

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Dahae Lee
City/Town: Chicago
State: IL
ZIP: 60608

Q2

Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners Meeting 10/21/2025 10a

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

Q4

REGISTER IN FAVOR of a specific item (You may add written comments below)

What do you want to do?

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

I support this resolution and feel this must be passed for Chicago Botanic Garden to live up to its mission to the city and community.

Q6

Submitting written testimony only

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Q7

Respondent skipped this question

If requesting to address the Board or Committee live (virtually or in-person), please provide an email address and phone number (This is required to receive and an invitation to the virtual meeting).

Q8

Respondent skipped this question

If addressing the Board or Committee live (in-person or virtually), do you require translation services?

Q9

Respondent skipped this question

If yes, which language do you need translated?

#9

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, October 19, 2025 5:09:20 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, October 19, 2025 5:32:27 PM
Time Spent: 00:23:07
IP Address: 73.45.87.248

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Dorian Buie-Jennings
City/Town: Chicago
State: IL
ZIP: 60608

Q2

Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners Meeting 10/21/2025 10a

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

Q3

Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

25-0377

Q4

REGISTER IN FAVOR of a specific item (You may add written comments below)

What do you want to do?

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

Their unionization efforts are fair and they deserve them.

Q6

Submitting written testimony only

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Q7

Respondent skipped this question

If requesting to address the Board or Committee live (virtually or in-person), please provide an email address and phone number (This is required to receive and an invitation to the virtual meeting).

Q8

No

If addressing the Board or Committee live (in-person or virtually), do you require translation services?

Q9

Respondent skipped this question

If yes, which language do you need translated?

#10

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, October 19, 2025 5:11:02 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, October 19, 2025 5:36:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:25:45
IP Address: 67.173.55.129

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Chris Beger
City/Town: Chicago
State: IL

Q2

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners Meeting 10/21/2025 10a

Q3

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25-0377

Q4

What do you want to do?

REGISTER IN FAVOR of a specific item (You may add written comments below)

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

Garden workers provide an important service to the community and should be able to speak for themselves with a unified voice without facing reprisals in their efforts to organize. The recent spate of involuntary departures and ongoing disciplinary actions against garden workers organizing themselves concerns me as a patron of the gardens and is unbecoming of an organization that seeks to be a community steward. Sustainable agricultural practices necessitate that agricultural workers are able to sustain themselves and their loved ones. I am writing in favor of voluntary recognition of the organizing committee.

Q6

Submitting written testimony only

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Q7

Respondent skipped this question

If requesting to address the Board or Committee live (virtually or in-person), please provide an email address and phone number (This is required to receive and an invitation to the virtual meeting).

Q8

No

If addressing the Board or Committee live (in-person or virtually), do you require translation services?

Q9

Respondent skipped this question

If yes, which language do you need translated?

#11

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, October 19, 2025 5:17:43 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, October 19, 2025 7:09:39 PM
Time Spent: 01:51:56
IP Address: 73.22.159.225

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Carlos Floyd
Organization (if any): U Chicago
City/Town: Chicafo
State: IL
ZIP: 60616

Q2

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners Meeting 10/21/2025 10a

Q3

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25-0377

Q4

What do you want to do?

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Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

Q6 Submitting written testimony only

Please Indicate if you are only submitting written testimony or if you wish to address the Committee live (virtually) at the meeting.

Q7 Respondent skipped this question

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Q8 Respondent skipped this question

If addressing the Board or Committee live (in-person or virtually), do you require translation services?

Q9 Respondent skipped this question

If yes, which language do you need translated?

#12

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, October 19, 2025 9:48:06 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, October 19, 2025 9:59:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:10
IP Address: 76.104.20.135

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Katy Mullin
City/Town: Charlottesville
State: VA
ZIP: 22901

Q2

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners Meeting 10/21/2025 10a

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Respondent skipped this question

Q4

What do you want to do?

REGISTER IN FAVOR of a specific item (You may add written comments below)

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Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

The mission of the Chicago Botanic Garden is to “cultivate the power of plants to sustain and enrich life.” Connecting people through nature in the huge urban city of Chicago through the values inherent in agriculture and sustainability, as well as offering the joy of working the Earth’s soil is incredibly needed today and the CBG is to be commended. However, the employees of the CBG must also be valued. They are the ones (and working) the ground, actually cultivating the soil to bring the CBG’s mission to life. Their voices must be heard, their hard work recognized, and the opportunity for them to flourish must be granted. Please support the unionization effort so that everyone - including employees - gains the enrichment inherent in the CBG’s mission.

Q6

Submitting written testimony only

Please Indicate if you are only submitting written testimony or if you wish to address the Committee live (virtually) at the meeting.

Q7

Respondent skipped this question

If requesting to address the Board or Committee live (virtually or in-person), please provide an email address and phone number (This is required to receive and an invitation to the virtual meeting).

Q8

Respondent skipped this question

If addressing the Board or Committee live (in-person or virtually), do you require translation services?

Q9

Respondent skipped this question

If yes, which language do you need translated?

#13

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, October 20, 2025 12:59:19 AM
Last Modified: Monday, October 20, 2025 1:00:19 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:59
IP Address: 24.13.8.122

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Adrianna Krzyford
City/Town: Chicago
State: IL
ZIP: 60618

Q2

Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners Meeting 10/21/2025 10a

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

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25-0377

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Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

I support the Chicago Botanic Gardens workers and their right to form a union without intimidation or fear of losing their jobs. Chicago is a union town and every worker should be allowed to join one. No company, nonprofit, or government agency should be allowed to intimidate or retaliate against pro union workers. Workers deserve to be protected. Chicago would be nothing without our workers, and so would the Garden and the Forest Preserves.

Q6

Submitting written testimony only

Please Indicate if you are only submitting written testimony or if you wish to address the Committee live (virtually) at the meeting.

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Respondent skipped this question

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Respondent skipped this question

If addressing the Board or Committee live (in-person or virtually), do you require translation services?

Q9

Respondent skipped this question

If yes, which language do you need translated?

#14

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, October 20, 2025 6:59:09 AM
Last Modified: Monday, October 20, 2025 7:00:55 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:45
IP Address: 24.13.8.122

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Thomas Krzyford
City/Town: Chicago
State: IL
ZIP: 60618

Q2

Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners Meeting 10/21/2025 10a

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25-0377

Q4

REGISTER IN FAVOR of a specific item (You may add written comments below)

What do you want to do?

Q5 Respondent skipped this question

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

Q6 Submitting written testimony only

Please Indicate if you are only submitting written testimony or if you wish to address the Committee live (virtually) at the meeting.

Q7 Respondent skipped this question

If requesting to address the Board or Committee live (virtually or in-person), please provide an email address and phone number (This is required to receive and an invitation to the virtual meeting).

Q8 Respondent skipped this question

If addressing the Board or Committee live (in-person or virtually), do you require translation services?

Q9 Respondent skipped this question

If yes, which language do you need translated?

#15

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, October 20, 2025 7:12:59 AM
Last Modified: Monday, October 20, 2025 7:16:17 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:17
IP Address: 67.167.207.177

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Ryan Lothian
City/Town: Chicago
State: IL
ZIP: 60625

Q2

Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners Meeting 10/21/2025 10a

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

Q3

Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

25-0377

Q4

REGISTER IN FAVOR of a specific item (You may add written comments below)

What do you want to do?

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

During eight years working at the FPCC I saw how a unionized workforce benefitted union and non-union workers alike. Now that I work at the Chicago Botanic Garden, it's clear that a union is needed to improve conditions for workers and strengthen the Garden as an organization. Thank you for supporting Chicago Botanic Garden workers.

Q6

Submitting written testimony only

Please Indicate if you are only submitting written testimony or if you wish to address the Committee live (virtually) at the meeting.

Q7

Respondent skipped this question

If requesting to address the Board or Committee live (virtually or in-person), please provide an email address and phone number (This is required to receive and an invitation to the virtual meeting).

Q8

Respondent skipped this question

If addressing the Board or Committee live (in-person or virtually), do you require translation services?

Q9

Respondent skipped this question

If yes, which language do you need translated?

#16

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, October 20, 2025 8:47:29 AM
Last Modified: Monday, October 20, 2025 8:55:21 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:52
IP Address: 75.210.127.87

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Scott Compton
Organization (if any):	Surf Rider Foundation
City/Town:	Northbrook
State:	IL
ZIP:	60062

Q2

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners Meeting 10/21/2025 10a

Q3

Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

Respondent skipped this question

Q4

What do you want to do?

PROVIDE WRITTEN COMMENT FOR INFORMATION ONLY (You may add written comments below)

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

Thank you President Preckwinkle, Superintendent Bianchi and the Board of Commissioners for the Cook County Forest Preserve.

My name is Scott Compton.

For over 30 years I have been surfing, kayaking, paddle boarding, and swimming in the lakes and rivers of Illinois. During that time I have witnessed the growth of watercraft sports and activities on Lake Michigan, the Des Plaines River, the Chicago River, and the Skokie Lagoons.

If swimmers can take to the Chicago River for the first time in 100 years, then paddle boarders can surely share the same waters that kayakers and canoeists use safely and responsibly.

In many ways a paddle board is an ideal way to navigate the lagoons. The standing height or even a kneeling position gives the paddler an advantage of seeing obstacles in the water and avoiding the disruption of wildlife in their natural habitat.

Moreover a paddle board can glide gently across the lagoon with excellent stability and maneuverability.

As far as safety goes, in the unlikely event that a paddler loses their balance and falls into the water the paddler would have an appropriate U.S. Coast Guard Certified personal flotation device and an ankle leash to prevent the board from drifting away.

Finally, the environmental impact of paddle boarders is usually a positive one. I and many other paddlers perform the task of clearing our waterways of debris and trash often littered by people who enter and leave our forest preserves on foot or by car.

Paddlers of kayaks, canoes and paddle boards power their watercraft in the most green way possible and are passionate about preserving the natural integrity and serenity our lakes and rivers provide.

Thank you,
Scott Compton
SurfRider Foundation Chicago

Q6

Submitting written testimony only

Please Indicate if you are only submitting written testimony or if you wish to address the Committee live (virtually) at the meeting.

Q7

If requesting to address the Board or Committee live (virtually or in-person), please provide an email address and phone number (This is required to receive and an invitation to the virtual meeting).

Email Address **scottsend@gmail.com**

Phone Number **3124466368**

Q8 Respondent skipped this question

If addressing the Board or Committee live (in-person or virtually), do you require translation services?

Q9 Respondent skipped this question

If yes, which language do you need translated?

Nick Desideri
Political Director
Chicago Federal of Labor
180 N. Stetson, Suite 1529
Chicago, IL 60601

As the umbrella organization uniting nearly 300 affiliate unions and 500,000 working people across Cook County, the Chicago Federation of Labor supports Chicago Botanic Garden workers' efforts to come together in a union with the Chicago & Midwest Regional Joint Board of Workers United for better pay, benefits, and working conditions.

The Cook County Forest Preserve contributes more than \$11 million annually to the Chicago Horticultural Society, which operates the garden. Public dollars should go towards creating good jobs workers can support a family on. Yet the organization is not living up to the values of the county, and it is refusing to recognize workers' request for a union.

The dedicated workers of the Chicago Botanic Garden deserve a voice on the job. We appreciate Commissioner Anaya and Commissioner Vasquez for their sponsorship of Resolution 25-0377. The CFL urges the Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners to pass this resolution and for the Chicago Botanic Garden to do the right thing.