



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

Virtual Meeting

Consent Agenda

Tuesday, January 26, 2021, 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.

21-0010

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PARK DISTRICTS' BEST OF THE BEST AWARDS: PROJECT ONWARD, BRUSHWOOD CENTER, VOLUNTEER STEWARD JUNE WEBB, THE HOFFMAN ESTATES PARK DISTRICT, THE VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES, AND THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, on November 12, 2020, Project Onward, Brushwood Center, volunteer steward June Webb, Hoffman Estates Park District, the Village of Hoffman Estates and the Forest Preserves of Cook County, were all honored with Best of the Best awards from the Illinois Association of Park Districts during a virtual ceremony; and

WHEREAS, Project Onward, Brushwood Center and the Forest Preserves of Cook County received the Arts in the Park award for their collaboration on *Fresh Air*, a virtual art exhibition; and

WHEREAS, artists from Project Onward, a nonprofit studio and gallery, located in Chicago, for artists with mental and developmental disabilities, created pieces for the *Fresh Air* exhibition inspired by their visits to the Forest Preserves of Cook County and Brushwood Center at Ryerson Woods; and

WHEREAS, *Fresh Air* showcased the work of the Project Onward artists, providing important exposure for these talented individuals, while also highlighting the importance of local nature as inspiration in art; and

WHEREAS, June Webb received the Outstanding Citizen Volunteer Award for her dedication and passion as a volunteer steward at Kickapoo and Whistler Woods in the Calumet region where she has succeeded in attracting and building a team of local volunteers and has helped care for over 50 acres of prairie and woodland; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Webb has dedicated over 1200 hours to the Forest Preserves as a steward, trail watch volunteer, and dragonfly monitor and leads activities at Whistler and Kickapoo that educate visitors and volunteers about local ecosystems and inspires curiosity about the natural world just outside their doors; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Webb is a cherished member of the Chicagoland environmental community and has inspired countless people to care for nature; and

WHEREAS, Hoffman Estates Park District, the Village of Hoffman Estates and the Forest Preserves of Cook County received the Intergovernmental Cooperation Award for the work of these three agencies to create a trail segment that connects the Village of Hoffman Estates to the Forest Preserves' Poplar Creek trail system; and

WHEREAS, this trail segment will contribute to the health, safety and mobility of residents by keeping bicycles and pedestrians off a busy stretch of Shoe Factory Road and creating a significant addition to a regional priority corridor that runs from Elgin to Evanston, providing a safe way for walkers and bikers to traverse the area for recreation, school and work.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, and the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Cook County congratulate the recipients of the Illinois Association of Park Districts' Best of the Best Awards 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.

21-0011

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING LORRIE WARD FOR RECEIVING THE NON-FORMAL EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

WHEREAS, in April 2020 Lorrie Ward received the Non-Formal Educator of the Year Award from the Environmental Education Association of Illinois (EEAI); this award, limited to one recipient each year, is presented for exhibiting innovative and exemplary effort in providing environmental education opportunities for general audiences; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ward has been with the Forest Preserves of Cook County for over 11 years, and served in the last 10 years at Sagawau Environmental Learning Center which offers field science programs for adult and high school groups, as well as public adult and family programs; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ward is a leader in developing interesting and engaging geology and earth science programs that resonate with a wide range of people, and she invites people to read the landscape and understand how geology influences our daily lives; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ward is a creative nature interpreter who leads hundreds of school and public programs every year ranging from native plants to wildlife telemetry and Illinois fossils to glacial geology; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ward's accomplishments are many and include presenting at the 2019 Wild Things Conference on the Geology of Northeastern Illinois to 450 attendees, teaching the University of Illinois - Extension South Cook County Master Naturalist workshop on Geology and leading programs and tours of Sagawau for teachers that qualify for professional development hours; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ward offers a myriad of field science programming and advocates for the development of new and updated programs which include topics on lichens, trees, grasses, hummingbirds, warblers, grasshoppers and more; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ward leads interpretive programs on skis in the winter as a Level I Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA) Nordic Ski instructor, becoming one of PSIA's first instructors in the nation certified in teaching senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ward serves the greater environmental education community by participating in the planning committee for the Chicago Botanic Garden's Unearth Science Festival and serves on internal committees for the Forest Preserves including the Animal Care Committee and the Conservation@Home Committee; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ward is an amazingly gifted environmental educator, who is remarkable at demystifying complex subjects and successfully reaches her audience through her curiosity and respect for nature and people; the Forest Preserves is fortunate to have her and looks forward to seeing her continue to grow and excel as a naturalist and leader.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, and the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Cook County thank and congratulate Lorrie Ward for being recognized as EEAI's Non-Formal Educator of the Year for her commitment to connecting people with nature; and

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

[21-0012](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY'S SOUTHEAST COOK

COUNTY LAND ACQUISITION PLAN FOR RECEIVING THE HEALTHY AND ACTIVE COMMUNITY AWARD FROM THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION-ILLINOIS CHAPTER AND A GREEN RIBBON AWARD FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE CHICAGO RIVER

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2020 the Forest Preserves of Cook County's Southeast Cook County Land Acquisition Plan ("the Plan") received a Green Ribbon Award from the Friends of the Chicago River which recognizes projects that demonstrate a high level of river-sensitive design and consideration; and

WHEREAS, on September 15, 2020 the Plan also received the Healthy and Active Community Award from the American Planning Association - Illinois Chapter recognizing outstanding planning efforts from across the state of Illinois that exemplify the practice of urban planning; and

WHEREAS, the Plan, completed in May 2019, represents a unique and innovative approach to identifying and protecting valuable open space and natural areas in Southeast Cook County considering the ecological value of sites, and to conducting suitability and feasibility assessments related to adjacency, flood mitigation, public health, equity and social vulnerability, community desires, connectivity and planned economic development; and

WHEREAS, the Plan identifies over 5,000 suitable acres based on assessment criteria within Southeast Cook County where new protected lands can meet the Forest Preserves' mission to protect natural areas while generating multiple benefits to residents and makes recommendations for new partnerships and strategies towards implementation; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves worked with a talented team to create the Plan that included the Conservation Fund, Metropolitan Planning Council, Antero Group, and Rudd Resources to both evaluate the region's resources and engage directly with the public; and

WHEREAS, the Plan's innovative approach will have lasting positive effects on our region including human physical and mental well-being, climate resiliency, ecological sustainability and economic prosperity and serves as a model for land conservation planners in other major urban areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, and the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves thank and congratulate the Conservation Fund, Metropolitan Planning Council, Antero Group, Rudd Resources, and the Forest Preserves, for their work on the Southeast Cook County Land Acquisition Plan and their commitment to advance the mission of the Forest Preserves and the goals of the Next Century Conservation Plan; and

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