



Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

Journal of Proceedings of the FPD Board of Commissioners

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

10:00 AM

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

ATTENDANCE

Present: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: S. Morrison (1) excused

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to allow for remote participation in meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Gainer and Morrison (2) excused

CONSENT CALENDAR

[24-0095](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT ARNOLD RANDALL TO THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, Arnold Randall has served as the General Superintendent of the Forest Preserves of Cook County since his appointment in 2010, and as the leader of one of the country's oldest and largest forest

preserve districts, he has focused on restoring and protecting these lands and has been ardently committed to ensuring that all people feel welcome in the forest preserves; and

WHEREAS, because of his leadership as General Superintendent, the Forest Preserves is forever committed to making everyone feel welcome and to being an important asset to Cook County residents. Under his direction the Forest Preserves dedicated itself to offering innovative new programs, expanding opportunities for collaboration, adopting strategies that ensure meaningful public engagement, and developing master plans and accelerating the work to expand and preserve the unique natural areas of Cook County; and

WHEREAS, through Arnold's visionary and transformative leadership, Arnold ensured the Forest Preserves has been managed with excellence, transparency, and sound financial practices. His commitment to good government has greatly improved public perception of the Forest Preserves. He worked closely with elected local officials and communicated with state and federal legislators on issues that impact the Forest Preserves; and

WHEREAS, under his guidance, the Forest Preserves made significant progress in building and strengthening relationships with hundreds of organizations in Cook County, regionally and nationally. Arnold initiated and elevated new and existing partnerships, working extensively across boundaries to leverage resources and to link new and diverse audiences with nature; and

WHEREAS, at the beginning of his tenure, Arnold led a comprehensive operational audit of the agency and quickly developed and implemented key recommendations. The creation of an Employment Plan implemented by a newly created Human Resources Department resulted in the Forest Preserves becoming the second local government agency to be released from the *Shakman* Decree by reaching Substantial Compliance in February 2013, a finding that verified that political consideration plays no role in employment decisions for non-exempt employees at the Forest Preserves; and

WHEREAS, he has supported the development of many strategic plans, including plans pertaining to recreation, campgrounds, trails, natural and cultural resources, and sustainability. These investments illustrate his commitment to sound planning principles, strategic leadership, fiduciary duty, and best practices and engagement strategies; and

WHEREAS, Arnold facilitated the development and implementation of the 2014 Next Century Conservation Plan, a visionary strategy that lays out a set of bold actions to ensure that the Forest Preserves will continue to thrive and that the people of Cook County will treasure and sustain this amazing resource now and in the future; and

WHEREAS, he has made restoration and conservation of Cook County's important natural habitats a fundamental priority. Since 2010, the Forest Preserves has had six new Illinois Nature Preserves dedicated and four Land and Water Reserves totaling more than 3,600 acres and have grown the number of acres under active restoration management by over 15,000. He championed the 2015 Natural and Cultural Resources Master Plan, a comprehensive strategy for the management of the Forest Preserves'

natural and cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, Arnold helped advance science and research by supporting the wildlife biology division's efforts to better understand wildlife health and how it relates to human health, including the creation of a state of the art wildlife research center; support for the publishing of the award winning updated *Flora of the Chicago Region*, a ground-breaking book that documents and details nearly 3,200 plant species and their associated organisms found in the Chicago region; hosting multiple science symposiums; and beginning to implement ecological restoration strategies to enhance the resilience of the forest preserves habitats to ensure that local plants and animals can better withstand impacts from climate change; and

WHEREAS, he has embraced the development of innovative projects, programs and initiatives, including the formation of the Conservation & Policy Council, an advisory body of distinguished civic-minded experts who generously volunteer time to the mission, established by ordinance and charged with guiding the efforts to implement the Next Century Conservation Plan - including the expansion of the Conservation Corps program; the formation of the Conservation and Experiential Programming Department, a department dedicated solely to public programming and engagement; streamlining the picnic permit, concessions and rental program to enhance visitors' experiences; and overseeing the historic re-opening of five campgrounds in the Forest Preserves; and

WHEREAS, Arnold prioritized the promotion of an infrastructure and culture that is based on equity and inclusion, forming a Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee in 2018 focused on analyzing and understanding challenges and barriers to implementing solutions based on racial equity; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure the Forest Preserves has acquired and protected nearly 1,600 acres of land, including Horizon Farm, one of the largest land purchases in the Forest Preserves most recent history and launched the creation of a new forest preserve system in Southeast Cook County, an area where people lack access to public lands and outdoor recreation. Under Arnold's leadership, the Forest Preserves and partners developed the award-winning 2019 Southeast Cook County Land Acquisition Plan, which represents a unique and innovative approach to prioritizing acquisitions by identifying and protecting valuable open space based not only on the ecological value of sites, but also considers criteria related to flood mitigation, economic development, health, and social vulnerability; and

WHEREAS, Arnold believes in the power of collaboration and alliances and has supported Chicago Wilderness, a regional alliance of more than 250 different organizations working together to preserve, improve, and expand nature and quality of life in the region, serving as its chair from 2012 to 2018. He has also positioned the Forest Preserves as one of the lead agencies of the Millennium Reserve Compact, a partnership of government, businesses, and nonprofit groups working together to advance a shared action agenda in the Calumet region in southeast Cook County, serving on its Steering Committee; and

WHEREAS, Arnold's focus on transparency, accountability and fiscal responsibility has helped the Forest Preserves restructure its budget and identify new ways to reduce costs and raise revenues and secured nearly \$135,000,000 in grant funding, including funds raised by partners. He ultimately advocated for a sustainable source of revenue for the Forest Preserves which led to the successful passage of a tax

referendum in 2022, bringing in much needed resources to care for nature, improve outdoor recreation amenities, maintain infrastructure, and stabilize the Forest Preserves' pension fund; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 he supported the launch of the Forest Preserve Foundation, the Forest Preserves' philanthropic partner dedicated to protecting and restoring natural habits and to enhancing outdoor experiences for all people, to expand resources for key Forest Preserves programs and initiatives. The Forest Preserve Foundation has become a stalwart supporter of the Forest Preserves' Conservation Corps program, has helped restore critical natural areas including Cap Sauers Holdings Nature Preserve, and has raised more than \$3,000,000 to support the Forest Preserves; and

WHEREAS, Arnold is committed to developing, training and hiring the Next Generation of Conservation Leaders and supported and helped grow the Chicago Conservation Corps Leadership program and supported the creation of the Youth Outdoor Ambassador and the Forest Preserves Experience programs. His leadership led to continued and renewed partnerships with Friends of the Forest Preserves, Student Conservation Association, the Chicago Housing Authority, and Openlands. During his tenure, these programs have trained and employed thousands of young people in restoration, environmental education and engagement, and other skills; and

WHEREAS, Arnold is active in numerous civic and professional organizations. Affiliations have included the Chicago Community Development Commission (chair), Chicago Plan Commission, Commission on Chicago Landmarks, Public Buildings Commission, Delta Institute Board, Woodlawn Children's Promise Community, Woodlawn New Communities Program (NCP), American City Planning Directors' Council, American Planning Association, Illinois Parks and Recreation Association (IPRA), National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), South East Chicago Commission (SECC) Executive Committee, Harper Court Foundation Board, and the 53rd Street TIF Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, he has been recognized by both local and national organizations including becoming a "Legend" in the field of parks and recreation by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration in 2022, receiving the Agency Leadership Award from the Public Lands Alliance in 2019 and most notably receiving the Motorola Solutions Foundation Excellence in Public Service Award from the Civic Federation in 2017; and

WHEREAS, Arnold's parents instilled in him a love of nature, taking him swimming, fishing and horseback riding, and Arnold, in turn, shares his respect for nature and wildlife with his wife and children; and

WHEREAS, Arnold's contributions and dedication to conserving nature and promoting and enhancing access to outdoor recreation for all people are exemplary and he leaves behind a thriving and vibrant Forest Preserves and will long be remembered as one of the most outstanding General Superintendents that has ever managed the Forest Preserves of Cook County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that President Toni Preckwinkle and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County do hereby extend

thanks to Arnold Randall for his dedication, leadership and outstanding service to the Forest Preserves and wish him continued success in his next position.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be provided to Arnold Randall in recognition of his significant contributions to the Forest Preserves of Cook County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to suspend the rules 24-0095. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Gainer and Morrison (2)

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 24-0095. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Morrison (1)

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

- 1. Henrietta Saunders**
- 2. Ben Helphand**
- 3. Jodie Wiederkehr**
- 4. Michele Miedlar**
- 5. George Blakemore**

PRESIDENT

[24-0056](#)

Presented by: (Inactive) ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED APPOINTMENT

Appointee(s): Eileen Figel

Position: Interim General Superintendent

Effective Date: January 24, 2024

Expiration Date: Upon the appointment of a permanent General Superintendent or another Interim General Superintendent

Summary: The General Superintendent has full administrative authority in all matters pertaining to the Forest Preserves of Cook County, subject to the direction of the President of the Board of Commissioners. The current General Superintendent will vacate the position January 23, 2024. In the case of a vacancy in the position of General Superintendent, it is necessary to appoint an Acting or Interim General Superintendent to perform the duties of the General Superintendent and said Acting or Interim General Superintendent shall have the full authority to execute the duties and responsibilities of the General Superintendent position. It is imperative for the successful operation of the Forest Preserves of Cook County that the duties of the General Superintendent continue to be carried out in an efficient and transparent manner. Eileen Figel has been the Deputy General Superintendent since July 21, 2014 and is highly qualified to manage the operations of the Forest Preserves and assume the duties of Interim General Superintendent.

A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Degnen, to suspend the rules 24-0056. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Morrison (1)

A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 24-0056. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Morrison (1)

[24-0054](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZED SIGNATORIES

WHEREAS, the FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY (the “Forest Preserves”) has authorized various banks as depositories of its accounts; and

WHEREAS, from time to time, the Forest Preserves may also seek to open lines of credit or purchase appeal bonds from various insurers, bond companies or other institutions to cover the costs of judgments

against the Forest Preserves in the event the Forest Preserves, upon Board approval, decides to appeal such judgments; and

WHEREAS, the various banks that serve as depositories of the Forest Preserves' accounts require the manual or facsimile signature of duly elected or appointed Officers of the Forest Preserves for the warrants, checks drafts or other orders on these accounts; and

WHEREAS, the various insurers, bond companies and other institutions with whom the Forest Preserves may seek to open a line of credit, or from whom the Forest Preserves may seek to purchase an appeal bond, may require the manual or facsimile signatures of duly elected or appointed Officers of the Forest Preserves in order to allow the Forest Preserves to establish lines of credit or purchase appeals bonds; and

WHEREAS, from time to time, based on changes in Forest Preserves personnel, it is necessary to advise banks, insurers, bond companies and other institutions of changes to the list of elected or appointed Officers of the Forest Preserves who are authorized to sign on behalf of the Forest Preserves in order to allow the Forest Preserves to issue checks, warrants or other orders with respect to Forest Preserves bank accounts; establish lines of credit; or purchase appeals bonds; and

WHEREAS, upon approval, this Resolution shall supersede the prior Resolution, Item No. 23-0447, which was approved by the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners on July 18, 2023 regarding authorized signatures.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes, effective immediately, that the manual or facsimile signatures of any three of the following officers shall appear on all lines of credit opened; appeal bonds purchased; or warrants, checks, drafts or other orders drawn on the bank accounts or other accounts of the Forest Preserves:

PRESIDENT, TONI PRECKWINKLE
INTERIM GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT, EILEEN FIGEL
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DAMON HOWELL
COMPTROLLER, JAMES CUNNEA
TREASURER, DAMON HOWELL

provided, however, that one signature must be that of either the Treasurer or the Chief Financial Officer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the banks, insurers, bond companies, sureties or other institutions authorized as lenders, depositories, or sureties of the Forest Preserves shall be entitled to honor and to charge the Forest Preserves, for such lines of credit, appeal bonds, warrants, checks, drafts or other orders whenever such documents shall be signed manually or by facsimile by any three of the following

officers of the Forest Preserves:

PRESIDENT, TONI PRECKWINKLE
 INTERIM GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT, EILEEN FIGEL
 CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DAMON HOWELL
 COMPTROLLER, JAMES CUNNEA
 TREASURER, DAMON HOWELL

provided, however, that one signature is that of the Treasurer or Chief Financial Officer.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 24-0054. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Morrison (1)

COMMISSIONERS

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

[24-0097](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

TO AUTHORIZE THE FOREST PRESERVES TO ENTER INTO SUPPLEMENTAL LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCY AGREEMENT FOR DESIGN OF THE DES PLAINES TRAIL BRIDGE OVER THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD NORTH OF GOLF ROAD

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) has sought and been awarded the following: (1) Grade Crossing Protection Funds (“GCPF”) from the Illinois Commerce Commission (“ICC”), a federally-funded program administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation (“IDOT”), and (2) Invest in Cook (“IIC”) funds from the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (“DOTH”) to facilitate engineering and construction of a multi-use bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad for the Des Plaines Trail (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, as a prerequisite for IDOT to reimburse the Forest Preserves for its awarded Phase II

engineering expenses related to the Project, IDOT required a local public agency agreement to be in place between the Forest Preserves and IDOT; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners approved a prior Resolution on September 21, 2021, authorizing the Forest Preserves to enter into a Local Agency Agreement for engineering design services with IDOT (Board Item No. 21-0431); and

WHEREAS, on June 16, 2020, the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners approved Terra Engineering, Ltd. (Board Item No. 20-0215) to perform Phase II Engineering Services with a contract value of \$292,296.01; and

WHEREAS, the engineering services contract that was awarded to Terra Engineering, Ltd. to deliver engineering design services to the Forest Preserves is now proposed to be amended and increased by up to \$82,500.00 pursuant to a separate Board Item No. 24-0002.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Forest Preserves, through its President, to enter into a supplemental local public agency agreement (the “Supplemental Local Public Agency Agreement”) with IDOT to pay up to \$82,500.00 to Terra Engineering, Ltd. for supplemental Phase II Engineering Service costs associated with the Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby confirms that sufficient funds are available in the Forest Preserves’ Capital Improvement Fund and Construction & Development Professional Services accounts to pay the total supplemental cost of Phase II Engineering services in the amount not to exceed \$82,500.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of the Supplemental Local Public Agency Agreement, when executed in its respective final form, shall be submitted to IDOT for approval and final processing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 24-0097. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Morrison (1)

[24-0092](#)

Presented by: (Inactive) ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED GRANT AWARD

Department: Department of Resource Management

Grantee: Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”)

Grantor: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Request: Authorization to accept grant and permit the General Superintendent authority to execute the grant agreement on behalf of the President of the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners.

Purpose: Authorization is sought for the Forest Preserves to accept grant and enter into a grant agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to restore and enhance 63.4 acres of habitat and support a variety of community engagement activities at Bemis Woods.

Grant Amount: \$125,000.00

Grant Period: 1/1/2024 (retroactive) - 8/31/2026

Fiscal Impact: Not to exceed \$126,000.00 in direct match, which includes approximately \$1,000.00 of in-kind support for the planning, implementation, and monitoring of the project.

Accounts: Professional Services 51033.520840; Grant and Mitigation 51010.521444 and 51010.520840; and all future Professional Services and Grant and Mitigation accounts

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

District(s): 17

Summary: The Forest Preserves has been awarded federal grant funds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (#F23AC02164-00) through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in support of habitat restoration and collaborative community engagement activities at Bemis Woods in central Cook County. Restoration activities will include 63.4 acres of invasive brush removal and tree thinning to promote native oak regeneration and open migratory corridors along Salt Creek. The project will also feature collaborative partnerships with local stewardship volunteers, the Chicago Bird Alliance (formerly known as the Chicago Audubon Society), and the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum to host public engagement programs including seed collection workdays, bird/bat/frog monitoring, and ten (10) educational birding walks.

Bemis Woods, located near the Village of Western Springs, contains an assemblage of woodland and floodplain forest interspersed with scattered wetlands supporting regionally important wildlife, plants, and pollinators. This project advances the goals of the Next Century Conservation Plan and the Natural and Cultural Resources Master Plan, which identified the Salt Creek preserves, including Bemis Woods, as the sixth-highest priority landscape for conservation and ecological restoration.

Total project costs are \$251,000.00, of which the Forest Preserves will contribute \$126,000.00 or approximately 50% in direct match.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 24-0092. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Morrison (1)

[24-0001](#)

Presented by: (Inactive) ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Department: Department of Planning and Development

Other Part(ies): Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (“MWRD”), Chicago, Illinois

Request: Authorization to enter into a new expanded intergovernmental agreement with MWRD

Goods or Services: Master agreement for the following: (1) MWRD financial support for green infrastructure projects on Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) land; (2) mutual waiver of license and other fees for projects proposed by either agency that otherwise meet the respective agency’s permit or license review criteria; and (3) clarification of environmental inspection obligations for MWRD land leased by the Forest Preserves.

Agreement Number(s): N/A

Agreement Period: Five (5) years from the Effective Date regarding joint green infrastructure projects and the mutual waiver of fees, and thirty (30) years from the Effective Date with automatic one-year renewals regarding maintenance of the completed green infrastructure projects

Fiscal Impact: Revenue Generating for Green Infrastructure Projects - MWRD participation of up to \$3 million per year subject to Forest Preserves match; Varies by project for mutual waiver of fees

Accounts: Various grant accounts to be assigned for specific green infrastructure and ecosystem restoration projects after approval of the proposed intergovernmental agreement

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: The Forest Preserves and MWRD wish to expand upon prior Intergovernmental Agreements for MWRD financial participation in mutually beneficial green infrastructure and ecosystem restoration projects, and for the mutual waiver of various fees for improvements. The proposed new intergovernmental agreement seeks to address three (3) items.

First, instead of individual intergovernmental agreements for each green infrastructure project, the master agreement would establish blanket terms and conditions for MWRD approval of reimbursement of project cost based on a fixed rate per gallon of Design Retention Capacity (DRC) up to \$3 million per year over the next five (5) years. The anticipated reimbursement for individual projects is not expected to exceed 50% of project costs for most projects based on past project subsidies. Construction contracts for specific green infrastructure projects would still be subject to the Forest Preserves' procurement and MWBE ordinances. Eligible projects would make Forest Preserves land more climate resilient by expanding the potential to hold or slow stormwater after storm events. Past examples have included the retrofit of existing parking lots near the Des Plaines River to replace portions with porous pavers, bioswales or other vegetation (See Board Item Nos. 19-0328, 20-0175, and 21-0229).

Second, the Forest Preserves typically charges tree mitigation, application, license, and other fees for projects that impact Forest Preserves-owned property; and MWRD typically charges permit review and inspection fees for permits sought under its Watershed Management Ordinance or any other ordinances. The proposed new intergovernmental agreement would continue the prior practice of both agencies of mutually waiving various fees for improvement projects (See Board Item Nos. 17-0133 and 22-0281).

Third, the proposed intergovernmental agreement would clarify responsibilities with respect to periodic environmental inspections of MWRD parcels leased by the Forest Preserves. Final agreement is subject to legal review and approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 24-0001. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Morrison (1)

[24-0004](#)

Presented by: (Inactive) ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT AMENDMENT

Department: Department of Conservation and Experiential Programming

Other Part(ies): City of Chicago and Chicago Park District, Chicago, Illinois

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to extend and amend existing intergovernmental agreement.

Goods or Services: Increased and continued funding of the not-for-profit NeighborSpace

Agreement Number: N/A

Agreement Period: Original: 1/1/2021 - 12/31/2025, with the option for a five (5) year renewal at the discretion of the General Superintendent. Proposed Extension 1/1/2026 - 12/31/2033, with the option for a five (5) year renewal at the discretion of the General Superintendent.

Fiscal Impact: Original: Not to exceed \$500,000; Proposed Amendment: Not to exceed \$1,500,000 for years 2024-2038. FY 2024 \$100,000.00, FY 2025 \$100,000.00, FY 2026 \$100,000.00, FY 2027 \$100,000.00, FY 2028 \$100,000.00, FY 2029 \$100,000.00, FY 2030 \$100,000.00, FY 2031 \$100,000.00, FY 2032 \$100,000.00, FY 2033 \$100,000.00, FY 2034 \$100,000.00 (optional), FY 2035 \$100,000.00 (optional), FY 2036 \$100,000.00 (optional), FY 2037 \$100,000.00 (optional), FY 2038 \$100,000.00 (optional)

Accounts: Professional Services 51001.520830

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: In 1997, the Forest Preserves entered into an agreement with the City of Chicago and the Chicago Park District to form NeighborSpace, a not-for-profit that owns, leases and insures small parks, gardens, natural areas, river edges and scenic landscapes in the City of Chicago. On 1/4/1999, the

intergovernmental agreement was extended to 12/31/2018 and on 10/16/2018 the agreement was further extended from 1/1/2019 through 12/31/2020 (see Board Item No. 18-0403). In 2020, the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners authorized a new five-year agreement with the option for a five-year renewal (see Board Item No. 20-0435). Now, the City of Chicago and the Chicago Park District would like to extend and increase funding under the agreement. The Forest Preserves seeks authorization to do the same. The proposed amendment will be subject to legal review and approval. A Forest Preserves Commissioner and a Forest Preserves staff member sit on the Board of Directors of NeighborSpace along with representatives of the City of Chicago and the Chicago Park District. As a condition for the Forest Preserves' contribution, the Forest Preserves may, at the General Superintendent's discretion, enter a memorandum of understanding regarding the services that NeighborSpace will provide in alignment with the Forest Preserves' mission.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 24-0004. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Morrison (1)

[24-0005](#)

Presented by: (Inactive) ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT AMENDMENT

Department: Department of Planning and Development

Other Part(ies): Illinois Department of Natural Resources ("IDNR")

Request: Authorization to amend an existing Intergovernmental Agreement ("IGA")

Goods or Services: For removal of certain dams on the Des Plaines River and North Branch of the Chicago River

Agreement Number: Amendment #4 to OWR-292

Agreement Period: Original (10/23/2013 - 6/30/2016); Amendment #1 (1/9/2015 - 6/30/2016); IGA suspended by IDNR effective 6/30/2015; Amendment #2 (7/1/2016 - 6/30/2020); Amendment #3 (7/1/2020 - 6/30/2024); Proposed Extension Period for Amendment #4 (7/1/2024 - 6/30/2027)

Fiscal Impact: Not to exceed \$1,100,000.00 (fully reimbursable by IDNR to the Forest Preserves)

Accounts: Professional Services 51010.520830; Special or Co-op Programs 51010.521313; and Land Improvements 51010.560019

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: The Forest Preserves seeks authorization to amend and extend an existing intergovernmental agreement with IDNR. Under the existing intergovernmental agreement, the parties agreed to collaborate on the removal of seven (7) dams on the Des Plaines River and North Branch of the Chicago River. Six (6) of the seven (7) dams have been removed to date. The parties would like to amend the agreement to add an eighth dam, Tam O’Shanter on the North Branch of the Chicago River. In addition to adding an eighth dam, the parties would like to extend the agreement to allow time for the removal of Tam O’Shanter and the Chick Evans Dam. The original fiscal impact was \$1.6 million, however, IDNR provided an initial advance of \$500,000.00 in May of 2015, reducing the fiscal impact to \$1.1 million. There is no additional fiscal impact for the proposed amendment. Final amendment is subject to legal review and approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 24-0005. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Morrison (1)

[24-0002](#)

Presented by: (Inactive) ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Department(s): Department of Planning and Development

Vendor: Terra Engineering, Ltd., Chicago, Illinois

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to extend and increase an existing engineering services contract

Good(s) or Service(s): Engineering services for bridge over Union Pacific Railroad tracks on the Des Plaines River Trail

Original Contract Period: 6/16/2020 - 12/31/2022; (Administrative Extension) 1/1/2023 - 12/31/2023

Proposed Contract Period Extension: 1/1/2024 (retroactive) - 6/30/2025

Total Current Contract Amount Authority: \$292,296.01

Original Approval: 6/16/2020, \$292,296.01

Previous Increase(s): N/A

This Increase Requested: \$82,500.00

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2024 \$82,500.00

Accounts: Professional Services 51010.520830, 51009.520830, 51033.520830, 51034.520830; and future Construction and Development accounts

Contract Number(s): Contract #74000007884 issued under Solicitation #20-80-005199 per Request for Qualifications 17-80-31B, Des Plaines River Trail Proposed Union Pacific Railroad Crossing Phase II Engineering Services

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): 9

Summary: An extension and increase in the original contract approved by the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners on 6/16/2020 (Board Item No. 20-0215) are needed due to unanticipated project delays due to funding agency approvals that resulted in approximately \$25,000.00 in additional project review and coordination and environmental studies work. In addition, redesign of a portion of the proposed bridge may be required, subject to a decision on a request for design modifications by the Union Pacific Railroad. Proceedings are pending before the Illinois Commerce Commission (“ICC”). The original scope of services did not anticipate the length of time, approximately eight (8) months, to obtain an Agreed Order with the ICC and subsequent additional time, approximately eighteen (18) months, to obtain subsequent funding agreement approval by the Illinois Department of Transportation (“IDOT”) before issuance of a

Notice to Proceed with Phase 2 Engineering Services. In addition to amendment of the vendor contract, IDOT requires the Forest Preserves, through its President, to enter into a supplemental local public agency agreement with IDOT confirming its agreement to pay for supplemental Phase II Engineering Service costs associated with the project (See Board Item No. 24-0097).

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 24-0002. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Morrison (1)

[24-0075](#)

Presented by: (Inactive) ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Law Enforcement

Request: Refer to Law Enforcement Committee

Report Title: Model Policing

Report Period: October 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023

Summary: Report on the status to achieve the goal of a Model Forest Preserves Police Department.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Degnen, to refer 24-0075 to the Law Enforcement Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Morrison (1)

[24-0053](#)

Presented by: MARY MODELSKI, County Auditor

REPORT

Department: Office of the County Auditor

Request: Refer to Audit Committee

Report Title: OCA FPD FY23 4th Quarter Open Recommendations

Report Period: December 2023

Summary: Status Report on Open Recommendations regarding Forest Preserves of Cook County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Degnen, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to refer 24-0053 to the Audit Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Morrison (1)

[24-0061](#)

Presented by: (Inactive) ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Finance and Administration

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Procurement and Disbursement Report

Report Period: 11/1/2023 - 11/30/2023

Summary: Submitting the Procurement and Disbursement Report for the period of November 2023. 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 Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to receive and file 24-0061. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Morrison (1)

[24-0060](#)

Presented by: (Inactive) ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Departments of Legal and Finance

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Workers' Compensation Report - November 2023

Report Period: 11/1/2023 - 11/30/2023

Summary: The Forest Preserves of Cook County Departments of Legal and Finance are submitting Workers' Compensation Claim Payments for the month of November 2023. Payments total \$186,582.61 for November 2023.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to receive and file 24-0060. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Morrison (1)

[24-0087](#)

Presented by: (Inactive) ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Department: Department of Conservation and Experiential Programming

Summary: Forest Preserves of Cook County Calendar of Events and Activities: 1/23/2024 -2/27/2024.

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

Thursday, 1/25; 10am - 12pm

Winter Workshop-Woodworking, Rolling Knolls, Elgin

Repurpose the common European buckthorn into something new. *Registration required. Ages 10 and up. Equipment provided. Please call (773) 758-8899.*

Thursday, 1/25; 7pm**Full Moon Walk, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Discover Crabtree at night by the light of the Wolf Moon. *Registration required. Ages 8 and up. Please call (847) 381-6592.*

Friday, 1/26 through Friday 2/16; 9am - 4pm**Story Trail: "Over and Under the Snow, Trailside Museum, River Forest**

Walk a short trail and read the posted story, then pick up a craft and activity bag.

Friday, 1/26; 4:30pm - 6:30pm**Woodburning & Watercolors, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland**

Be inspired by the winter landscape and create pieces of art using woodburning or pyrography techniques and watercolor paints. *Registration required. Ages 21 and up. BYOB. Please call (708)868-0606.*

Saturday, 1/27; 8am**Birds and Bagels, Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center, Chicago**

Start your morning with birds and bagels! Enjoy a treat while observing local birds at our feeders. *Accessible site. Binoculars available to borrow Bagels and light refreshments provided.*

Saturday, 1/27; 10:30am - 1:30pm**All About Fire, Thatcher Woods Pavilion, River Forest**

Drop in to learn safe practices for fire building and containment, make fire-inspired art, build your own fire, and roast a marshmallow. *All ages.*

Saturday, 1/27; 1pm**Snowshoe Walk, Camp Reinberg, Palatine**

Enjoy the Preserves of snowshoes. Snowshoes provided; 4" of snow required. If no snow is present, we will enjoy a winter walk. *Registration Required. Please visit the website for more information.*

Saturday, 1/27; 1:30pm**Walk with a Steward, Schiller Woods-West, Schiller Park**

Learn about ecological gems and the restoration process with volunteer site steward, Cathy Bloom. *Registration Required. Ages 18 and up. Grove 6. Please call (708)366-6530.*

Saturday, 1/27; 1:30pm**Feeding Frenzy, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs**

Learn what, why and how staff feed the great diversity of birds, fishes, reptiles, and amphibians at the nature center.

Sunday, 1/28; 11am - 3pm**Crabtree Hygge, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Celebrate the Danish tradition of coziness with hot chocolate and nature books.

Sunday, 1/28; 1:30pm**Insects in Winter, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Search our trails for the mighty snow flea and learn about other winter insects.

Wednesday, 1/31; 10am**Accessibility Trail Outing; Miller Meadow-South, Maywood**

Walk with us on a short, 1.7-mile looped and paved trail with resting points throughout. The walk is designed for people using wheelchairs or with mobility issues and will be held at a slower pace. *Grove 6.*

Thursday, 2/1 through Tuesday 2/27; 8am - 4pm**Black History Month Exhibit, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont**

Learn about African American skiers and challenges faced in winter sports.

Thursday, 2/1; 4pm - 6pm**Prehistoric Play Day, Matthew Bieszczat Volunteer Resource Center, Chicago**

Learn about the amazing world of Ice Age Illinois through a series of family-oriented games and activities. *Ages 5 and up.*

Friday, 2/2; 3pm - 5pm**Life in the Snow, Pulaski Woods, Willow Springs**

Join a naturalist and explore the forest. We will investigate animal tracks, identify deciduous trees, and observe the winter birds. *Grove 1.*

Saturday, 2/3; 10am**Winter Whereabouts, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs**

Learn how different native animals survive during the colder winter months.

Saturday, 2/3; 10am - 12pm**Winter Art Workshop- Phone-tography 101, Rolling Knolls, Elgin**

Enjoy a morning in the Preserves and learn the basics of photography using a smartphone. *Registration required. Please call (773)758-8899.*

Saturday, 2/3; 6pm - 9pm**Sweetheart Night Hike, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Couples and friends are invited to enjoy the nature center grounds at their leisure. Walk our candlelit trails, relax around a campfire, or warm up inside with dinner and drinks. *Ages 21 and up. Cost: \$25 per person. Registration required by 1/30. Please call (847) 824-8360.*

Wednesday, 2/7; 10am - 12pm**Poetry Trail: Black History Month; Bemis Woods-South, Western Springs**

In honor of Black History Month, walk a short, looped trail and read poetry for children written by African American authors along the way. *Grove 7.*

Wednesdays, 2/7 through 2/28; 10am - 3pm

Black History Month Story Trails; Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center, Chicago

Join us in celebrating Black History Month with a story trail. Each story will showcase a prominent Black figure.

Thursday, 2/8; 10am - 12pm

Winter Workshop: Knitting, Matthew Bieszczat Volunteer Resource Center, Chicago

Join us for our themed sessions as we explore knitting. *Ages 13 and up.*

Saturday, 2/10; 9am - 2pm

Ski the White Winter Wave, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont

Join the fun as we take a Polynesian spin on winter by skiing the “frozen wave,” relax and enjoy surfing videos and updates from Oahu’s North Shore.

Saturday, 2/10; 9:30am - 12:30pm

BIPOC Faces in Green Spaces, Dan Ryan Woods, Chicago

Shift your focus from daily hassles during an outdoor wellness and journaling session.

Saturday, 2/10; 10am - 1pm

Winter Exploration Day, Thatcher Woods, River Forest

In partnership with the Portage Creek Boy Scouts, join us for an afternoon of winter activities including hikes, broom hockey, orienteering and more.

Saturday 2/10; 1pm

Snowshoe Walk, Camp Bullfrog Lake, Willow Springs

Enjoy the Preserves of snowshoes. Snowshoes provided; 4” of snow required. If no snow is present, we will enjoy a winter walk. *Registration Required. Please visit the website for more information.*

Saturday, 2/10; 1:30pm

Owls of Trailside, Trailside Museum, River Forest

Bring the family and meet one of our ambassador owls. Learn about the fascinating owls that call Trailside home. *Registration required. Please call (708) 366-6530.*

Saturday, 2/10; 6pm - 7:30pm

Super Bowl/Superb Owl, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

Enjoy a brief introduction to owls and their amazing adaptations and skills followed by a short walk on our trails to see if we can spot any wintering owls!

Sunday, 2/11; 10am

Super Bowl Pregame Hike, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

See what makes Crabtree special on a 3-mile hike before the big game.

Sunday, 2/11; 1:30pm

Superb Owl Party, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Help us celebrate owls and learn what makes them so unique!

Thursday, 2/15; 4pm - 7pm

Conservation@Home: Seed Swap & Plant Exchange, Dan Ryan Woods Pavilion, Chicago

Plant lovers unite! Native plant presentation followed by seed and plant sharing. *Bring a mug; warm beverage provided. All Ages.*

Thursday, 2/15; 6pm

Winter Fire Building Workshop, Camp Sullivan, Oak Forest

Learn fire building skills and stick around for a story and s'mores around the fire. *Registration Required. Please visit the website for more information.*

Saturday, 2/17; 6am - 9am

Sunrise Nature Photography, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

An outdoor workshop focusing on amazing winter scenes. *Ages 13 and up. Registration required by 2/15. Please call (847) 824-8360.*

Saturday, 2/17; 9am

Winter Bird Walk, Trailside Museum, River Forest

Join us for a casual bird walk to observe our resident birds and their behavior. *Registration required. Binoculars available to borrow. Please call (708)366-6530.*

Saturday, 2/17; 10am - 12pm

Celebration of Lunar New Year, Dan Ryan Woods Pavilion, Chicago

Activities to educate and celebrate the Lunar New Year-Year of the Dragon. *All Ages.*

Saturday, 2/17; 1pm

Fossil Lab, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont

Have you ever wondered how paleontologists study fossils? Visit our lab as we break down features of invertebrate fossils.

Sunday, 2/18; 1pm

CSI: Critter Scene Investigation, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

An interactive adventure to learn about our animal neighbors. Can you guess what animals have been visiting from the clues they've left behind? Learn about tracks, scat and more during this adventure.

Wednesday, 2/21; 9:30am

Photography Walk, Spears Woods, Willow Springs

Join a naturalist for a walk around Spears Woods on a quest to capture some magical winter photos.

Thursday, 2/22; 10am - 12pm

Walk & Talk: Black History Month Celebration, LaBagh Woods, Chicago

Learn about the importance of Black environmentalists and how the Forest Preserves' trails relate to the Underground Railroad Movement. *Grove 1. Registration required. Please call (773) 758-8899.*

Saturday, 2/24; 10am - 12pm

Winter Art Workshop: Pottery, Rolling Knolls, Elgin

Join us for our themed sessions as we explore pottery. *Registration required. Ages 13 and up. Please call (773) 758-8899.*

Saturday, 2/24; 10am - 12:30pm

Winter Pop-Up Fun, Cherry Hill Woods, Palos Park

Check out a pair of our snowshoes, help with litter pickup, warm up by a fire, and play in the snow!

Saturday, 2/24 through Sunday 2/25; 10am - 3pm

Underground Railroad Walks, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

Join us on a self-guided journey that follows the Underground Railroad route connected to the Calumet Region during the mid-1800s.

Saturday, 2/24; 10:30am (Zoom)

Conservation@Home: Go Native & Get Wild, Trailside Museum, River Forest

Learn about gardening using native plants and its benefits to you and to the environment. *Registration required. Please call (708)366-6530.*

Saturday, 2/24; 12pm - 2pm

Build a Birdhouse, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

Welcome back migrating birds by making a birdhouse just in time for spring nesting season. *Registration required. Ages 18 and up or ages 13-17 with an adult. Please call (708) 868-0606.*

Saturday, 2/24; 1pm

Black History Month Celebration, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

Learn about the importance of Black environmentalists and how the Forest Preserves' trails relate to the Underground Railroad Movement.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Stamps, to receive and filed 24-0087. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Morrison (1)

COMMITTEE ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

FINANCE COMMITTEE

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner BILL LOWRY, seconded by Commissioner DENNIS DEER, to adjourn the meeting.. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: Morrison (1) excused

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne M. Turner

Secretary

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

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