



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

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

Consent Agenda

Tuesday, December 13, 2016, 10:00 AM

16-0405

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE and LARRY SUFFREDIN, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION**HONORING KRIS JARANTOSKI ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF THE CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN**

WHEREAS, Kris Jarantoski has served with great distinction as executive vice president and director of the Chicago Botanic Garden for more than four decades, earning the respect and affection of his co-workers; and

WHEREAS, Kris Jarantoski will retire on February 8, 2017; putting an end to his long commute from Chicago and his daily patrol of the Garden from a fast-moving golf cart, and gaining an extra two hours daily, which he intends to fill with language lessons, organ practice, yoga, and hospital volunteer work; and

WHEREAS, as executive vice president and director of the Garden, Kris Jarantoski has overseen the horticulture, plant collections, and facilities and planning of the Garden; developing virtually every display garden, working with the best landscape designers and architects from around the world including Dan Kiley, John Brookes, Oehme, Van Sweden, Michael van Valkenburgh, and Koichi Kawana; and

WHEREAS, Kris Jarantoski has guided the Garden as it has grown from a single Home Landscape Garden to 27 gardens and four natural areas and has put his creative stamp on every one of its 385 acres; and

WHEREAS, Kris Jarantoski led the development of the recently opened Regenstein Learning Campus, including its innovative Nature Play Garden; and

WHEREAS, Kris Jarantoski's work and his reputation in landscape architecture and design is unparalleled and he has received worldwide recognition, including the American Horticultural Society Professional Award, the Garden Club of America Distinguished Service Medal, the Garden Club of America Honorary Membership, the George Robert White Medal of Honor, the Arthur Hoyt Sc and Award, Honorary Member of the American Society of Landscape Architects, and the American Public Gardens Association Honorary Life Member Award; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Botanic Garden's chairman of the Board of Directors, Robert F. Finke said, "There wouldn't be a Chicago Botanic Garden without Kris. He has a set the standard of excellence for us and for the entire field;" and

WHEREAS, the Garden honored Kris Jarantoski's vision and dedication by naming the new nursery and plant production facility for him-the Kris Jarantoski Campus-which is expected to be completed by 2020; and

WHEREAS, Kris Jarantoski earned a bachelor of science in ornamental horticulture from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a master of science in ornamental horticulture/botany from the University of Minnesota-St. Paul, a master's degree in business management from Lake Forest Graduate School of Management, and is a graduate of the Museum Management Institute at the University of California-Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, Kris Jarantoski is a valued colleague and friend to everyone at the Chicago Botanic Garden and none can imagine the Garden without him; and Kris's colleagues are happy for him as he begins what everyone hopes will be a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, on behalf of the 5.2 million residents of Cook County, takes great pleasure in honoring Kris Jarantoski on his retirement and herewith honors and thanks him for all that he has done bettering the lives of the citizens of Cook County, Illinois; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be included among the official proceedings of this honorable body and that an official copy of the same be tendered to Kris Jarantoski on the occasion of his retirement as executive vice president and director of the Chicago Botanic Garden.

16-0471

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE, President, Forest Preserve District of Cook County

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING HENRI JORDAN FOR RECEIVING AN AMERICA'S JOB HONOR AWARD

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Cook County is proud to announce that Henri Jordan, Resource Technician with the Forest Preserves' Tinley Resource Management crew, has been selected as a 2016 top honoree for the America's Job Honor Awards Program; and

WHEREAS, the America's Job Honor Awards is a nonprofit initiative that helps disadvantaged citizens enter the workforce. This award recognizes and celebrates individuals like Mr. Jordan who have overcome significant barriers to employment and employers like the Forest Preserves of Cook County who hire them; and

WHEREAS, we honor Mr. Jordan today for overcoming significant life challenges that are unique to growing up on Chicago's west side in an underserved community. He was exposed from an early age to the pressures that come with being poor and soon joined a gang, eventually serving time in prison; and

WHEREAS, upon his release, Mr. Jordan learned about the Greencorps Chicago Program and was accepted into the program in January 2011. Greencorps Chicago is a City of Chicago Department of Transportation program that provides training and professional development for adults with barriers to employment while improving local natural areas. Greencorps participants receive valuable job training in natural resource related fields; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jordan excelled in the Greencorps program and successfully pursued a variety of professional licenses and certifications to build an impressive resume. He stood out for his seriousness, punctuality, and commitment to the program. Mr. Jordan worked hard throughout his time at Greencorps to earn a promotion to supervisor and develop a skill set that would allow him to become the first Greencorps graduate to be hired as a full time Forest Preserve employee. Mr. Jordan has become a valued mentor for other program participants and continues to seek out opportunities that could allow others to follow in his footsteps; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Cook County has a long working relationship with Greencorps Chicago. Greencorps' crews work in the Preserves throughout the year conducting important ecological restoration projects; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 Mr. Jordan was hired by the Forest Preserves of Cook County as a Resource Technician in the Department of Resource Management; and

WHEREAS, Henri is an extremely hardworking and dependable employee and a valued team player who contributes each and every day to making the Forest Preserves a better and healthier place; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jordan's dedication, professionalism, and integrity is deeply valued by the Forest Preserves and his resilience and his commitment to overcome barriers and improve himself, his community, and the environment serves as an inspiration to all of us; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President; the Board of Commissioners; and the Forest Preserves of Cook County congratulate Mr. Jordan for his outstanding achievement and exceptional contributions to nature and local conservation efforts on behalf of the Forest Preserves; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to Mr. Jordan as a token of appreciation for his service to the Preserves and the residents of Cook County.

16-0477

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE, President, Forest Preserve District of Cook County

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING MARK TOMASIK, FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE

WHEREAS, on Saturday, August 20, 2016, Officer Mark Tomasik played an instrumental role in saving the life of a man who had been the victim of a hit and run accident at Ottawa Woods North in Lyons, Illinois. The man had been riding a motorcycle when hit from behind causing him to become trapped under his motorcycle in a water-filled ditch containing approximately three feet of water. While able to keep his face just above the water line following the accident, the weight of the motorcycle was slowly causing the victim to sink deeper into the water. When Officer Tomasik arrived at the scene he began an immediate search of the darkened roadway when he soon heard muffled cries for help. Officer Tomasik quickly located the victim, entered the water, and grasped the motorcycle and the victim to prevent both from sinking beneath the surface of the water. Officer Tomasik called for help and remained with the victim, straining to hold the immense weight of the motorcycle off of the victim for several minutes until Lyons firefighters and paramedics could find him, and with the help of pulleys and two fire trucks, free the victim and transport him to McNeal Hospital in Berwyn where he made a full recovery; and

WHEREAS, Officer Tomasik, a recent recruit who joined the Forest Preserves’ Law Enforcement Department on April 6, 2015, has already impressed his colleagues with his exemplary conduct and calm demeanor and positive attitude; and

WHEREAS, Officer Tomasik is a military veteran with 20 years of service in the US Army who has completed tours in Somalia, Iraq and Afghanistan and was honorably discharged before joining the Forest Preserves Law Enforcement Department; and

WHEREAS, Officer Tomasik exemplifies 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 to respond to emergency situations, to engage in search and rescue operations, to overcome rugged terrain in order to save persons facing perilous situations, and prepared to administer CPR and other life-saving practices; and

WHEREAS, Officer Tomasik is being commended for his swift, dedicated and decisive action that resulted in a successful life-saving rescue while confronting a dangerous and precarious situation; and

WHEREAS, Officer Tomasik has rendered an invaluable service to this man and his family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Officer Tomasik is an exemplar of police professionalism and an inspiration to his fellow officers and all Forest Preserve employees; and

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ceremonial copies of this resolution be presented to Officer Tomasik.

16-0483

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE, President, Forest Preserve District of Cook County

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT FACILITIES & FLEET MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR LEN DUFKIS

WHEREAS, on December 30, 2016, Len Dufkis will complete his 38 year distinguished career as Facilities and Fleet Maintenance Supervisor for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County; and

WHEREAS, Len Dufkis throughout his career has been highly respected working his way through the ranks from a Laborer to a Supervisor dedicating his life’s work to government public service; and

WHEREAS, Len Dufkis supervised a diverse staff that was responsible for the routine maintenance, repairs, renovations and services that are necessary to properly maintain the Preserves’ facilities, infrastructures, roadways, parking lots, sewers, basins and picnic tables; and

WHEREAS, Len Dufkis strove to utilize the latest energy efficient technologies, to improve productivity and responsiveness, and served as a member of the Preserves “Green Team” which introduced green cleaning materials, recycling, LED lighting and other sustainable initiatives to the Preserves; and

WHEREAS, Len Dufkis was a remarkably dedicated employee with a “can-do” attitude, whose calm demeanor and responsiveness proved invaluable in any crisis situation; and

WHEREAS, Len Dufkis embraced collaboration and partners and worked closely with the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, as well as other agencies, to leverage resources and share expertise for the benefit of the Preserves and the people of Cook County; and

WHEREAS, Len Dufkis worked with leadership and other senior staff to honor the Preserves’ Centennial by refining the Mission, Vision and Values of the Preserves and contributed to the successful development and implementation of the Next Century Conservation Plan; and

WHEREAS, Len Dufkis made himself available over the course of two years to WYCC PBS Chicago, Juneteenth Production Company and Preserve staff in the production of the Emmy winning documentary film, *Chicago’s True Nature: The Forest Preserves of Cook County*. He shared his wide range of expertise and knowledge of the Preserves’ natural and cultural assets with the film team and provided them with unique views of the Preserves, guided them through land and water trails, and gave the cameraman and team a rare glimpse of nesting bald eagles and other Preserve highlights; and

WHEREAS, Len Dufkis delighted in the Preserves’ history and was generous in sharing his knowledge of the Preserve founders Jens Jensen and Dwight Perkins, the significance of the Civilian Conservation Corps’ projects that built bridges, shelters, and other infrastructure that continues to serve the public today; and

WHEREAS, Len Dufkis’ has worked tirelessly to protect the Forest Preserves’ plants and animals and to ensure that the remarkable nature of the Preserves thrives for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, his colleagues at the Forest Preserves and partner agencies will miss his knowledge, kindness, and sense of humor; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Cook County have benefitted greatly from his years of outstanding service to the Forest Preserves, one of the oldest and largest conservation districts in the country; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Board of Commissioners of Cook County and General Superintendent Arnold Randall do hereby extend their thanks to Len Dufkis for his dedication, contributions, leadership and outstanding service and wish him continued good health, happiness and success in all of his future endeavors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to Len Dufkis as a token of appreciation for his service to the Forest Preserve District of Cook County residents.

16-0484

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE, President, Forest Preserve District of Cook County

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE 58TH ANNUAL EMMY AWARD PRESENTED TO THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY DOCUMENTARY FILM: “CHICAGO’S TRUE NATURE: THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY”

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves 2013 Centennial Campaign Plan provided for the development and production of a one-hour documentary; and

WHEREAS, “*Chicago’s True Nature: The Forest Preserves of Cook County*” premiered on WYCC PBS television in Chicago on May 2016; and

WHEREAS, the vision of the film was to create local and global awareness of the value of nature, the health and well-being the Preserves brings to people, animals, flora, fauna and its nearly 70,000 acres of natural lands; and

WHEREAS, the films interviews with the descendants of Preserve Founders, Jens Jensen and Dwight Perkins, Forest Preserve staff, volunteers and partners; explored the Forest Preserves’ creation; and,

WHEREAS, one hundred hours of raw footage of nature and interviews was gathered and created an archival record of the Forest Preserves’ rich history as one of the largest and oldest Preserves in the United States for endless future learning opportunities; and

WHEREAS, what seemed a daunting task turned into a labor of love and a beautiful film; and

WHEREAS, as affirmation of these efforts, “*Chicago’s True Nature: The Forest Preserves of Cook County*” was nominated by the Chicago/Midwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for a 2016 Emmy Award; and

WHEREAS, blind judging was performed by professionals in markets from Cleveland, Denver, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Texas; and

WHEREAS, on December 3, 2016, the Forest Preserves General Superintendent Arnold Randall was presented with an Emmy Award for the film, in the category of “Outstanding Achievement for Information/Instructional Programming - Program/Special/Series; and,

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to its employees, partners and WYCC PBS Chicago television staff for their expertise, creativity, talent, tenacity and dedication in capturing the Preserves unique history as evidenced in the film’s success; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, and the Board of Commissioners congratulate General Superintendent Arnold Randall, all Forest Preserve Staff, volunteers and partners, and WYCC PBS Chicago television for their collaboration on this Emmy award winning film and dedication to Cook County and its residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to General Superintendent Arnold Randall, WYCC PBS Chicago television's Ron Schofield, Executive Director of Media Services, Shaunese Teamer, Revenue and Development Director, Supervising Producer, Shelley Spencer, Juneteenth Productions Founder Judith McCray, Director, Writer & Producer and Heidi Zersen, Director Producer & Writer and Mary Pat Dailey Cross, Executive Producer.