



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

**3300 Golf Road, Brookfield, IL
Brookfield Zoo-Wild Encounters,
White Oak Room**

Consent Agenda

Tuesday, July 23, 2019, 10:00 AM

CONSENT CALENDAR**19-0313**

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION**IN MEMORIAM OF THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY CONSERVATION ADVOCATE VALERIE SPALE**

WHEREAS, Valerie Spale is recognized for being a tireless advocate for nature, a highly effective conservation leader, and a positive force for conservation within the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”); and

WHEREAS, Valerie Spale led a decades-long charge to conserve Wolf Road Prairie, an 80-acre Illinois State Nature Preserve located in Westchester, in western Cook County which contains the state’s largest black-soil prairie remnant, and is owned in part by the Forest Preserves and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (“IDNR”); and

WHEREAS, Valerie Spale was an early member and served as Director of the Save the Prairie Society, and through that group assembled a coalition of conservationists that began saving Wolf Road Prairie in the 1970’s and continues to this day to collaborate with the Forest Preserves and IDNR on managing and enhancing this remarkable site; and

WHEREAS, Valerie Spale held many leadership positions which influenced conservation and land protection in Illinois, including serving for a decade on the Illinois Nature Preserve Commission, as President of the Salt Creek Greenway Association, Director of the Westchester Historical Society, and Director of the Fullersburg Historical Society, thereby cultivating inter-agency collaboration; and

WHEREAS, Valerie Spale helped organize and sponsor public educational opportunities which celebrate the geology, paleo-history, and current biodiversity of Wolf Road Prairie; and

WHEREAS, Valerie Spale created a robust network of organizations to deliver effective conservation activities and resources to Wolf Road Prairie to restore and spark interest in the site; and

WHEREAS, Valerie Spale’s tireless advocacy for the protection of Illinois’ natural heritage will continue to benefit the people, animals and plants of Cook County for generations to come; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby offer its deepest condolences and most heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Valerie Spale and join them in sorrow for their loss. Valerie Spale will be greatly missed within the Forest Preserves and larger conservation communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to the family of Valerie Spale as a token of appreciation for her service to the Forest Preserves of Cook County and the residents of Cook County.

19-0323

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE FIELD MUSEUM AND MIGHTY ACORNS PARTNERS AND THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY FOR EACH RECEIVING AWARDS FROM THE JOHN MUIR ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2019, the Field Museum and its Mighty Acorns Partners, and the Forest Preserves of Cook County each received awards from the John Muir Association; and

WHEREAS, The Field Museum and Mighty Acorns Partners received the Environmental Education Conservation Award for the Mighty Acorns program for their outstanding contributions to environmental education; and

WHEREAS, Mighty Acorns is one of the Midwest region's largest and longest running environmental education programs for 3rd to 5th graders. The program is a partnership housed at the Field Museum which coordinates the work of nearly 20 partners; and

WHEREAS, for nearly 25 years Mighty Acorns has grown and adapted based on the expertise and innovation of a strong network of environmental educators and conservation organizations and has touched the lives of over 120,000 children; and

WHEREAS, Mighty Acorns' effective combination of hands-on restoration at local natural areas and in-class lessons on science and ecology provides elementary students with a deep connection to nature, a scientific understanding of the region's biodiversity, and the skills and attitudes needed to take care of local natural areas; and

WHEREAS, the John Muir Association awarded the Forest Preserves of Cook County with its Public Agency Conservation Award for demonstrating significant achievement and leadership in the advancement of environmental protection and conservation; and

WHEREAS, the award recognizes the work of both the Forest Preserves of Cook County and its partners in protecting, restoring and promoting the natural habitats in its care and advances the goals and priorities outlined in both the Next Century Conservation Plan and the Natural and Cultural Resources Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, this award reaffirms the Forest Preserves of Cook County commitment to restoring 30,000 acres of priority landscapes to health and ensuring the future of these important public lands; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners thank and congratulate the Field Museum and Mighty Acorns Partners and the Forest Preserves of Cook County for their commitment to restoring, protecting and connecting people to our natural lands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to awardees as a token of appreciation for their service to the Mighty Acorns Program, the Forest Preserves of Cook County and the residents of Cook County.