



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

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

Consent Agenda

Tuesday, December 17, 2019, 10:00 AM

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.

[19-0487](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION**CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF THOMAS NISSLY**

WHEREAS, Thomas Nissly is retiring after serving the Chicago Botanic Garden for the past twenty-four years. During this time, he steered the Garden's financial ship and guaranteed the financial integrity of the Garden's operations as it grew from small to medium to large; and

WHEREAS, Tom is currently the Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, and Treasurer of the Garden. In this position, he is responsible for managing all financial affairs of the Garden, as well as directing the planning, control, and administration of the Garden's Finance, Human Resources, Information Systems, and Administrative Services departments. He serves as the primary liaison to the Finance and Investment, Audit, and Personnel and Compensation Committees of the Garden's Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his obvious leadership role, he served as a mentor to countless Garden employees and volunteers throughout his tenure; and

WHEREAS, Tom has more than 38 years of experience in accounting and financial matters, specializing in issues faced by nonprofit institutions. Prior to joining the Garden in 1995, Nissly worked at Arthur Andersen LLP in Chicago, where he was one of the leaders of its Nonprofit and Healthcare Industry teams; and

WHEREAS, Tom is a recognized speaker on nonprofit and healthcare business topics. He has been an instructor at Loyola University Law School and a guest lecturer at the DePaul University Health and Public Service Management programs and the Rush University Health Systems Management program; and

WHEREAS, Tom received a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from Miami University and is a registered CPA. He has served on the board of directors of multiple civic organizations, including Easter Seals DuPage/Fox Valley Region, where he was formerly chairman of the board, the Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra, the Nonprofit Financial Center, and Infinitic West. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Illinois CPA Society, and the American Alliance of Museums; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being the Garden's trusted Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Tom is also the Garden's historian, capable of instant recall on all matters of Garden history, financial and otherwise. During his long tenure, he has managed virtually every department at the Garden and, nearly every day of the week, he has walked its 385 acres; and

WHEREAS, Tom's recall reaches back even earlier than his official employment start date in 1995. He counted the Garden among his many nonprofit clients when he helped lead Arthur Andersen's non-profit and healthcare industry teams in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, in his retirement, Tom hopes to redirect his energy toward his beloved family. He will once again begin playing the guitar, reading British history, and extending the hours he devotes to his beloved Chicago Bears, Cubs, Blackhawks, and Bulls, while also traveling regularly, both home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, in the words of Garden Board Chairman Robert F. Finke, "No one has served the Garden with greater loyalty and distinction than Tom. For the last 24 years, Tom has been the architect who built a strong fiscal foundation that supports the Garden and secures its future for years to come. We are beyond grateful to Tom and Terry Ann (his wife) for all they have given to the Garden and for their friendship and the good times we have shared. We wish them both a wonderful and active retirement."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the 5.2 million residents of Cook County commemorates the life of **THOMAS NISSLY**, and herewith expresses its sincere gratitude for the years of service he has given 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 the same be tendered to **THOMAS NISSLY** and his family.

[19-0498](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), 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, LARRY SUFFREDIN and JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF COOK COUNTY AND FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY FOR RECEIVING THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AWARD FROM THE ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PARK DISTRICTS

WHEREAS, on November 1, 2019, the Housing Authority of Cook County and Forest Preserves of Cook

County were honored with an Intergovernmental Cooperation Award for the Forest Preserves Experience Program from the Illinois Association of Park Districts at a ceremony in Wheeling, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves Experience Program is part of the Conservation Corps and was launched in 2016 through a collaboration with the Housing Authority, Friends of the Forest Preserves and the Forest Preserves; and

WHEREAS, the program is a five-week summer internship that introduces high school-aged residents from the Housing Authority of Cook County's Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing programs in rewarding and valuable physical work outdoors on conservation and habitat restoration projects in the Forest Preserves; and

WHEREAS, the Housing Authority is a valued partner and important collaborator and has played a key role in the expansion of the program, with enrollment growing from 100 youth in 2016 to over 200 youth in 2019; and

WHEREAS, by providing youth an opportunity to take on a summer job, the Forest Preserve Experience creates a meaningful impact in the communities it serves, as well as in the Forest Preserves; and

WHEREAS, participants have meaningful experiences in nature, gain an appreciation for Cook County's local plants and animals and begin to understand the importance of preserving public lands; and

WHEREAS, the Housing Authority is critical to the program's sustainability and success and has been an excellent partner to the Forest Preserves and deserves to be recognized for their commitment to the Conservation Corps and connecting more people to nature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President; and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners congratulate the recipients of the Illinois Association of Park District's Intergovernmental Cooperation Award and thank them for their commitment to the mission of the Forest Preserves; and

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

[19-0510](#)

Sponsored by: 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, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS, LARRY SUFFREDIN and JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION**RECOGNIZING THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY'S SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY PLAN FOR RECEIVING THE BEST GREEN PRACTICES AWARD FROM THE ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PARK DISTRICTS**

WHEREAS, on November 1, 2019, the Forest Preserves of Cook County was honored with a Best Green Practices Award for its *Sustainability and Climate Resiliency Plan* from the Illinois Association of Park Districts at a ceremony in Wheeling, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the Plan was developed to harness the various strengths within the Forest Preserves and to create an effective strategy to address the pressing environmental issues of our time: climate change, pollution, invasive species, and habitat loss and fragmentation; and

WHEREAS, the Plan, adopted in September 2018, is dedicated to implementing responsible practices to mitigate both local and global environmental stressors and to ensure that our public lands and the communities they serve continue to thrive in the future; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves engaged over 50 partner organizations and other key stakeholders in the creation of the Plan and these partners provided key recommendations and challenged the Forest Preserves to become a leader in sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the main goals of the Plan are for the Forest Preserves to become carbon neutral by 2050 and to implement a roadmap that will allow the Forest Preserves to be resilient in a changing climate, which means modifying management practices to better protect ecosystem functions and ensure sustainable social, cultural and recreational uses of these important public lands; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President; and the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves congratulate all involved in the creation of the *Sustainability and Climate Resiliency Plan* for receiving the Illinois Association of Park District's Best Green Practices Award and thank them for their commitment to the mission of the Forest Preserves; and

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

[19-0512](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), 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, LARRY SUFFREDIN and JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION**HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF CYNTHIA MORENO**

WHEREAS, Ms. Cynthia Moreno will retire from her position as Director of the Conservation & Experiential Programming Department after seven years of service to the Forest Preserves of Cook County on December 26, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Moreno has spent 43 years working as a public servant advocating for the rights and well-being of underprivileged communities in Cook County, the City of Chicago, and the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Moreno started her career at the Illinois Department of Corrections as case manager, then she worked for Chicago's Department of Human Services as a case worker, working with her sister Diana Fuentes and progressing to be the Assistant Director of Emergency Services from 1979 to 1990. Ms. Moreno later worked at Association House of Chicago as the Child Welfare Division Director, overseeing the management of group homes and shelters for women and children, adults with disabilities and adolescents with disabilities from 1990 to 1998; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Moreno also served the Chicago Park District as the Central Region Manager, overseeing 127 parks, playgrounds and greenspaces including Garfield Park and Humboldt Park from 1998 to 2003. She later became the Deputy Director of Illinois Department of Children and Family Services leading a newly created Child Support Division and serving the entire state of Illinois for more than seven years; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, Ms. Moreno joined the Forest Preserves and was appointed Assistant to the General Superintendent to support new initiatives welcoming new audiences, partners, and communities. It was later determined that a new department should be formed within the Forest Preserves to coalesce the efforts of the education and recreation teams and that Ms. Moreno had the vision, experience, and drive to lead that department; and

WHEREAS, the Conservation and Experiential Programming (CEP) Department was formed in 2014 and has since been led by Ms. Moreno, achieving a 50 percent increase in the number of public programs and doubling the number of community partnerships. Ms. Moreno managed our five new campgrounds and oversaw new programmatic offerings at these sites resulting in over 240,000 people experiencing

nature through camping. She also led the development of many new programs and strategies for engagement, including Youth Outdoor Ambassadors, the Camping Leadership Immersion Course, Community Leadership Workshops, the Greater Maywood Paddling Program, Bird the Preserves (#birdthepreserves), Conservation at Home (Conservation@Home), Cooler in the Forest, Better Beaubien in Action, nature play guidelines, a CEP Interpretive Plan, and The Sand Ridge Campus Initiative; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Moreno has always been active in her community, including her work as a member of the Chicago Azteca Lions Club, and she supported campaigns for local leaders in the Chicagoland area and encouraged civic engagement. All of her community outreach with Chicago's Mexican-American Community was accomplished together with her sister Diana; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Moreno has raised two outstanding daughters who serve their country and communities. She is a lifelong Cub's fan, growing up in the shadow of Wrigley Field, going to spring training, many games, and celebrating the 2016 Cubs World Series win with her Forest Preserves colleagues. *And she will never be a Cardinals nor a Blues fan even though she's moving to St. Louis*; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Moreno has a green thumb; shares an affinity with the Monarch Butterfly and its' travels between the United States and Mexico; rooted deeply in her Mexican heritage; and opening her home and kitchen to all; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Toni Preckwinkle, along with the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners and on behalf of all citizens of Cook County do hereby congratulate Ms. Moreno on a distinguished career in public service and on her retirement. We thank Ms. Moreno for her many contributions to the Forest Preserves of Cook County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to Ms. Moreno in recognition of her career and contributions to the Forest Preserves of Cook County.