



**Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of  
Commissioners**

**Journal of Proceedings of the FPD Board of Commissioners**

**Tuesday, December 17, 2024**

**10:00 AM**

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

**Issued On: 12/12/2024**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada,  
Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3) excused

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Morrison, seconded by Commissioner Aguilar, to suspend the rules to take the consent calendar out of order and move to the end of the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada,  
Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

[24-0511](#)

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**K9 ROCCO**

**WHEREAS,** the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) Law Enforcement Department would like to honor the life of K9 Rocco. It is with profound sadness and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of K9 Rocco of the Forest Preserves of Cook County Police Department. After 10 years of loyal service, K9 Rocco age 12, passed away on November 27th, 2024, following medical complications from a brief illness; and

**WHEREAS**, K9 Rocco served as a trusted partner to Officer Darrin Jackson, working side by side to safeguard the citizens of Cook County. Their bond went beyond duty-it was one of mutual respect, unwavering dedication, and an unspoken understanding that only a handler and his K9 partner could share. Together, they formed an inseparable team that contributed to public safety and left a lasting impact on the community; and

**WHEREAS**, K9 Rocco was not just a working dog but a cherished member of the Forest Preserves of Cook County family. His courageous service and the sacrifices he made will always be remembered with gratitude and admiration; and

**WHEREAS**, Our deepest condolences go out to Officer Jackson, his family and all who had the honor of working with Rocco. As we mourn his passing, we also pause to honor his memory and the exceptional legacy he leaves behind. Rocco’s work will continue to inspire and remind us all of the extraordinary commitment it takes to serve and protect. Rest in peace K9 Rocco. Your work here is done, but your spirit will forever remain a part of the Forest Preserves of Cook County family.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Toni Preckwinkle, President along with members of the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners and the Forest Preserves of Cook County do hereby honor the life of K9 Rocco; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that suitable copies of this resolution be sent to Officer Darrin Jackson and to the Forest Preserves of Cook County Law Enforcement Department.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Morrison, seconded by Commissioner Aguilar, to approve 24-0511. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

[24-0550](#)

**Sponsored by:** TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, ANTHONY J. QUEZADA, MICHAEL SCOTT JR., TARA S. STAMPS and MAGGIE TREVOR, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**CELEBRATING THE CAREER AND HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF MICHELLE GAGE**

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Michelle Gage has provided over 30 years of public service in local government

agencies including 16 years as the Human Resources Manager at the Chicago Park District where she was responsible for all aspects of human resources for up to 900 employees, and will retire from her position as Director of Human Resources for the Forest Preserves of Cook County, after 14 years of service, on December 31, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, Michelle has a B.A. degree in political science (public law) from Northern Illinois University, has served on the Board of Directors for Harriet's Daughters, and has been an active member of the Society for Human Resource Management, Illinois Park and Recreation Association, Illinois Association of Park Districts, and the City Parks Alliance; and

**WHEREAS**, her compassionate and caring attitude, her boundless energy, her commitment to finding solutions, and her lively sense of humor made her a valued colleague and an exceptional human resources director; and

**WHEREAS**, in her role as the Director of Human Resources for the Forest Preserves, she managed an infrastructure that supports over 700 full-time, part-time, and seasonal employees, ensuring that its human relations practices are fair, transparent and effective; and

**WHEREAS**, Michelle oversaw hiring, employee relations, change management, conflict resolution, labor relations, performance management and employee recognition initiatives, as well as instituted human resources policies, implemented equal employment opportunity practices, and assessed organizational as well as employee needs; and

**WHEREAS**, Michelle was instrumental in drafting the Forest Preserves' original Employment Plan and has drafted and obtained approval of amendments crucial for effective employment practices in the Forest Preserves; and

**WHEREAS**, Michelle facilitated the Forest Preserves' dismissal as a Defendant under the *Shakman* Consent Decree by reaching substantial compliance in February 2013, a court ruling that verified that political consideration plays no role in employment decisions for non-Shakman Exempt Forest Preserves employees, thereby engendering internal and external confidence in the Forest Preserves and its hiring practices; and

**WHEREAS**, Michelle consistently prioritized equity and inclusion, reinforcing initiatives which gained the Forest Preserves an award from the National Association of Counties in the Personnel Management, Employment and Training category for demonstrating strategic ways to recruit employees, encourage professional development, and maintain a first-class workforce; and

**WHEREAS**, under her leadership, the Human Resources Department developed a robust infrastructure that included properly classified and trained staff, new staff orientations and trainings, a streamlined timekeeping process, and the development of paid fellowship and internship programs; and

**WHEREAS**, Michelle promoted the Forest Preserves' Conservation Corps, an award-winning program

that provides paid, hands-on experiences to participants from across Cook County’s diverse communities, including those with barriers to employment, by participating in Greencorps Chicago’s interview and resume workshops to help participants secure jobs and attending the Forest Preserves’ Conservation Corps Career Fair to connect adult Conservation Corps alumni with green job opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, Michelle eagerly supported opportunities for staff to grow their knowledge and skills and founded a robust professional development program that provides training, information, and certification opportunities for all staff, thereby helping employees better serve the people and nature of Cook County; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the Forest Preserves’ most important assets is its employees who accomplish the agency’s mission, ensuring that its more than 70,000 acres of public land are accessible, welcoming, and ecologically healthy, and Michelle ensured that employees are recruited and oriented thoughtfully and efficiently and that current employees are, and feel, supported; and

**WHEREAS**, Michelle’s contributions and dedication have resulted in an effective, approachable, and transparent Human Resources Department that contributes to the Forest Preserves’ reputation as an outstanding employer; and

**WHEREAS**, Michelle is devoted to her family, raising two successful and kind sons, Mario and Myles, and she was a selfless and generous daughter, caring for her mother during her mother’s last years with grace and fortitude; and

**WHEREAS**, Michelle looks forward to spending time with her family and friends, listening to music, traveling, and volunteering her time and energy in connecting vulnerable and ailing people and their caregivers with resources and support; and

**WHEREAS**, Michelle is a master rhymer who has celebrated countless colleagues with her thoughtful and humorous poems and our attempt will not be half as good, but comes fully from our hearts:

Michelle Gage was the enchanted Forest’s HR Director extraordinaire  
she was hardworking, empathetic, funny, and fair  
throughout the years, she remained grounded and cool  
a champion of staff and Employment Plan rule  
she will be remembered for her qualities and style  
to say we will miss Michelle is putting it mild

**WHEREAS**, in the words of Interim General Superintendent, Eileen Figel, “Michelle’s combination of empathy, insight, and expertise make her the most effective HR director I have ever known. I am deeply grateful for her service and wish her a long and happy retirement.”

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that President Toni Preckwinkle, along with the members of the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners, and on behalf of all citizens of Cook

County, do hereby congratulate Michelle Gage on a long career of public service and thank her for her many contributions to the Forest Preserves of Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to Michelle Gage in recognition of her career, contributions to the Forest Preserves of Cook County and her passion for public service.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Morrison, seconded by Commissioner Aguilar, to approve 24-0550. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

[24-0456](#)

**Sponsored by:** TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, ANTHONY J. QUEZADA, MICHAEL SCOTT JR., TARA S. STAMPS and MAGGIE TREVOR, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**HONORING THE CAREER AND RETIREMENT OF CATHY GERAGHTY**

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Cathy Geraghty will be retiring from her position at the Forest Preserves of Cook County as the Director of External and Strategic Initiatives in the Office of the General Superintendent on December 31, 2024. Cathy has held this position for the last 14 years and previously served as the Forest Preserves’ Director of Grant Development for 11 years; and

**WHEREAS**, as a Ph.D. candidate in Biological Sciences from the University of Illinois at Chicago, Cathy has been trained as an ecologist and evolutionary biologist, and she also studied land use law, public policy, and environmental economics; and

**WHEREAS**, Cathy's career path included 14 years at a variety of conservation organizations including Shedd Aquarium, Field Museum, Curtis & Edith Munson Foundation, Committee for the National Institute of the Environment, and as a researcher and instructor at multiple organizations, giving her a unique cross-disciplinary approach to conservation; and

**WHEREAS**, she has always urged the Forest Preserves to be ambitious and to do all it can to protect and sustain the lands and waters in its care and has been integral in creating and leading the Forest Preserves’ most ambitious and visionary plans and initiatives. These include the Forest Preserves’ first Sustainability Principles in 2010, the Forest Preserves’ first Science & Research Symposium in 2012, the 2013 Centennial Campaign Plan, developed to celebrate the Forest Preserves 100-year anniversary, and

creating the 2014 Next Century Conservation Plan, the visionary strategy for protecting and caring for people and nature for the next 100 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Cathy has influenced and guided, together with partners and volunteers, several restoration and leadership initiatives that have positioned the Forest Preserves as a local, regional and national leader, among them the Conservation Corps, Centennial Volunteers, the Conservation and Policy Council, and the Natural and Cultural Resources Master Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, Cathy has always understood the importance of listening to opposing viewpoints with an open mind, of remaining objective, and to finding solutions and has always been committed to building relationships based on trust, consensus, and collaboration and has helped the Forest Preserves build strategic partnerships with government agencies, universities, non-profit organizations, and individuals to work collaboratively on shared goals and priorities; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1996, under Cathy's guidance the Forest Preserves became a founding member of the Chicago Wilderness Alliance, a regional collaborative of hundreds of partners organizations and individuals working to implement landscape-scale approaches to conservation in and around the southern shores of Lake Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, during her tenure Cathy has been responsible for bringing considerable resources to the Forest Preserves, first in her role as Director of Grant Development where she secured more than \$64M in federal, state and private grant funding, then as Director of Strategic Initiatives overseeing the raising of more than \$126M in grant funding, and then in in 2006 helping to found the Forest Preserve Foundation, a nonprofit organization committed to raising philanthropic support to support the visionary goals of the Forest Preserves of Cook County and that has raised a total of \$3.2M to support ecological restoration projects, Conservation Corps programs, and other efforts that support the next generation of environmental advocates; and

**WHEREAS**, Cathy was instrumental in building a community of support to successfully pass a tax referendum, which voters approved in 2022, providing critical funds to ensure the Forest Preserves can conserve and protect nature and provide access to outdoor recreation for all people now and in the future; and

**WHEREAS**, Cathy has worked tirelessly to find solutions that ensure that both human and natural communities thrive, and she has never shied away from complex issues remaining committed to finding positive resolutions, making her a deeply valued colleague within the Forest Preserves, as well as on the many committees she advised; and

**WHEREAS**, Cathy was instrumental in advancing one of the Forest Preserves' most challenging goals of acquiring and protecting a total of 90,000 acres of public land. She helped author the Forest Preserves' 2020 Board adopted position paper on *Acquisition and Disposition of Land in the Forest Preserves of Cook County* which recommends finding creative new ways to continue to protect more land and begin exploring land conservation models beyond ownership; and

**WHEREAS**, Cathy is a steadfast supporter of volunteers helping to craft the *Scaling up Volunteers in the Forest Preserves of Cook County* position paper adopted by this Board in 2021 which focuses on increasing the number of volunteers and recommends that the model of volunteerism should be expanded to attract, welcome, and retain participants that reflects the diversity of Cook County; and

**WHEREAS**, Cathy serves on a numerous committees including the Chicago Wilderness Steering Committee, the Illinois Association of Conservation and Forest Preserve Districts, City of Chicago River Ecology and Governance Taskforce, and previously served on the Metropolitan Planning Council, Our Great Rivers Resource Team, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's Natural Resource Committee, Alliance for the Great Lakes Board of Directors, Northeast Illinois Water Trail Council and the Mayor's Nature and Wildlife Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, upon her retirement, Cathy will continue to dedicate herself to protecting and conserving nature and will join her husband Bob Geraghty, family, friends, and her dog, Mackinaw, in sailing and traveling adventures; and

**WHEREAS**, Cathy's long-time leadership, expertise, and commitment have contributed to strengthening this agency's infrastructure and reputation and have led to the Forest Preserves' success in navigating the many complex and challenging situations in managing one of the largest conservation agencies in the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, she is one of the region's most ardent champions of biodiversity and has dedicated her professional career and her free time to protecting nature, her passion and commitment to partnership and collaboration is one of the key ways the Forest Preserves has been so successful in both protecting native habitats and wildlife as well as building support and creating better access to nature for all people; and

**WHEREAS**, in the words of Interim General Superintendent, Eileen Figel, "Cathy's genuine desire to do what is best for nature is imbued in everything she does. Throughout her professional career and her personal life, she has been an ardent champion of biodiversity. The impact of her work--both to the forest preserves and to our region--is invaluable. I am deeply grateful for her service and wish her a long and happy retirement."

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, along with members of the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners, Interim General Superintendent Eileen Figel, and on behalf of all citizens of Cook County, do hereby congratulate Ms. Cathy Geraghty on a long career in public service and thank her for her many contributions to the Forest Preserves of Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that suitable copies of this resolution be tendered to her and her family in recognition of her career, contributions to the Forest Preserves of Cook County, service to residents and visitors, and her passion for public service.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Morrison, seconded by Commissioner Aguilar, to**

approve 24-0456. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

[24-0512](#)

**Sponsored by:** TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, ANTHONY J. QUEZADA, MICHAEL SCOTT JR., TARA S. STAMPS and MAGGIE TREVOR, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DELIO CALZOLARI TO THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Delio Calzolari served the Forest Preserves of Cook County as the Director of Legislative and Governmental Affairs from July 2017 through December 2024, being an integral part of the leadership team for over seven years; and

**WHEREAS**, Delio’s career began in the United States Navy as a Surface Warfare Officer and Gunner Officer on the Spruance Class Destroyer USS O’BRIEN. During his time in the Navy, Delio earned an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal in the Persian Gulf during Operation Southern Watch while forward deployed from Yokosuka, Japan; and

**WHEREAS**, after his time on active duty, he embarked on a management career with Caterpillar, Inc. providing logistics services to companies including Land Rover and Mazda in the United Kingdom and Canada, and was in the Navy Reserves as the Officer-in-Charge of an Area Search Detachment within Explosive Ordinance Disposal Mobile Unit Seven; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2007 and through 2008, Delio worked in several states on the successful Obama for America campaign, spending most of his time in the critical state of North Carolina for then-Senator Barack Obama, followed by a return to Caterpillar in McAllen, Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, Delio returned to Illinois in 2011 to become a Senior Advisor to Lieutenant Governor Shiela Simon and later joined the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University as the Associate Director, working with students and helping foster a passion for civic engagement in the next generation; and

**WHEREAS**, during his tenure at the Forest Preserves Delio fostered a culture of collaboration, keeping the General Superintendent, President’s Office, and Board of Commissioners updated and informed on impending government relations of the Forest Preserves; and



**WHEREAS**, Delio shepherded hundreds of Board Agenda Items through the Board approval process, resolved hundreds of constituent and intergovernmental affairs issues, negotiated several land use agreements, streamlined the Forest Preserves internal Board Agenda Item proposal development, and worked on Land Use Code Reform to better protect public open space; and

**WHEREAS**, Delio was active in the internal decision making process for the Forest Preserves by leading the TIF Committee and participating as a member of the Land Use Committee, Policy Committee, Land Acquisition Committee; and Delio played a major role in guiding eight budgets through the budget cycle, communicating Madam President and the General Superintendent's vision for the Forest Preserves to Commissioners, their staffs, and other stakeholders; and

**WHEREAS**, Delio's work in Springfield made significant progress for the Forest Preserves. He drafted and lobbied for legislation that ensured that the Forest Preserves of Cook County's levy timing allowed for the realization of \$41 million it would not have otherwise been able to use from the referendum and championed legislation that changed the employer pension contribution formula, averting fund insolvency and putting the fund on track to be 100% funded in 30 years; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to passing advantageous legislation, Delio worked to protect the Forest Preserves from bills that would harm the Forest Preserves. He defeated legislation that would have eliminated the Forest Preserves Police Department; and

**WHEREAS**, he successfully lobbied the General Assembly during the 2019 Capital Bill, securing \$10 million for the Red Gate Project - the largest project of its kind in Forest Preserves history - which is being used to improve over 1,000 acres of habitat; and

**WHEREAS**, Delio was instrumental in the passage of the 2022 Clean Air, Clean Water, and Wildlife Habitat Protection Referendum, which passed with overwhelming support from voters. He worked closely with the Chief Attorney, CFO, and outside counsel to draft and advocate for the resolutions that placed the referendum question on the ballot and helped develop and deliver specialized ethics training for Forest Preserves staff leading into the referendum; and

**WHEREAS**, Delio has a B.S. in Finance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a J.D. *cum laude* from Southern Illinois University School of Law.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, along with members of the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners, Interim General Superintendent Eileen Figel, and on behalf of all residents of Cook County, do hereby congratulate Mr. Delio Calzolari on a long career in public service; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County, colleagues and friends, celebrate Delio's leadership, dedication, and hard work, recognizing the significant, positive impact he made to the Forest Preserves of Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County wish Delio Calzolari an abundance of success and happiness as he embark upon a new chapter, expanding his interest and experiences. Delio will always be a cherished and respected part of the Forest Preserves of Cook County team legacy and will be greatly missed; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to Mr. Delio Calzolari in recognition of his significant contributions and achievements to the Forest Preserves of Cook County.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Morrison, seconded by Commissioner Aguilar, to approve 24-0512. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

**PRESIDENT**

[24-0436](#)

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

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners, that Title 1 - Administrative, Chapter 5 - Forest Preserve District President and Board of Commissioners Rules of Organization and Procedure, Section 2-6 - Standing Committees of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as Follows:

**Sec. 2-6. Standing Committees.**

The standing committees of the Board, their standing subcommittees and the number of members to be appointed to each (including Chair and Vice-Chair) are as follows:

AUDIT (7) (Chief Financial Officer shall be an ex officio, nonvoting member of the Audit Committee)

BOTANIC GARDEN (9)

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION (9)

CONTRACT COMPLIANCE (9)

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY (7)

FINANCE (Committee of the Whole) with the following subcommittees with the number of members indicated:

Labor (9)

Litigation (7)

Workers' Compensation (5)

LAW ENFORCEMENT ~~(7)~~ (9)

LEGISLATION AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS (Committee of the Whole)

PENSION COMMITTEE (7)

REAL ESTATE (Committee of the Whole)

RECREATION AND ENGAGEMENT (7)

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION (9)

ZOOLOGICAL (9)

**Effective date:** This ordinance amendment shall be in effect immediately upon adoption

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to refer 24-0436 to the Rules Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

Absent: Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

**COMMISSIONERS**

[24-0455](#)

**Sponsored by:** KEVIN B. MORRISON and BRIDGET DEGNEN, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

**AMENDMENT TO ETHICS ORDINANCE**

**BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners, that Title 1 - Administrative, Chapter 13 - Code of Ethical Conduct, Section 1-13-2, Subsection L (7) of the Forest Preserve District Code is hereby amended as follows:

**1-13-2: - CODE OF CONDUCT.**

L. *Political Activity.*

(7) ~~Except as provided by subsection e, Sixty days prior to a general, primary, or special election and ending the day after such election in which an elected Official is a candidate, District funds and or resources may not be used by any elected District Official to print, mail, transmit, or pay for the printing, mailing, or transmission of any newsletters or brochures bearing the proper name of the elected District Official during the period of time design, print, transmit, and/or distribute;~~

a. ~~Print newsletters or brochures bearing the name or image of the elected District Official who is a candidate in an election; Sixty (60) days prior to a general primary election and ending the day after such general primary election; and~~

b. ~~Public service announcements or advertisements that are on behalf of a District administered program and contains the proper name, image, or voice of an elected District Official who is a candidate in an election that is broadcast or aired on radio or television, printed in a commercial newspaper or commercial magazine, or shared or posted on any District owned website or District owned social media account. Sixty (60) days prior to a general election and ending the day after such general election.~~

c. ~~Exceptions. The prohibitions in paragraphs 7a and 7b of this section shall not apply to: This Section shall not apply to:~~

(1) Responses to unsolicited inquiries from constituents and other interested parties; or

(2) Informational brochures that are solely related to and accompany any mailing of a property tax bill, notice of property tax assessment, or notice of voter registration or polling place information, or to a brochure mailed to a constituent in response to that constituent's inquiry concerning the needs of that constituent or questions raised by that constituent.

(3) Budget Books (Annual Appropriations Ordinances); annual and other official reports; memos, letters, and other communications on District letterhead; and coverage of press releases on official District events noting speakers or ribbon cutting or other official duties of elected Officials.

~~d. No public service announcement or advertisement that is on behalf of any District administered program and contains the proper name, image, or voice of any elected District Official shall be paid with District funds and broadcast or aired on radio or television or printed in a commercial newspaper or commercial magazine at any time on or after the date that the elected District Official files nominating papers for any elected office, and ending the day after such general election if the elected District Official is a candidate in such primary or general election. This Section shall not apply to any information available or posted by the District or any elected District Official on any District owned website or District owned social media account or broadcast or aired on the "public educational, government access" channels.~~

e. Permanent Prohibitions. The proper name or image of any elected Official may not appear on any promotional materials or items if designed, paid for, produced, and/or distributed with public funds or resources, including, but not limited to:

- (1) Bumper stickers;
- (2) Commercial billboards;
- (3) Lapel pins or buttons;
- (4) Magnets;
- (5) Sports teams;
- (6) Items of clothing or apparel;
- (7) Stickers;
- (8) Calendars, with the exception of the annual District wall calendar which highlights and features photographic images of the flora and fauna, historical

- buildings, and landmarks within the District;
- (9) Vehicles; or
- (10) Equipment.

f. At no time during official district events, shall any Official disseminate or display political promotional material that includes the Official's name and/or image.

**Effective date:** This ordinance shall be in effect immediately upon adoption.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Degnen, to refer 24-045 to the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations . The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT**

[24-0523](#)

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR ADDITIONAL ARPA GRANT FUNDING FROM COOK COUNTY TO THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2021, the federal government authorized the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”), which includes \$1.9 trillion in federal stimulus funds to hasten the United States’ recovery from the economic and health effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, specifically, the federal government has authorized and allocated a federal award of approximately \$1,000,372,385 of ARPA funding to Cook County (“County”) to assist the County in its recovery from the economic and health effects of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 24, 2021, the County’s American Rescue Plan Act Framework (the “ARPA Framework”) was presented to the Cook County Board of Commissioners; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cook County Board of Commissioners via Resolution 21-3654 accepted the ARPA federal award to assist the County in its recovery from the economic and health effects of COVID-19 in the amount of approximately \$1,000,372,385.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the County has sub-awarded certain funds to the Forest Preserves of Cook County (see Board Items Nos. 22-0289, 23-0308, and 24-0245); and

**WHEREAS**, the County may have additional ARPA funds available to sub-award to the Forest Preserves of Cook County via either amendments to current agreements or funding new projects via new agreements.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Forest Preserves of Cook County to accept as a sub-recipient any and all additional APRA grant funds designated for the Forest Preserves by Cook County as authorized by the Cook County Board of Commissioners.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County shall provide a report to the Board of Commissioners no later than March 11, 2025 specifying any additional ARPA sub-award funds awarded pursuant to this resolution.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 24-0523. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

[24-0404](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CONTRACT**

**Department(s):** Department of Facilities and Fleet

**Vendor:** Sutton Ford, Matteson, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into and execute

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Two (2) 2024 Ford Model F350 XL 4x4 Crew Dual Rear Wheel 60’ CA Chassis Cabs

**Contract Value:** \$108,516.00

**Contract Period:** One-time purchase

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2025 \$108,516.00

**Accounts:** Vehicle Purchase 51009.560266

**Contract Number(s):** #74000014966

**Concurrences:** The Vehicle Steering Committee has approved the purchase of the referenced vehicles.

The Chief Financial Officer and Chief Attorney have approved this item.

Piggyback contract based on a Cooperative Procurement Agreement with no MWBE participation goals. The vendor is a certified Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** The Department of Facilities and Fleet received permission from the Vehicle Steering Committee on 12/5/2024 to purchase two (2) new 2024 Ford Model F350 trucks. Both vehicles will be assigned to the Department of Resource Management for newly created crew at Thorn Creek location. The purchase is based on Suburban Purchasing Cooperative Contract #222, with Sutton Ford, Inc., expiring 6/30/2025.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 24-0404. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

[24-0489](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CONTRACT**

**Department(s):** Department of Facilities and Fleet

**Vendor:** Shorewood Home and Auto, Inc., Homer Glen, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into and execute

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Fifteen (15) John Deere units: four (4) Deere Model 5100E Cab Tractors with various attachments, one (1) Deere Gator Model XUV 845M, five (5) Deere Gators Model TH 6x4 with cabs, and five (5) Deere Gators Model TH 6x4 without cabs.



**Contract Value:** \$671,230.64

**Contract Period:** One-time purchase

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2025, \$671,230.64

**Accounts:** Construction and Development 51033.560266; Mitigation 51010.52144 and 51010.520314; and Repair Building and Institutional Equipment 51033.540360

**Contract Number(s):** #74000015181

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final contract is subject to legal review and approval.

Piggyback contract based on a Cooperative Procurement Agreement with no MWBE participation goals.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves of Cook County is requesting to purchase fifteen (15) units of John Deere equipment to be distributed amongst three (3) departments. Four (4) Deere Model 5100E Cab Tractors with various attachments and five (5) Deere Model TH 6x4 gators with cabs will be assigned to the Department of Landscape Maintenance for daily operations. One (1) Deere Model XUV 845M will be assigned to the Department of Law Enforcement and five (5) Deere Model TH 6x4 gators without cabs will be assigned to the Department of Resource Management for land management operations. The purchase is based on Sourcewell contracts #031121-DAC, expiring 4/30/2025 and #082923-DAC, expiring 10/11/2027 with Deere & Company, fulfilled by local authorized dealer Shorewood Home and Auto.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 24-0489. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

[24-0492](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CONTRACT**

**Department(s):** Department of Facilities and Fleet

**Vendor:** Shorewood Home and Auto, Inc., Homer Glen, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into and execute

**Good(s)or Service(s):** Three (3) Polaris brand off road vehicles: two (2) model Xpedition XP-5 Northstars, and one (1) model Ranger XP Kinetic Ultimate

**Contract Value:** \$141,526.44

**Contract Period:** One-time purchase

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2025 \$141,526.44

**Accounts:** Supplies and Materials 51001.530252; and Vehicle Equipment and Supplies 51009.560265

**Contract Number(s):** #74000015255

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final contract is subject to legal review and approval.

Piggyback contract based on a Cooperative Procurement Agreement with no MWBE participation goals.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves of Cook County is requesting the purchase of three (3) Polaris brand off road vehicles: two (2) model Xpedition XP-5 Northstars will be assigned to the Department of Law Enforcement for operations and one (1) model Ranger XP Kinetic Ultimate will be assigned to the Department of Conservation and Experiential Programming for programming events. The purchase is based on Sourcewell contract #122220-PSI, expiring 1/29/2025, with Polaris Sales Inc., fulfilled by local authorized dealer Shorewood Home and Auto.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 24-0492. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

[24-0495](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CONTRACT**

**Department(s):** Department of Facilities and Fleet

**Vendor:** Atlas Bobcat LLC, Elk Grove Village, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into and execute

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Three (3) Bobcat Loaders with various attachments and one (1) 80” root grapple.

**Contract Value:** \$238,229.14

**Contract Period:** One-time purchase

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2025 \$238,229.14

**Accounts:** Construction and Development 51033.560266; Mitigation 51010.521444 and 51010.520314; and Repair Building and Institutional Equipment 51033.540360

**Contract Number(s):** #74000015264

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final contract is subject to legal review and approval.

Piggyback contract based on a Cooperative Procurement Agreement with no MWBE participation goals.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves of Cook County is requesting the purchase of Bobcat equipment as follows: two (2) Bobcat Model MT100 Mini Track Loaders with bucket, brush, and 36” root grapple. One (1) loader will be assigned to the Department of Resource Management and the other to the Department of Landscape Maintenance. Additionally, the Forest Preserves is requesting the purchase of one (1) Bobcat Model T770 Track Loader with various attachments (80” bucket, 84” angle broom, auger drive unit, 80” brush, 82” rock bucket, drum mulcher, pallet fork frame and 10 ft. snow pusher) to be assigned to the Department of Landscape Maintenance and one (1) 80” root grapple to be assigned to the Department of Facilities and Fleet. The purchase is based on Sourcewell Contract #020223-CEC, expiring 4/17/2027, with Doosan Bobcat North America, fulfilled by local authorized dealer Atlas Bobcat, LLC.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 24-0495. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

[24-0496](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CONTRACT**

**Department(s):** Department of Facilities and Fleet

**Vendor:** Arends, Hogan, Walker D/B/A AHW LLC, Champaign, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into and execute

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Three (3) Deere Model 6120E Cab Tractors with Three (3) 22’ Diamond Heavy Duty Triple Gang Flail Mowers

**Contract Value:** \$550,657.26

**Contract Period:** One-time purchase

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** 2025, \$550,657.26

**Accounts:** Construction and Development 51033.560266

**Contract Number(s):** #74000015259

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final contract is subject to legal review and approval.

Piggyback contract based on a Cooperative Procurement Agreement with no MWBE participation goals.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves of Cook County is requesting to purchase three (3) Deere Model 6120E Cab Tractors with three (3) 22’ Diamond Heavy Duty Triple Gang Flail Mowers to be assigned to the Department of Landscape Maintenance. The purchase is based on Sourcewell contract #082923-DAC, expiring 10/11/2027, with Deere and Company, fulfilled by local authorized dealer AHW LLC.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 24-0496. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

[24-0500](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CONTRACT**

**Department(s):** Department of Facilities and Fleet

**Vendor:** EQ Industrial Services, Inc., a subsidiary of Republic Services, Inc., Livonia, Michigan

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into and execute

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Removal and Disposal of Electronic and Chemical Waste

**Contract Value:** \$441,000.00

**Contract Period:** 1/15/2025 - 12/31/2027

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2025 \$145,000.00, FY 2026 \$147,000.00, FY 2027 \$149,000.00

**Accounts:** Professional Services 51001.520830

**Contract Number(s):** #74000014995

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final contract is subject to legal review and approval.

The Vendor has met the Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Ordinance via a full MWBE waiver, approved by the Cook County Waiver Review Committee.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** This contract is for the proper removal and disposal of illegally fly dumped materials found throughout the Forest Preserves of Cook County. The dumped materials consist of household hazardous waste such as paints, oils, chemicals, and old televisions. The Forest Preserves’ Request for Proposals to clear waste that has already accumulated at the Maywood Compound yielded two (2) responses. EQ Industrial Services, Inc. (“EQ”) was the lower of the two (2) responsible bidders.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 24-0500. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

[24-0454](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT**

**Department(s):** Department of Facilities and Fleet

**Vendor:** A B Petroleum Services, Crystal Lake, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to increase contract

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Supply and delivery of unleaded and diesel fuel

**Original Contract Period:** 7/6/2021 - 7/5/2025 with three (3) one-year optional renewal extensions to be exercised with the approval of the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners.

**Proposed Contract Period Extension:** N/A

**Total Current Contract Amount Authority:** \$3,275,307.60

**Original Approval:** 6/22/2021, \$3,125,897.60; Amended 7/27/2021 \$3,125,307.60

**Previous Increase(s):** 11/22/2024, \$150,000.00 Administrative Increase

**This Increase Requested:** \$700,000.00

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2024 \$100,000.00, FY 2025 \$600,000.00

**Accounts:** Automotive Operation and Maintenance 51001.540250

**Contract Number(s):** #74000009187 issued under solicitation #21-53-006083

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final amendment is subject to legal review and approval.

The Vendor has met the Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Ordinance via direct participation.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves of Cook County put out a public solicitation in 2021 for the supply and delivery of unleaded and diesel fuel to twenty (20) Districtwide fueling stations. The Forest Preserves of Cook County is requesting \$700,000.00 in additional funding for the supply and delivery of unleaded and diesel fuel contract. The estimated yearly costs in 2021 were set at \$2.90 per gallon of unleaded and \$2.89 per gallon of diesel. Due to the volatile oil market, prices have been well above our past estimate during the life of this contract.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 24-0454. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

[24-0505](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT**

**Department(s):** Department of Planning and Development

**Vendor:** Burling Builders, Inc., Chicago, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to extend contract

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Construction services at Caldwell Woods Warming Shelter

**Original Contract Period:** 12/1/2022 - 1/25/2024; Administrative Extensions 1/26/2024 - 7/1/2024 and 7/2/2024 - 12/31/2024

**Proposed Contract Period Extension:** 1/1/2025 - 7/1/2025

**Total Current Contract Amount Authority:** \$2,333,487.68

**Original Approval:** 11/15/2022, \$2,183,500.00 (Board Item No. 22-0397)

**Previous Increase(s):** 10/14/2024, \$149,987.68

**This Increase Requested:** N/A

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** N/A

**Accounts:** N/A

**Contract Number(s):** #74000011349 issued under Project #21-80-28 Building and Site Renovations at Caldwell Woods Warming Shelter

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final amendment is subject to legal review and approval.

Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise goals are not applicable for this amendment as there is no increase in contract value.

**District(s):** 9

**Summary:** A contract extension is needed to complete punch list items and receive and install security cameras. Additional time is also needed to start up and commission the new HVAC system to ensure it is operating correctly. The project was originally approved by the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners on 11/15/2022 (Board Item No. 22-0397).

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 24-0505. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

[24-0497](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**PROPOSED PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ITEM AMENDMENT**



**Department:** Department of Facilities and Fleet

**Request:** Amend contract authority to cover non-standard contract terms, including an obligation to indemnify vendor, SMG Security Holdings LLC (“SMG”), to the extent legally enforceable from certain third-party claims. SMG has provided fire and security alarm related services to the Forest Preserves since 8/1/2019.

**Item Number:** 24-0271

**Original Text of Item:**

**PROPOSED CONTRACT**

**Department(s):** Department of Facilities and Fleet

**Vendor:** SMG Security Holdings LLC, Elk Grove Village, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into and execute

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Fire and Security Alarm Monitoring, Inspection and Maintenance Services

**Contract Value:** \$943,807.00

**Contract Period:** 8/1/2024 - 7/31/2027, plus two (2) one-year extension options to be exercised at the discretion of the General Superintendent.

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$943,807.00 (FY 2024, \$77,629.58, FY 2025, \$186,311.00, FY 2026, \$186,311.00, FY 2027, \$187,995.59, FY 2028 (optional), \$192,089.83, and FY 2029 (optional), \$113,470.00)

**Accounts:** Professional Services 51001.520840

**Contract Number(s):** #74000014361 issued under Project #24-53-010553

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final contract is subject to legal

review and approval.

The Vendor has met the Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Ordinance via direct participation.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves would like to engage SMG Security Holdings LLC (“SMG”) to monitor, inspect, and maintain security and fire alarm systems at various properties owned or leased by the Forest Preserves. The Forest Preserves issued a Request for Proposals and received two (2) responses. The Forest Preserves determined that SMG was the more responsive and qualified respondent to manage the Forest Preserves’ existing security and fire alarm systems, while delivering an improved level of service. Services include support for over one hundred (100) existing security and fire alarm systems dispersed throughout forty-two (42) preserve locations. Additional sites may be added as needed. The agreement resembles a form agreement that includes non-standard provisions for the Forest Preserves, including with respect to disclaimers, limitations on liability, warranties, and indemnification. For purposes of full transparency, the Forest Preserves is alerting the Board to these nonstandard terms and conditions, which includes an obligation to indemnify SMG to the extent legally enforceable from certain third-party claims related to SMG’s alarm systems or service obligations under the agreement.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 24-0497. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

[24-0071](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**REPORT**

**Department:** Department of Finance and Administration

**Request:** Receive and File

**Report Title:** Procurement and Disbursement Report

**Report Period:** 10/1/2024 - 10/31/2024

**Summary:** Submitting the Procurement and Disbursement Report for the period of October 2024. The report is to be received and filed in compliance with Section 1-8-2 (BB) of the District’s Code of Ordinances.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to receive and filed 24-0071. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

[24-0504](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**REPORT**

**Department:** Departments of Legal and Finance

**Request:** Receive and File

**Report Title:** Workers’ Compensation Report - October 2024

**Report Period:** 10/1/2024 - 10/31/2024

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves of Cook County Departments of Legal and Finance are submitting Workers’ Compensation Claim Payments for the month of October 2024. Payments total \$142,601.69 for October 2024.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to receive and filed 24-0504. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

[24-0490](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Department:** Department of Conservation and Experiential Programming

**Summary:** Forest Preserves of Cook County Calendar of Events and Activities 12/17/2024 - 1/13/2025

**Please check the Forest Preserves of Cook County's website for updates and changes.**

**Tuesday, 12/17 through Sunday, 1/5; 4:30pm - 11pm**

**Lightscape, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe**

Join us and embrace the spirit and beauty of the season with glowing of lights, art, and music! We are celebrating the sixth year of this annual holiday celebration. We are taking this year's celebration to new heights and lights with our re-imagined trail that will have dazzling installations debuting in the U.S. for the first time. You can leave your to-do list at home and make lasting memories at Lightscape. *This event has tiered cost and timeslots. For more information, please visit the website.*

**Friday, 12/20; 6pm - 9pm**

**Winter Solstice Night of Lights, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Join us and celebrate the longest night of the year! You can choose a timeslot to walk along our candlelit paths. *Registration required. Please call (847) 381-6592.*

**Saturday, 12/21; 10:30am - 12pm**

**Winter Solstice Day, Thatcher Woods, River Forest**

Join us and learn about the Winter Solstice through indigenous storytelling and songs. The activities include snowshoeing, tracking, shelter building and other winter-related activities. *There are some activities that are weather dependent. This event is presented with American Indian Center. For more information, please call (312) 533-5751.*

**Saturday, 12/21; 1pm**

**Winter Workshop, Camp Reinberg, Palatine**

Calling all creatives! Join us for our themed sessions as we explore pottery. *Registration required. For more information, please call (773)758-8899.*

**Saturday, 12/21; 1:30pm**

**Winter Solstice, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Join us and celebrate the shortest day of the year while unlocking winter's secrets. *For more information, please call (847) 824-8360.*

**Saturday, 12/21; 1:30pm****Animal Homes Hike, Trailside Museum, River Forest**

Bring the family on a guided hike to discover where our local animals will spend the winter. *Registration required. This is a family program. Please call (708) 366-6530.*

**Saturday, 12/21; 5pm - 7pm****Winter Solstice Celebration, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs**

Join us and celebrate the longest night of the year with a bonfire and a self-guided walk along our Farm Pond Trail. *Registration required. S'mores and hot cocoa will be provided. Please call (708) 839-6897.*

**Sunday, 12/22; 1pm - 3pm****Winter Play Date, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Drop-in for fun family activities, which include self-guided activity stations and learning through play. *This event is held indoors and outdoors. For more information, please call (847) 381-6592.*

**Sunday, 12/22; 1pm - 3pm****Cozy Crafting, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland**

Stay warm inside while making arts and crafts using natural materials. *Registration required. Light refreshments will be provided. Please call (708) 868-0606.*

**Friday, 12/27; 9am****Winter Bird Watch, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs**

Join us for a walk to discover which birds are winter residents and then get warm by a cozy fire. *Registration required. Ages 14 and up. Hot cocoa will be provided. Please call (708) 839-6897.*

**Saturday, 12/28; 9:30am - 11:30am****Restoration Workday, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont**

Join a naturalist and help restore our ecosystems by removing invasive species. *Registration required. Ages 12 and up. Tools and safety gear will be provided. Please call (630) 257-2045 or visit the website for more information.*

**Saturday, 12/28; 11am - 2pm****Winter Nature Days, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Drop in for fun family activities that are centered around nature. The activities will include pinecone bird feeders, walking sticks and more. *For more information, please call (847) 824-8360.*

**Sunday, 12/29; 9:30am - 11:30am**

**Restoration Workday, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont**

Join a naturalist and help restore our ecosystems by removing invasive species. *Registration required. Ages 12 and up. Tools and safety gear will be provided. Please call (630) 257-2045 or visit the website for more information.*

**Sunday, 12/29; 11am - 2pm****Winter Nature Days , River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Drop in for fun family activities that are centered around nature. The activities will include pinecone bird feeders, walking sticks and more. *For more information, please call (847) 824-8360.*

**Sunday, 12/29; 1pm - 3pm****Winter Play Date, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Drop-in for fun family activities, which include self-guided activity stations and learning through play. *This event is held indoors and outdoors. For more information, please call (847) 381-6592.*

**Monday, 12/30; 1:30pm****Winter Secrets Hike, Trailside Museum, River Forest**

The winter can appear barren of wildlife, but surprisingly there is so much happening. Join us for a walk to see what is going on within nature during the winter and beneath the snow. *Registration required. Please call (708) 366-6530.*

**Tuesday, 12/31; 10am - 2pm****Kwanzaa Celebration, Dan Ryan Woods Pavilion, Chicago**

Join us and celebrate community and honor Pan-African Heritage while embracing the seven principles of Kwanzaa. *For more information, please call (224) 763-4317 or visit the website.*

**Thursday, 1/2; 10am****Winter Secrets Hike, Trailside Museum, River Forest**

Fulfill your resolution of being more active by taking a brisk guided walk. *Registration required. Ages 18 and up. Please call (708) 366-6530.*

**Thursday, 1/2 through Saturday, 1/4; 10am - 2pm****Winter Camp, Rolling Knolls, Elgin**

Join us and learn about the significance of the winter season in Native American culture while participating in various activities. *This event is presented by Trickster Cultural Center. For more information, please call (773)758-8899 or visit the website.*

**Thursday, 1/2; 1pm - 3pm**

**The Bare Bones, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Check out this jaw dropping interactive display of animal skulls and bones. *For more information, please call (847) 381-6592.*

**Friday, 1/3; 11am - 2pm****Winter Exploration Day, Dan Ryan Woods Pavilion, Chicago**

Get outside and enjoy winter! This is a great opportunity for the whole family to experience snowshoeing, hikes, art making, campfires and more. *There are some activities that are weather dependent. For more information, please call (224) 763-4317 or visit the website.*

**Saturday, 1/4; 10am - 12pm****Winter Workshop: Caldwell Woods Wellness Center, Chicago**

Calling all creatives! Join us for our themed sessions and learn about woodworking with invasive species. *Registration required. Please call (773)758-8899.*

**Sunday, 1/5; 1:30pm****Family Winter Scavenger Hunt and Campfire, Trailside Museum, River Forest**

Enjoy a winter afternoon on a self-guided hunt for signs of animals and plant life on your Scavenger Hunt List. You can conclude the fun activity by relaxing around a campfire and enjoying snacks. *Registration required. This is a family program. Please call (708) 366-6530.*

**Monday, 1/6; 11am - 12pm****Winter Bird Watch, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs**

Join us and learn about the mammals of Cook County by examining our skin and skulls collection. *For more information, please call (708) 839-6897.*

**Friday, 1/10; 6:30pm****Winter Fire Building Workshop, Camp Reinberg, Palatine**

Join us and learn fire building skills indoors, then try out your new talent outdoors. *Ages 10 and up. Ages 10-17 with an adult. For more information, please visit the website.*

**Friday, 1/10; 6pm - 7:30pm****Creative Sustainability Workshop, Swallow Cliff Pavilion, Palos Park**

This program will teach you about creative reuse methods and mending techniques. You can give items a second life by turning them into an ornament, decoration or bird feeder. *Supplies will be provided, or you can bring your own. For more information, please call (312) 533-5751.*

**Saturday, 1/11; 8am - 10am**

**Sit and Sip: Winter Birds, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland**

Drop in to see who is visiting our feeders and learn from a Sand Ridge bird nerd! *Warm drinks and cookies will be provided. For more information, please call (708) 868-0606.*

**Saturday, 1/11; 11am - 2pm****Winter Exploration Day, Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center, Chicago**

Join us for activities that educate and celebrate the impact of Lunar New Year. You will learn about this year's cycle, which is the Year of the Snake. *For more information, please call (224) 763-4317 or visit the website.*

**Saturday, 1/11; 1pm****What I did on my Winter Migration, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Discover what migratory birds do at their Central and South American wintering grounds. *For more information, please call (847) 381-6592.*

**Saturday, 1/11; 1pm****Winter Insects, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont**

Believe it or not, some insects are active through the winter. You can search for these cold-hardy survivors. *Registration required. Ages 14 and up. Please call (630) 257-2045 or visit the website for more information.*

**Saturday, 1/11 through Monday, 1/13; 4pm - 9pm****Moonlight Ski, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont**

Enjoy skiing by the light of the full moon. *Registration required. Ski rentals are limited. Skiers with their own equipment must wear a free trail pass. Please call (630) 257-2045 or visit the website for more information.*

**Sunday, 1/12; 12pm - 2pm****Conservation at Home: Seed Swap, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Join us at this free seed swapping event. You can bring some seeds, take some seeds home or both. *There will be experts on-site to provide advice and recommendations. Ages 13 and up. For more information, please call (847) 824-8360.*

**Monday, 1/13; 6pm****Women's Night Out: Full Moon Walk, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Join us for an evening of empowerment in this first series of women-centered programming. *Registration required. This program is for women ages 18 and up. The cost is \$10 per person. Please call (847) 824-8360.*



**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to receive and filed 24-0490. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

**COMMITTEE ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION**

**RULES COMMITTEE**

[24-0507](#)

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS**

SECRETARY TO THE BOARD, Lynne M. Turner, presented in printed form a record of the Journal of Proceedings of the regular meeting held on November 19, 2024.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Degnen, to approve 24-0507. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

[24-0508](#)

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS**

SECRETARY TO THE BOARD, Lynne M. Turner, presented in printed form a record of the Journal of Proceedings of the special meeting held on November 19, 2024 .

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Degnen, to approve 24-0508. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

[24-0503](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE (LITIGATION)**

Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Litigation -12/17/2024

The Finance Subcommittee on Litigation met on the above listed date and recommends the following for approval:

Proposed Settlements Approved Fiscal Year 2024 to Present:	\$1,028,000.00
Proposed Settlements to Be Approved:	\$1,588,818.00

Legal Fees Approved Fiscal Year 2024 to Present:	\$546,661.78
Legal Fees for 12/17/2024 to Be Approved:	\$94,496.37

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 24-0503. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

[24-0463](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE (WORKERS' COMPENSATION)**

Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Workers' Compensation -12/17/2024

The Finance Subcommittee on Workers' Compensation met on the above listed date and recommends the following for approval:

Workers' Compensation Claims approved Fiscal Year 2024 to present:	\$656,529.88
Workers' Compensation Claims to Be Approved:	\$143,225.50
Workers' Compensation Lien Recovery approved Fiscal Year 2024 to present:	\$12,500.00
Workers' Compensation Lien Recovery to be Approved:	\$0.00

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 24-0463. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

[24-0085](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**REPORT**

**Department:** Department of Finance and Administration

**Request:** Receive and File

**Report Title:** Corporate Fund Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures

**Report Period:** 1/1/2024 - 10/31/2024

**Summary:** Detailed Fund Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures for October 2024.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to receive and filed 24-0085. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

**REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE**

[24-0414](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT**

**Department(s):** Department of Planning and Development

**Vendor:** Glencoe Golf Course, Glencoe, Illinois (“GGC”) and the Village of Glencoe, Glencoe, Illinois (the “Village”)

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to amend contract

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Agreement relating to the use of Forest Preserves property for golf course purposes, including construction of a new clubhouse building complex, by GGC and/or the Village.

**Original Contract Period:** Continuous term from 1922 with no termination date; amended per Board Item No. 17-0138 (June 6, 2017) to add termination twenty (20) years from effective date of amendment (June 15, 2037) with an option to extend for up to twelve (12) years if the Village was able to obtain financing for improvements (i.e., June 14, 2049). The Village was able to obtain financing pursuant to a referendum approved by Glencoe voters on April 4, 2023.

**Proposed Contract Period Extension:** June 15, 2037 to June 14, 2049

**Total Current Contract Amount Authority:** N/A

**Original Approval:** N/A

**Previous Increase(s):** N/A

**This Increase Requested:** N/A

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** N/A (Revenue Generating). Revenue expected:

1. *Annual Payment.* GGC shall continue to pay the Forest Preserves an annual payment in an amount that is equal to the greater of (1) \$62,500.00 or (2) 3.6% of the annual gross revenue generated by GGC from golf course operations during the immediately preceding year.
2. *Tree Mitigation.* Tree mitigation fees for removal of thirty-two (32) trees within the modified clubhouse complex boundary in an amount equal to a minimum of \$349,108.21. In practice, more trees may need to be removed than originally estimated. Any increase in the tree mitigation fee will be in accordance with the Tree Mitigation Plan (Board Item No. 20-0279) and if such increase is more than 20% of the original estimate, then approval will be sought from the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners.
3. *Additional Restoration.* \$25,000 for additional ecological restoration of approximately 5 acres of unmanaged woodland adjacent to Green Bay Road within five (5) years of the effective date of the amendment.

No permit or license fee, including special use permit fees for alcohol, are to be paid by GGC or the Village to the Forest Preserves with respect to golf course operations.

**Accounts:** 51001.411217 Golf Fees

**Contract Number(s):** N/A

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final amendment is subject to legal review and approval.

**District(s):** ~~13~~ 14

**Summary:** In 1922, the Forest Preserves and GGC entered into an agreement relating to the use and operation of certain property comprising approximately 66 acres of Forest Preserves property as part of a public golf course to which both the Forest Preserves and the Village of Glencoe each contributed land. In 2017, the Forest Preserves renegotiated the original agreement to (1) revise the financial consideration that GGC should pay to the Forest Preserves, and (2) establish a termination date for the use by GGC of Forest Preserves property. The 2017 amendment also contemplated the potential future construction of a new clubhouse building and related improvements within a specified clubhouse complex boundary included as Exhibit B to the 2017 amendment.

The proposed second amendment would modify the previously agreed upon clubhouse complex boundary and include a stormwater retention system. The proposed new boundary lines may be slightly modified upon completion of a survey. The new clubhouse will focus on sustainability features, including, without limitation:

1. The clubhouse will be constructed to meet or exceed the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification standards as established by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC);
2. All glass installed on the building’s exterior, including windows, facades, and any other transparent or reflective surfaces, shall meet bird-friendly design standards to reduce the risk of bird collisions and resultant fatalities;
3. The clubhouse shall use sustainably sourced and recycled materials wherever and whenever practical; and
4. The surrounding landscaping shall incorporate the use of native plants for 75% or more of new plantings.

In addition, GGC and the Village have agreed: (1) to installation of Forest Preserves-branded signage near the main entrance driveway to the new clubhouse complex; (2) to cooperate with Forest Preserves staff to expand programs to advance the Forest Preserves Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policies; and (3) to provide a kiosk in the new clubhouse for Forest Preserves program information and materials. As is typical for these sorts of arrangements, the Forest Preserves owns all structures located on Forest Preserves property. However, in the event of a casualty event, it will be in the Village’s discretion on whether to rebuild the clubhouse. In addition, the Village will have the right to tear down the new clubhouse at its discretion, provided that the Forest Preserves shall first be given the option to take over management and maintenance of the clubhouse. Under the agreement, the Forest Preserves shall have no responsibility or liability for any non-compliance with applicable state or local laws concerning the Forest Preserves property.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve as amended 24-0414. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

[24-0465](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**PROPOSED AGREEMENT**

**Vendor:** Kar Rack Corp. D/B/A Eden Lanes Bowling Alley, Westchester, Illinois

**Request:** Requesting authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into an agreement

**Reason:** Eden Lanes Bowling Alley (“Eden Lanes”) currently sits on a parcel surrounded by the Forest Preserves’ Westchester Woods. A portion of Eden Lanes’ parking lot and driveway pavement rests on a part of the Forest Preserves’ parcel to the east of the business. In the Fall of 2012, the Forest Preserves’ Board of Commissioners authorized the Forest Preserves to accept a donation of land from the owner of Eden Lanes in exchange for the granting of a license to operate and maintain that driveway and parking lot on Forest Preserves property (See Board Communication No. 12REAL0005). That license expired.

The Forest Preserves requests the authority to issue a new agreement for Eden Lanes to continue to utilize the portion of the parking lot and driveway over Forest Preserves land. The proposed agreement would allow for this nonexclusive parking, access, and maintenance by Eden Lanes after the payment of the one-time parking permit fee below. The agreement would not be assignable, and Eden Lanes would indemnify the Forest Preserves and maintain proper insurance throughout the agreement’s term.

The Forest Preserves would also reserve the right to terminate the agreement for any public safety and nuisance issues occurring on the parking lot and driveway. The Forest Preserves has a right of first refusal for the property on which Eden Lanes currently sits, as the Forest Preserves had the same right under the license authorized in 2012.

**Contract Period:** 12/18/2023 (retroactive) - 12/17/2033

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** N/A (revenue generating). One-time permit fee of \$15,415.70 to be paid no later than ~~12/15/2024~~ **30 days from board approval**

**Account(s):** Miscellaneous Income 51001.411467

**Concurrence(s):** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final agreement is subject to legal review and approval.

**District(s):** 16

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve as amended 24-0465. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL COMMITTEE**

[24-0409](#)

**Sponsored by:** TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), BRIDGET DEGNEN, JOHN P. DALEY, SCOTT R. BRITTON and MONICA GORDON, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

**SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING**

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners, that Title I - Administrative, Chapter 8- District Finances, Section 2- Contracts and Purchases, Subsection F - Recycled Product Procurement Policy of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as Follows:

F. *Sustainable Product Procurement Policy:*

1. Purpose.
2. Policies.
3. Definitions.
4. Designated Products and Sustainable Products.
5. Requirements for Purchasing Contracts.
6. Rules and Regulations for Procurement of Sustainable Products.
7. Responsibilities of the Purchasing Department.
8. Exemptions.
9. Severability.
10. Third Party Rights.

Click for full text: <https://bit.ly/24-0409>

**Effective date:** This ordinance amendment shall be in effect January 1, 2025.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Degnen, seconded by Commissioner Morita, to approve 24-0409. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

[24-0459](#)

**Sponsored by:** TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), BRIDGET DEGNEN, JOHN P. DALEY, SCOTT R. BRITTON, MONICA GORDON, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, ANTHONY J. QUEZADA and MAGGIE TREVOR, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

REPEAL OUTDATED RECYCLING ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners, that Title 1 (Administrative), Chapter 15 (Reduction of Waste) of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Code of Ordinances is hereby repealed in its entirety:

~~**1-15-1: REDUCTION OF WASTE THROUGH REFUSE AND RECYCLING.**~~

~~The Forest Preserve District shall develop and implement a plan to reduce and reuse material, and to recycle material from all Forest Preserve facilities.~~

~~Such plan will be calculated for the purpose of achieving a district wide goal of 25 percent waste diversion and an accompanying 25 percent waste disposal cost reduction.~~

**Effective date:** This ordinance amendment shall be in effect on January 1, 2025.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Degnen, seconded by Commissioner Morita, to approve 24-0459. The motion carried by the following vote:**



**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

**LEGISLATION AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

[24-0476](#)

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

**PROPOSED APPOINTMENT**

**Appointee(s):** Kim Ruffin, Ph.D.

**Position:** Council Member

**Department/Board/Commission:** Conservation and Policy Council

**Effective Date:** 1/1/2025

**Expiration Date:** 12/31/2027

The Council Nominating Committee recommends the appointment of Kim Ruffin to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Maria Pesqueira.

Dr. Kim Ruffin is an Associate Professor and Program Director of English at Roosevelt University. Her scholarly monograph, *Black on Earth: African-American Ecoliterary Traditions*, put African-American writers on the map of U.S. nature writing. She is also a certified nature and forest therapy guide and a creative writer. Her audio-guided forest therapy walks (hosted by Emergence Magazine, the Denver Museum of Art, and the Forest Preserves of Cook County) have been enjoyed by thousands of local, national, and global listeners. Her current book project has been supported by a Kalliopeia Foundation grant, an Aldo and Estella Leopold Writing Program Residency, and a nonfiction workshop at the Bread Loaf Environmental Writers' Conference. In this forthcoming book, she recovers overlooked environmental testimony of the formerly enslaved from a federal archive. This project will offer a ceremony of environmental homecoming that both returns African-American voices to the American nature story and illuminates a pathway forward in our time of ecological upheaval. Dr. Kim Ruffin's range of work supports her efforts to celebrate the opportunities and tackle the challenges of living on Earth.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Degnen, to approve 24-0476. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

[24-0477](#)

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

**PROPOSED REAPPOINTMENT**

**Appointee(s):** Alan Bell, Jacqueline Samuel, Ph.D.

**Position:** Council Members

**Department/Board/Commission:** Conservation and Policy Council

**Effective Date:** 1/1/2025

**Expiration Date:** 12/31/2027

**Summary:** The terms for Conservation and Policy Council members Alan Bell, Jacqueline Samuel, and Michael DeSantiago expire on December 31, 2024. Alan and Jacqueline are able and willing to serve an additional term. Michael DeSantiago, who has served on the Council for ten years, is stepping down. In December we will be submitting a resolution to honor and thank Michael for his service.

The Council Nominating Committee recommends that Alan Bell and Jacqueline Samuel be appointed to a new term beginning January 1, 2025.

Alan Bell is a partner at the law firm of Charity & Associates, P.C., focusing on municipal finance and real estate finance. He is also the founder and president of The Elements Group, which focuses on nature-oriented development projects. He serves on the boards of Openlands, the Land Trust Alliance, the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance and the Black Ensemble Theater, and is a member of the National Association of Bond Lawyers. He enjoys bike riding along Chicago’s lakefront and hiking trails throughout the Forest Preserves.

Jacqueline Samuel is the Program Director of the Master of Public Administration at National Louis University. Previously, Dr. Samuel served as the Project Manager for the Housing Authority of Cook County, South Suburban Safe and Thriving Communities Program. She also facilitated and developed quality-of-life programs for 10 years in the South Chicago Area. She has served on the Health and Healing Committee/ Mayor’s Commission for a Safer Chicago, the Mayor’s Kitchen Cabinet Commercial Development Advisory, Advocate Trinity Hospital Community Health Council, the Community Advisory Review Council for the Institute for Translational Medicine (CARC) and the Illinois ACE’s Response Collaborative. Her most recent awards include the National Louis University REACH Award, the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital Courage Award and the Chicago Police Department CAPS Award for the 4th District. Jacqueline was born and raised in Chicago. She has a love for the arts and has performed in numerous plays and films based in Chicago.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Degnen, to approve 24-0477. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

**CAPTIAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE**

[24-0466](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**REPORT**

**Department:** Department of Planning and Development

**Request:** Refer to Capital Development & Ecological Restoration Committee

**Report Title:** 2025 Update to the 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan

**Report Period:** Five (5) Years, 2025-2029

**Summary:** This report is an annual update of capital improvement projects and funding needs for the next five (5) years (2025-2029). Capital improvement needs were identified by Forest Preserves’ staff, partner organizations, and members of the public. Requests for new or improved facilities, amenities, and infrastructure can be submitted at the Capital Improvement Plan webpage on the Forest Preserves website.

The draft report and appendix can be downloaded from the Forest Preserves’ Capital Improvement Plan webpage via the Forest Preserves website. Comments may be submitted to [planning@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:planning@cookcountyil.gov) until December 17th. The final version will be posted in January 2025. A final report will be issued in January.

**A motion was made by Commissioner SCOTT R. BRITTON , seconded by Commissioner JOSINA MORITA, that this Report be receive and filed. The motion carried. by an unanimous vote.**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

**NEW ITEMS**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Anaya, to suspend the rules to take up new items. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)

[24-0522](#)

**Sponsored by:** DONNA MILLER, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**REQUESTING A MEETING OF THE COOK COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT RECREATION & ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY PROGRAMMING**

**WHEREAS,** the Forest Preserves of Cook County contains a rich of African American landmarks and historical programming such as Underground Railroad sites, African American Water Trail, Beaubien Youth Outdoor Ambassadors program and Juneteenth events to name a few; and

**WHEREAS,** the Forest Preserve District has long included African American history programming as part of its engagement and experiential learning activities with over \$125,000 spent on such activities and programming; and

**WHEREAS,** the programming and activities take place throughout the year, but also with a special focus during February, which is African American History month; and

**WHEREAS**, additionally, the Forest Preserve District is investing in infrastructure related to African American history such as the \$4 million improvement project to make the Beaubien Boat Launch site more amenable for groups to gather for Underground Railroad and other activities; and

**WHEREAS**, in advance of African American History month, it would be beneficial for the Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners to be apprised of planned programming and opportunities for additional investments and programming related to the substantial African American history located in and around the Forest Preserves of Cook County;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Forest Preserve District of the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby request that a meeting of the Recreation & Engagement Committee be convened in January 2025 to hear presentations from Forest Preserve District staff and organizations that provide African American History programming in the Forest Preserves including programming for Underground Railroad related activities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that both Forest Preserve staff and such organizations be prepared to identify additional opportunities and recommendations for African American History programming and experiential learning in the Forest Preserves.

**Effective Date:** This Resolution shall be effective upon passage.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to refer 24-0522 to the Recreation and Engagement Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (13)

**Absent:** Miller, Moore and Morrison (3)excused

**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,



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Secretary

Journal #25-0064

A complete record of this meeting is available at <https://fpdcc.legistar.com>.