



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

Journal of Proceedings of the FPD Board of Commissioners

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

10:00 AM

Virtual Meeting

ATTENDANCE

Present: Aguilar, Anaya, Arroyo, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller,
Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

Absent: Moore (1) excused absence

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

NO PUBLIC SPEAKERS

PRESIDENT

[21-0252](#)

Presented by: MATTHEW B. DELEON, Secretary to the Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ITEM AMENDMENT

Department: Office of the Secretary

Request: Amendment to 2021 Board Agenda Meeting Annual Calendar Dates and Locations

Item Number: 20-0350

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Account(s): N/A

District(s): N/A

Original Text of Item:**PROPOSED RESOLUTION****2021 BOARD AGENDA MEETING ANNUAL CALENDAR DATES AND LOCATIONS**

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 4-1(a) of Chapter 5 of Title 1 of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Code of Ordinances, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners (“the Board”) shall hold regular meetings pursuant to an annual calendar adopted by resolution of the Board; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 2.03 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, as amended, every public body shall give public notice of the schedule of regular meetings at the beginning of each calendar or fiscal year and shall state the regular dates, times and places of such meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Toni Preckwinkle, President, and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners:

1. That the Board shall hold its regular meetings of the Board at 10:00 a.m. local time on the following dates in 2021:

Tuesday, January 26

Wednesday, February 24

Tuesday, March 16

Tuesday, April 13

Tuesday, May 11

Tuesday, June 22

Tuesday, July 27

~~Tuesday, September 14~~ Tuesday, September 21

Tuesday, October 5

Tuesday, November 2

Tuesday, December 14

2. That Board meetings may be conducted remotely by video and/or teleconferencing in accordance with public health authority guidelines and applicable provisions of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the Forest Preserves District of Cook County Code of Ordinances, and executive orders related to a proclamation of disaster by the Governor of the State of Illinois or a declaration of local disaster by the President of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County. Otherwise, the place of Board meetings is Room 569 of the Cook County Building, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois.
3. That meetings of the following standing committees shall be scheduled at 9:30 a.m. local time on the same dates and at the same place listed above: the Subcommittee on Workers’ Compensation; the Committee on Rules; the Committee on Finance; and the Committee on Real Estate.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 21-0252. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Arroyo, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

[21-0247](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), DENNIS DEER, LUIS ARROYO JR., KEVIN B. MORRISON, LARRY SUFFREDIN, JOHN P. DALEY, BRANDON JOHNSON, DONNA MILLER, BILL LOWRY, SEAN M. MORRISON, PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS, FRANK J. AGUILAR, BRIDGET DEGNEN, ALMA E. ANAYA and SCOTT R. BRITTON, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH AND TOOLS 2 THRIVE OUTSIDE

WHEREAS, May is Mental Health Awareness Month and during May the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) is working with the Nature, Culture, and Human Health Network (NCH2) to highlight Mental Health America’s national movement to raise awareness about mental health; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves is a founding member of NCH2, a network that connects people with interests in investigating and applying knowledge about the health benefits of nature to improve the health and well-being of Chicago-region communities; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies have shown that daily exposure to nature has a wide range of health benefits for both body and mind; and being outside in nature has been shown to reduce blood pressure, reduce feelings of stress and anxiety, decrease symptoms of depression, and improve mood; and

WHEREAS, scientific research in the growing field of ecotherapy, or nature therapy, demonstrates that people have a deep connection to their environment and nature and a failure to nurture this bond can negatively impact mental health and wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, outdoor nature-based activities such as hiking in the woods, forest bathing, gardening, outdoor meditation and yoga, nature-based volunteering, birding and more can greatly improve human health; and

WHEREAS, spending time in a natural environment hones your senses to your surroundings - calming sounds like birds chirping, leaves rustling, the feel of the warm sun or a gentle breeze, and breathing in fresh air can help you detach from the ordinary stressors of everyday life; and

WHEREAS, to build awareness of these benefits and the importance of nature's role in improving mental health, the Forest Preserves and NCH2 have created and are promoting Tools 2 Thrive Outside; and

WHEREAS, Tools 2 Thrive Outside will provide practical tools that everyone can use to improve and strengthen their mental health, including tools that promote connecting with and spending time in nature; and

WHEREAS, on May 5, 2021 the NCH2 hosted an online event highlighting how engaging with nature can help humans thrive, and what humans can do to help nature thrive; additionally, the Tools 2 Thrive Outside campaign has a dedicated webpage promoting partner events and resources as well as sharing daily tips and engaging with people via social media.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners recognize that May is Mental Health Awareness Month and that spending time in nature has significant benefits to mental health, and seek to promote awareness of Tools 2 Thrive Outside programs and activities.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 21-0247. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Arroyo, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[21-0266](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), BRIDGET DEGNEN, JOHN P. DALEY, LUIS ARROYO JR., KEVIN B. MORRISON, DENNIS DEER, SCOTT R. BRITTON, DONNA MILLER, BRANDON JOHNSON, PETER N. SILVESTRI, LARRY SUFFREDIN, BILL LOWRY, DEBORAH SIMS, FRANK J. AGUILAR and SEAN M. MORRISON, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

ADOPTION OF THE CLEAN ENERGY FRAMEWORK

WHEREAS, over one hundred years ago, visionary leaders had the foresight to create the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") with the mission "to acquire, restore and manage lands for the purpose of protecting and preserving public open space"; and

WHEREAS, Illinois has experienced a one-degree Fahrenheit increase in average annual temperature since the beginning of the 21st Century; and

WHEREAS, recent climate projections published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and other scientific organizations, predict that if global emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise, historically unprecedented warming is anticipated in the Midwest region in the next few decades; and

WHEREAS, along with a projected rise in annual temperatures, studies also project that the Midwest region likely will experience increased events of extreme precipitation during winter and spring, and intense summer droughts, stronger storms, more street and basement flooding and combined sewer overflows into Lake Michigan, worse air, and strains on local government budgets as heat and flooding damage infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves' mission drives it to consider the impacts of a changing climate on its own lands, on the communities of which the Forest Preserves is a part, and the planet; and

WHEREAS, two hundred and four U.S. cities and counties across thirty-seven states, including the City of Chicago, have already adopted ambitious 100% clean energy goals, and seventy-two U.S. cities and counties across seven states have already hit their targets to generate 100% of the energy used, community-wide, from clean, non-polluting, and renewable sources; and

WHEREAS, "clean energy" and "renewable energy" include energy derived from wind, solar, existing hydroelectric, geothermal, biogas, and wave technology sources. These sources of energy have significant public health and co-benefits associated that can help address pressing environmental justice challenges in sensitive communities in Cook County and around the country; and

WHEREAS, in January 2019 the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Cook County adopted a resolution to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030 and to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and to implement a plan to achieve such targets (Board Item No. 19-0128); and

WHEREAS, a Clean Energy Framework has been created for the Forest Preserves by the University of Illinois Prairie Research Institute at the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center, along with the support and collaboration of key stakeholders, content experts, climate experts, and Forest Preserves staff; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the Forest Preserves' Clean Energy Framework and the goal that One Hundred Percent (100%) of electricity consumed by the Forest Preserves shall be generated through renewable-energy resources and associated technologies by 2050.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to refer 21-0266 to the Environmental and Sustainability Committee . The motion carried by the

following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Arroyo, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[21-0244](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED LICENSE REQUEST

Request: Requesting authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”), as Licensor to grant a License to Oakton Community College (“OCC”), Grantee, to locate, operate and maintain a 114-foot sidepath, guardrail and stormwater improvements on the west side of College Drive, approximately one quarter mile north of Golf Road at Kloempken Prairie. This sidepath is designed to provide a safer route to the campus for bicyclists and pedestrians, who currently must share College Drive with motor vehicles. OCC has agreed to include interpretive signage at this location, notifying sidepath users of the adjacent forest preserve.

Term: Ten (10) Years

License Fee: \$4,710.74

License Application Fee: \$1,500.00

License Review Fees: \$3,000.00

YELAR Fee: \$6,750.00

Total one-time upfront fee of \$15,960.74 for the term of the License
(Sec. 5-2A-4 and 5-2B-4)

Tree Mitigation Fee: None

The area of the License is: 0.0523 Acre

Concurrence(s):

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

Grantee will be required to meet the insurance requirements under the License Agreement.

The Forest Preserves staff have reviewed this license application and plans and have found them to be acceptable; therefore, it is recommended that the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of

Commissioners approve the issuance of this license.

District(s): 9

A motion was made by Commissioner Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to refer 21-0244 to the Real Estate Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Arroyo, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[21-0243](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Department: Department of Planning and Development

Other Part(ies): The Village of Melrose Park (“Melrose Park”)

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement (“IGA”) with Melrose Park to widen and maintain two (2) drainage ditches in Thatcher Woods.

Goods or Services: The authority requested is to grant permission to Melrose Park to widen and maintain two (2) existing drainage ditches on approximately 0.17 acres of Forest Preserves land located on the west side of the Des Plaines River in Thatcher Woods just south of North Avenue.

Agreement Number(s): N/A

Agreement Period: Perpetual, subject to termination after twenty (20) years

Fiscal Impact: \$15,000.00 one-time upfront payment to the Forest Preserves for ecological restoration

License Fee: \$15,495.87 (waived)

License Application Fees: \$3,500.00 (waived)

YELAR Fee: \$6,750.00 (waived)

Tree Mitigation Fee: N/A

Accounts: N/A

District(s): 9

Summary: Melrose Park seeks permission to widen and maintain two (2) existing drainage ditches on Forest Preserves land, at no cost to the Forest Preserves, to avoid standing water near adjacent residential property. The Forest Preserves and Melrose Park have been exploring mutually acceptable solutions to avoid stormwater retention near the residences dating back to at least 2016. Dredging will impact two (2) corridors, one approximately 350 feet in length to the east of the residential complex to the Des Plaines River and the other 150 feet in length running south from the complex to the river. No trees will be impacted. Melrose Park will maintain the ditches to ensure stormwater does not build-up on Forest Preserves property. In view of past arrangements between the Forest Preserves and municipalities to resolve stormwater drainage, the Forest Preserves has agreed in this instance to waive licensing fees and requirements. Melrose Park has agreed to pay the Forest Preserves \$15,000.00 for restoration work to be performed on Forest Preserves property.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to refer 21-0243 to the Real Estate Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Arroyo, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[21-0269](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Department(s): Department of Landscape Maintenance

Vendor: Red Wing Shoes, Elk Grove Village, Illinois

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

Good(s) or Service(s): Employee Boots

Original Contract Period: 4/30/2019 - 4/29/2020; Administrative Extension 4/30/2020 - 4/29/2021

Proposed Contract Period Extension: 4/30/2021 (retroactive) - 9/30/2022

Total Current Contract Amount Authority: \$25,000.00

Original Approval: 4/30/2019, \$25,000.00

Previous Increase(s): N/A

This Increase Requested: \$40,000.00

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2021 \$20,000.00; FY 2022 \$20,000.00

Accounts: Apparel 51001.530130

Contract Number(s): #74000003341 (GSA Contract GS-07F-0027N (FSC Group 84, Part II, Section B, “Special Purpose Clothing”))

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

The Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Ordinance is not applicable due to the contract value per year being equal to or less than \$25,000.00.

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: Per applicable collective bargaining agreement, the Landscape Maintenance Department purchases boots for full time and seasonal employees. In 2019 the Forest Preserves piggybacked off the above listed GSA Contract for the purchase of employee boots for the Landscape Maintenance Department. The Forest Preserves is requesting to increase and extend the contract until 9/30/2022, which is the end date of the GSA contract. The Forest Preserves also used the vendor in 2018 and prior years.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 21-0269. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Arroyo, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[21-0264](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Department of Facilities and Fleet

Vendor: Currie Commercial Center, Frankfort, Illinois

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into and execute a contract with Currie Commercial Center who was awarded a contract by the Suburban Purchasing Cooperative (#152) through a competitive process.

Good(s) or Service(s): Two (2) Ford Interceptor Utility Hybrids with K-9 package

Contract Value: \$111,183.70

Contract Period: one-time purchase

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2021 \$111,183.70

Accounts: Vehicles and Trucks 51058.530175 and 51010.521313

Contract Number(s): #74000009110

Concurrences:

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

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

The contract-specific Minority- and Women-owned Business Enterprise goal for this contract was set to zero.

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: The Vehicle Steering Committee (VSC) voted to decommission a total of eighteen (18) vehicles at the meeting held on 4/19/2021 and to decommission two (2) vehicles at the meeting held on 12/7/2020. At the VSC meeting held on 4/19/2021, the VSC voted to acquire a total of twenty (20)

vehicles: nineteen (19) new vehicles for the Law Enforcement Department and one (1) new vehicle for the Resource Management Department.

The two (2) new vehicles to be purchased under this proposed contract will be assigned to support the K-9 Unit. Two (2) new Bloodhounds were acquired in September of 2020. \$75,000.00 of the purchase price will be reimbursed via a Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) per the Intergovernmental Agreement with Cook County approved by the Board of Commissioners on 1/26/2021 (Board Item No. 21-0109).

Under this proposed contract, the two (2) vehicles for the Law Enforcement Department will be hybrid electric vehicles. The purchase of these vehicles will support the Forest Preserves sustainability goals and reduce greenhouse gas production.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 21-0264. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Arroyo, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[21-0265](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Department of Facilities and Fleet

Vendor: Sutton Ford, Inc., Matteson, Illinois

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into and execute a piggyback contract with Sutton Ford, Inc., who was awarded a contract by the City of Chicago (#101191) through a competitive process.

Good(s) or Service(s): Thirteen (13) Ford Interceptor Utility Hybrids (marked), three (3) Ford Interceptor Utility Hybrids (unmarked) and one (1) Escape Hybrid

Contract Value: \$834,387.88

Contract Period: one-time purchase

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2021 \$834,387.88

Accounts: Vehicles and Trucks 51058.530175, 51009.540250 and 51028.520830

Contract Number(s): #74000009111

Concurrences:

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

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

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

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: The Vehicle Steering Committee (VSC) voted to decommission a total of eighteen (18) vehicles at the meeting held on 4/19/2021 and to decommission two (2) vehicles at the meeting held on 12/7/2020. At the VSC meeting held on 4/19/2021, the VSC voted to acquire a total of twenty (20) vehicles: nineteen (19) new vehicles for the Law Enforcement Department and one (1) new vehicle for the Resource Management Department.

Under this proposed contract, sixteen (16) vehicles for the Law Enforcement Department and one (1) vehicle for the Resource Management Department will be hybrid electric vehicles. The purchase of these vehicles will support the Forest Preserves sustainability goals and reduce greenhouse gas production.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 21-0265. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Arroyo, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[21-0220](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED BID RECOMMENDATION

Department: Department of Planning and Development

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into a construction contract with A.L.L. Masonry Construction Co., Inc., d/b/a ALL Construction Group, primary place of business Cicero, Illinois, for masonry repairs and window replacements at Central Compound Vehicle Maintenance Garage located near Maywood.

Reason: Contract #74000009070 issued under Project #21-80-07 Masonry Repairs and Window

Replacements at the Central Garage. The work addresses energy efficiency improvements as well as deferred maintenance work. The work includes, but is not limited to, the removal and replacement of the existing original windows, masonry repairs, and the abatement of asbestos containing materials.

Bid Opening Date: 4/7/2021

Bid Results:

<u>Firm</u>	<u>Base Bid</u>
1. ALL Construction Group	\$693,736.00
2. Tyler Lane Construction Inc.	\$703,600.00
3. Empire Construction Company	\$746,737.00
4. Robe, Inc.	\$756,000.00
5. Berglund Construction Company	\$757,000.00
6. Fabex Technologies, LLC	\$829,885.00
7. A-One Group Ltd	\$1,008,000.00

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$693,736.00

Contract Period: Two hundred and ten (210) days from notice to proceed.

Account Name/Number: Property Maintenance and Operations 51009.560105 and 51027.560105

District: 1

Concurrence(s): The Chief Financial Officer and Chief Attorney have approved this item.

The vendor has met the Minority- and Women-owned Business Enterprise Ordinance provisions via direct participation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 21-0220. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (15)

Present: Arroyo (1)

Absent: Moore (1)

[21-0246](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED BID RECOMMENDATION

Department: Department of Planning and Development

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into a construction contract with Enlight Contracting, LLC, primary place of business Chicago, Illinois, for Districtwide Transportation Improvements at Irving Park Canoe Landing in Schiller Park, Sunset Bridge Meadow in River Grove, Harms Woods Central, Harms Woods North and Blue Star Memorial Woods in Glenview.

Reason: Contract #74000009069 issued under Project #19-80-67G-21C2 Districtwide Transportation Improvements at five (5) northeast locations (Irving Park Canoe Landing, Sunset Bridge Meadow, Harms Woods Central, Harms Woods North and Blue Star Memorial Woods). The work includes, but is not limited to, pavement resurfacing, trail construction, drainage and sidewalk improvements, and other related work as specified in the plans and specifications.

Bid Opening Date: 4/7/2021

Bid Results:

<u>Firm</u>	<u>Base Bid</u>
1. Enlight Contracting, LLC	\$687,878.07*
2. M&J Asphalt Paving Co, Inc.	\$903,711.90
3. Matthew Paving, Inc.	\$942,978.25

*Enlight’s submitted bid was \$687,882.78, but after further examination, they made a mathematical error in their calculations. Their actual bid is \$687,878.07.

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$687,878.07

Contract Period: One hundred and seventy-four (174) days from notice to proceed.

Account Name/Number: Land Improvements 51029.560019 and 51009.560019

District: 9, 14

Concurrence(s):

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

The vendor has met the Minority- and Women-owned Business Enterprise Ordinance provisions via direct participation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 21-0246. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Arroyo, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[21-0259](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED DISBURSEMENT

Department(s): Department of Resource Management

Action: Authorization to disburse payment

Payee: Stantec Consulting Services, Lombard, Illinois

Good(s) or Service(s): Comprehensive habitat enhancement services

Fiscal Impact: \$457,780.34

Accounts: Professional Services 51030.520840; Grant and Mitigation 51010.521444 and 51010.521314

Contract Number(s): #74000003824 issued under Project #18-31-101C

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: Payment for expenses related to execution of comprehensive habitat enhancement services provided by Stantec Consulting Services, including invasive species and brush removal operations, pursuant to the Habitat Enhancement Services contract approved by the Forest Preserves of Cook County's Board of Commissioners on 7/26/2018 (Board Item No. 18-0299).

A motion was made by Commissioner Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 21-0259. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Arroyo, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[21-0260](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED DISBURSEMENT

Department(s): Department of Resource Management

Action: Authorization to disburse payment

Payee: Pizzo & Associates, Leland, Illinois

Good(s) or Service(s): Comprehensive habitat enhancement services

Fiscal Impact: \$283,158.44

Accounts: Professional Services 51030.520840; Grant and Mitigation 51010.521444 and 51010.520840

Contract Number(s): #74000003825 issued under Project #18-31-101S

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: Payment for expenses related to execution of comprehensive habitat enhancement services provided by Pizzo & Associates, including invasive species and brush removal operations, pursuant to the Habitat Enhancement Services contract approved by the Forest Preserves of Cook County's Board of Commissioners on 7/26/2018 (Board Item No. 18-0301).

A motion was made by Commissioner Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 21-0260. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Arroyo, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[21-0248](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Finance and Administration

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award

Report Period: Fiscal Year End 2019

Summary: The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and represents a significant accomplishment by a local government. The award is given by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) upon its review of the Forest Preserves' Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for FY 2019.

The GFOA has awarded the Forest Preserves of Cook County the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for thirteen (13) consecutive years. In order to be awarded the certificate, a government must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized CAFR. The report must satisfy both accounting principles generally accepted in the United States and applicable legal requirements.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to receive and filed 21-0248. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Arroyo, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[21-0250](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Finance and Administration

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Forest Preserves of Cook County Annual Fee Waiver and Discount Report FY 2020

Report Period: 1/1/2020 - 12/31/2020

Summary: Under the Forest Preserves Code of Ordinances certain discounts are granted to veteran or non-profit organizations with respect to recreational use of Forest Preserves property or amenities. Additional discounts may be offered at the discretion of the General Superintendent. The Forest Preserves implemented a Fee Waiver Policy (Policy Number: 02.30.00) establishing the process for when discounts or waivers would be granted. The policy requires an annual report to the Board of Commissioners on discounts and waivers for the sake of transparency. The Fee Waiver and Discount Report describes specific discount categories and various passes issued pursuant to Forest Preserves Board Approved Resolution, 16-0314, dated July 12, 2016.

In 2020, the Forest Preserves issued significantly fewer discounts and complimentary passes than in prior years. Operations were impacted by efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in compliance with public health safety guidelines issued by the State of Illinois and Cook County. For 2020, the Forest Preserves issued fee waivers to twenty-three (23) customers with a value of \$2,212.00. In addition, six (6) passes were issued with an estimated value of \$216.00.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Degnen, to receive and file 21-0250. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Arroyo, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[21-0255](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Departments of Legal and Finance

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Workers' Compensation Report - March 2021

Report Period: 3/1/2021 - 3/31/2021

Summary: Per Board Resolution 19-0509 (12/17/2019), the Forest Preserves of Cook County Legal and Finance Departments are submitting Workers' Compensation Claim Payments for the month of March 2021.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to receive and filed 21-0255. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Arroyo, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[21-0267](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Finance and Administration

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Corporate Fund Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures

Report Period: 1/1/2021 - 3/31/2021

Summary: Detailed Fund Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures for March 2021.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to receive and filed 21-0267. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Arroyo, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[21-0268](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Finance and Administration

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Procurement and Disbursements Report

Report Period: 3/1/2021 - 3/31/2021

Summary: Submitting the Procurement and Disbursements Report for the period of March 2021. 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 Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to receive and filed 21-0268. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Arroyo, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[21-0273](#)

Presented by: MARY MODELSKI, County Auditor

REPORT

Department: Office of the County Auditor

Request: Refer to Audit Committee

Report Title: FY'21 2nd Quarter Open Recommendation Status Report

Report Period: May 2021

Summary: Report on the status of open audit recommendations.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to refer 21-0273 to the Audit Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Arroyo, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[21-0257](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE (LITIGATION)

Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Litigation - 4/13/2021

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

Proposed Settlements Approved Fiscal Year 2021 to Present: \$1,795,564.89

Proposed Settlements to Be Approved: \$44,000.00

Legal Fees Approved Fiscal Year 2021 to Present: \$231,233.35

Legal Fees for 4/13/2021 to Be Approved: \$83,368.34

A motion was made by Commissioner Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 21-0257. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Arroyo, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[21-0256](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE (WORKERS' COMPENSATION)

Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Workers' Compensation - 5/11/2021

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

Workers' Compensation Claims approved Fiscal Year 2021 to present: \$197,175.30

Workers' Compensation Claims to Be Approved: \$165,000.00

A motion was made by Commissioner Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 21-0256. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Arroyo, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[21-0277](#)

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

SECRETARY TO THE BOARD, Matthew B. DeLeon, presented in printed form a record of the Journal of Proceedings of the regular meeting held on 04/13/2021.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 21-0277. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Arroyo, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[21-0254](#)

Presented by: 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 5/11/2021 - 6/22/2021

Please check the Forest Preserves of Cook County's website, www.fpdcc.com/events, for updates and changes.

Tuesday, 5/11

Brookfield Zoo Spring Run, Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo, Brookfield

Brookfield Zoo's first-ever Virtual 5K Spring Run/Walk takes you outdoors to enjoy the warm weather and glorious colors of spring. You choose the time and place-take a hike in a forest preserve, jog along a waterfront trail, or stroll through a neighborhood, for example. Or if you enjoy competition, run the full 5K (3.1-miles) and compare your time with other runners. Each runner will receive a numbered bib and commemorative swag included with registration. *To register, visit CZS.org.*

Tuesday, 5/11 through Monday, 9/6

Dinos Everywhere! Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo, Brookfield

Over 40 animatronic dinosaurs that are BIGGER and BADDER than ever before have arrived at Brookfield Zoo. Dinos Everywhere features acres of earth shakers, including the largest Argentinosaurus that was estimated to measure more than 100 feet in length and weigh up to 110 tons. Zoogoers will be able to search for this amazing life-like animatronics located throughout the park.

Wednesdays, 5/12, 5/19, 5/26; 9:30am

Yoga, Dan Ryan Woods Pavilion, Chicago

Focus, breathe, stretch: Enjoy basic yoga stretches and breathing suitable for all levels at Dan Ryan Woods Pavilion. Please bring your own yoga mat and water. This program is brought to you in partnership

with GiGi Tonye'Arts and Fitness. *Call or email to register at Jessica.Becker@cookcountyl.gov or 312-415-2970. Facemasks required.*

Thursday, 5/13; 2pm (Facebook Live)**Creative Reduce to Reuse, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Join us for this tutorial demonstration of an at-home project to reduce waste and repurpose home goods. *For ages 13yrs and up.*

Friday, 5/14; 8pm - 10:15pm**Noche de las Ranas, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs**

Hola mi gente! Come to the Little Red Schoolhouse for a Spanish bilingual night hike. We will walk along our Robel (oak) trails to hear seasonal frog calls and other creatures of the night. *Spanish native speakers are encouraged to sign up! The data will be used as part of the Calling Frog Survey for the Chicago Wilderness Region. Ages 18 and up. Registration and facemasks required.*

Friday, 5/14; 6:30pm (Via Zoom)**Spring Watercolors**

Explore nature through artmaking! In this virtual class, an instructor will lead you step-by-step through a watercolor painting. Materials needed: watercolor paints, paint brushes, and watercolor paper. *For more information contact: kathleen.moriarty@cookcountyl.gov or call 708-771-1573.*

Saturday, 5/15 (Virtual and In-Person Hybrid)**Day Hiking Leadership Training, (Location TBD)**

Calling all teachers, group leaders and youth educators! Our Day Hiking Leadership Training program gets youth and groups of all ages outside by empowering teachers and group leaders with the skills and resources they need to lead safe and fun outdoor experiences. We will focus on a variety of topics. Training will include two mandatory portions: An online portion available starting Saturday, May 1 consisting of classroom work; and an in-person portion on Saturday, May 15. In-person portion will include a group day hike, gear inventory and lending processes. Online portion must be completed prior to the in-person portion. Participants must be at least 18 years or older, be affiliated with institution and be present on hiking trips. All participants are required to wear masks and practice physical distancing. *If interested, email katherine.grundin@cookcountyl.gov with your name and organization. Facemasks required for in-person programming.*

Saturday, 5/15; 11am**Nature Block Party, Eggers Grove, Chicago**

Let us have a party! Register for activities that inspire play and exploration of the Forest Preserves. *Register at [natureblockparty2021.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/natureblockparty2021). Facemasks required.*

Saturday, 5/15; 10am - 12pm (Zoom)**Butterflies in the Preserves, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont**

Explore the lives of butterflies with Sagawau and the Orland Park Public Library. In Cook County, the Forest Preserves protect wetlands, woodlands, and prairies. Learn how to identify butterflies that use

these diverse habitats. Participate in this summer's butterfly count with North American Butterfly Association and your data will help scientists understand butterfly populations. *Registration on Eventbrite required. Visit eventbrite.com/o/sagawau-environmental-learning-center-fpcc-3199659422.*

Saturday, 5/15; 1:30pm**Spring Fungi Hike, Trailside Museum, River Forest**

Join a naturalist for a short talk on basic fungal biology and the diversity of fungal species in our area, followed by a short hike to view fungus along our trails. *Registration and facemasks required.*

Saturday, 5/15; 10:30am**Crabtree Composing for Little Ones, Crabtree Nature Center Facebook Page**

Let the abundant nature all around be the inspiration to compose your very own painting. *Children ages 2-6 with caregiver. Registration and facemasks required.*

Sunday, 5/16, 1pm**Spring Bird Stroll, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Hollan**

Spring is a great time to do some birding! Join us for a bird walk with binoculars as we look and listen for our feathered friends. *Registration and facemasks required. Call 708-868-0606.*

Sunday, 5/16; 12pm-3pm**Remake Learning Day, LaBagh Woods, Chicago**

Join the Forest Preserves in a day of outdoor learning! Remake Learning Days Chi is Chicagoland region's first-ever festival of innovative experiences and opportunities for youth and families to develop their sense of creativity, perseverance, and curiosity. Participants can create a nature journal, complete scavenger hunts and more. *For more information contact: kathleen.moriarty@cookcountyil.gov or call 708-771-1573. Registration and facemasks required.*

Tuesday, 5/18; 10am**Walk and Talk: Centennial Trail, Columbia Woods, Willow Springs**

In partnership with University Illinois Extension, this informative hike will take participants on a journey exploring natural and cultural elements that make this part of the Des Plaines River Valley so special. This 4-mile stretch of the Centennial Trail is paved. Due to the small size of the Centennial trailhead parking lot, we will take a short shuttle to the trailhead. Meet at Columbia Woods for the shuttle which is also where the trail ends. *Registration and facemasks required. For more information call 312-533-5751.*

Tuesday, 5/18; 3pm**Children's Craft: Gyotaku - Fish Printing and Windsocks, Trailside Museum, River Forest**

In celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, children ages 8 - 12 are invited to try their hand at the ancient and creative Japanese art of *Gyotaku*. We will be printing with rubber fish using paint on paper. We will then fashion the fish prints into simple windsocks to take home. *Registration and facemasks required.*

Thursday, 5/20; 6pm (Via Zoom)**Be a Better Birder: Intro to Bird ID**

Join us to learn about birdwatching and how to spot the different species of birds that are native to Cook County. *Call or email to register at Jessica.Becker@cookcountyil.gov or 312-415-2970.*

Friday, 5/21; 6:30pm - 8:30pm**Nighttime Discovery Celebration, Pulaski Woods, Willow Springs**

In celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, learn more about the phases of the moon and the Lunar New Year which is observed by people of Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Tibetan and Mongolian heritage. Join us for an evening of education, hikes, activities, and crafts centered on honoring Asian-Pacific traditions as it relates to the wonders of the moon. *For more information call 312-533-5751.*

Registration and facemasks required.

Saturday, 5/22; 11am**Raptor Meet & Greet, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington Hills**

If you have ever walked past our outdoor enclosures and wondered about our birds of prey, this is the program for you! We will introduce you to each of our birds and give you a chance to greet our tiniest raptor up close. *Registration and facemasks required.*

Sunday, 5/23; 8:30am**Bird Walk, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont**

Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day on a bird walk; join a hike with a field naturalist! Learn to identify birds by field marks, behavior, sound, and habitat. *Bring your own binoculars. Registration required. Call 630-257-2045.*

Sunday, 5/23; 10:30am**Spring Stroll, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

A walk to highlight the signs of spring. *All ages. Registration and facemasks required.*

Sunday, 5/23; 1pm**Birds and Blooms, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Take a walk to enjoy the spring blossoms and see what migrants we can spot. Bring your binoculars or let us know you need to borrow a pair of ours. *Registration and facemasks required.*

Sunday, 5/23; 10am**Family Forest Bathing, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs**

Spend time as a family by slowing down and enjoying the sights, smells and sounds of nature while connecting with one another in this sensory experience. *Registration and facemasks required. Call 708-839-6897.*

Wednesday, 5/26; 4am - 5:30am

Lunar Eclipse, Little Red Schoolhouse Facebook Page

Join us as we watch the lunar eclipse unfold in the wee hours of the morning. Although this will not be a true total lunar eclipse due to the moon sinking below the horizon, it will be a sight to see. *Bring a chair and a blanket for this celestial occurrence. Registration and facemasks required.*

Wednesday, 5/26; 10am - 12pm**Nature is Accessible Drop in Event, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs**

Visitors of all abilities are invited to celebrate nature through accessible activities. *Registration and facemasks required.*

Wednesday, 5/26; 7pm - 8pm**Branching Out with Native Shrubs and Trees**

Branch out in a new direction by replacing invasive shrubs with native plants. Learn the advantages of planting native trees and shrubs and how they will benefit your yard. We will discuss identification and selection for a variety of conditions. Presented by the Forest Preserves of Cook County in partnership with University of Illinois Extension, The Morton Arboretum and Chicago Region Tree Initiative.

Registration on Eventbrite required.

Visit eventbrite.com/e/branching-out-with-native-shrubs-and-trees-tickets-149204325153.

Wednesday, 5/26; 7pm**Moon Walk, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs**

Let the flower full moon be our guide as we hike the 1-mile White Oak Trail in search of big brown bats. *All ages. Please bring binoculars, limited pairs to lend. Registration and facemasks required.*

Wednesday, 5/26; 5:30pm**Kayak the Des Plaines, Maywood Grove, Des Plaines**

Join us as we paddle nearly 6 miles of the Des Plaines River from Maywood Grove to Plank Road Meadow. Instruction, sanitized equipment, and kayaks provided. *For more information call 312-533-5751. Registration and facemasks required.*

Friday, 5/28; 6pm**Spring Evening Wildflower Walk, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland**

Join us for an evening hike as we appreciate the many beautiful wildflowers that bloom during this time of year. *Registration and facemasks required.*

Saturday, 5/29; 7pm**Sunset Frog Hop, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland**

Join us afterhours for a sunset walk where we will listen for frogs and learn about the amphibians that call Sand Ridge their home. *Ages 12 and up. Registration and facemasks required.*

Saturday, 5/29; 10am**Dog Days Dog Walk, Trailside Museum, River Forest**

Join us for a casual guided nature walk with your calm, leashed dog on the trails. *Registration and*

facemasks required.

Sunday, 5/30; 1pm

Who Lives Under this Log? Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington Hills

Come learn about the invertebrates, plants and fungi who make their homes in dead and rotting wood. We will take a hike down our giant's hollow trail and observe the creatures we find along the way.

Registration and facemasks required.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to receive and filed 21-0254. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Arroyo, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

COMMITTEE ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

[21-0223](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

EASEMENT REQUEST

Request: Requesting authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") to grant a permanent easement and a temporary easement to Illinois Department of Transportation ("IDOT") at IL Route 7 (Southwest Highway) and 131st Street in the Groundhog Slough forest preserve for less than 0.2 acres for roadway improvements.

Reason: Permanent and temporary easements are needed at the northwest corner of Southwest Highway and 131st Street as part of a larger drainage improvement project between 131st and 135th Streets. This road segment has experienced severe flooding due to inadequate drainage infrastructure. Stormwater would be conveyed via new storm sewers and improved ditches to Mill Creek and the Cal Sag Channel. The proposed drainage improvements will allow for more effective management of the water levels at McGinnis Slough, which drains via storm sewer to the ditch along Southwest Highway.

A small permanent easement is needed on Forest Preserves land adjoining the roadways for slight roadway widening, installation of traffic signal equipment, an underground drainage culvert, and a roadside ditch. A Forest Preserves sign will need to be relocated.

A small temporary easement is also needed for period of five (5) years to construct the improvements.

The area for the permanent easement is 0.078 acres and the area for the temporary easement is 0.064 acres. IDOT indicates that 0 trees are expected to be removed for this project.

Easement Fee: \$6,800.00, including \$5,900.00 for permanent and \$900.00 for temporary easements

Tree Mitigation Fee: N/A

Concurrence(s):

The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final easements are subject to legal review and approval.

District(s): 17

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Morrison, to approve 21-0223. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Arroyo, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

AUDIT COMMITTEE

[21-0233](#)

Presented by: MARY MODELSKI, County Auditor

REPORT

Department: Office of the County Auditor

Request: Refer to Audit Committee

Report Title: Forest Preserve District of Cook County Workers Compensation Audit Process Review

Report Period: March 2021

Summary: This audit was designed to evaluate the effectiveness of the internal controls in place to ensure that each Workers Compensation claim was valid based on the required information given to support that an incident occurred, was reported timely and accurately, and was administered properly.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Morrison, to receive and file 21-0233. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Arroyo, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

NEW ITEMS

A motion was made by Commissioner JOHN P. DALEY, seconded by Commissioner DEBORAH SIMS, to suspend the rules. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Arroyo, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[21-0284](#)

Sponsored by: LARRY SUFFREDIN, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, LUIS ARROYO JR., SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRANDON JOHNSON, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, PETER N. SILVESTRI, BRIDGET GAINER, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON and DEBORAH SIMS, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A HEARING INTO THE POLICIES AND PRACTICES OF THE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT TO PROTECT THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF IMMIGRANTS AND BIPOC RESIDENTS AND VISITORS WITHIN COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, Cook County has always been home to people from many racial and ethnic backgrounds, and the Cook County Forest Preserve District has been a public space and place to visit nature for these residents and visitors. With over one million immigrants, Cook County has the largest concentration of foreign-born residents in the State of Illinois. Many of these individuals and families visits our preserves and are among the over 60 million visits that the Forest Preserve District experiences each year over its almost 70,000 acres; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Forest Preserve District has benefitted and continues to benefit culturally, socially, and economically from the diversity of its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Forest Preserve District and its partners, the Brookfield Zoo and Chicago Botanic Garden, are committed to being a Fair and Equal place for all immigrants, refugees, and their families, and for people of color; and are committed to energetically advance equity and inclusion, and to oppose any efforts that conflict with those values or reverse critical protections to immigrants, refugees, and their families, and to people of color; and

WHEREAS, the national political climate over the past four years has produced fear and anxiety among many Cook County residents, particularly among people of color, immigrants, Muslims, Jews, and members of the LGBTQ community. Recent events within Cook County and the Forest Preserve District have demonstrated that there is increased violence against diverse communities; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has also perpetrated xenophobia towards the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Over the course of approximately a year during the pandemic, 3,800 anti-Asian racist incidents such as verbal harassment, shunning, physical assault, and civil rights violations were reported across the country. Out of those incidents, nearly 68% were towards AAPI women; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserve District remains committed to protecting the civil rights of all residents and immigrant groups, to work toward equity and inclusion, and to ensure that all residents of Cook County and visitors feel welcome and safe in the Forest Preserves.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative and Intergovernmental Relations Committee hold a hearing for Forest Preserve District officials to report on current policies and practices and for input from our residents concerning both current policies and practices as well as best practices for protecting civil rights and welcoming all immigrant groups and people of color who visit the Cook County Forest Preserves into the future.

A motion was made by Commissioner Daley, seconded by Commissioner Sims, to refer 21-0284 to the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Arroyo, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

[21-0285](#)

Sponsored by: DENNIS DEER, LARRY SUFFREDIN, JOHN P. DALEY, BILL LOWRY, STANLEY MOORE, PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS, FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, LUIS ARROYO JR., SCOTT R. BRITTON, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BRANDON JOHNSON, DONNA MILLER, KEVIN B. MORRISON and SEAN M. MORRISON, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING MAY AS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH IN THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), 1 in 5 U.S. adults experience

mental illness each year. 1 in 20 U.S. adults experience serious mental illness each year. 1 in 6 U.S. youth aged 6-17 experience a mental health disorder each year, 50% of all lifetime mental illness begins by age 14, 75% by age 24 and suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among people aged 10-34; and

WHEREAS, all Americans face challenges in life that can impact their mental health, whether it is due to the loss of a loved one, socioeconomic circumstances and especially during a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, mental health conditions are real and prevalent in our nation according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Agency (SAMHSA), for adults aged 18 or older, the percentage who had any mental illness (AMI) in the past year increased from 17.7 percent (or 39.8 million people) in 2008 to 20.6 percent (or 51.5 million people) in 2019. Over that same period, the percentage who had serious mental illness (SMI) in the past year increased from 3.7 percent (or 8.3 million people) to 5.2 percent (or 13.1 million people); and

WHEREAS, prevention is an effective way to reduce the burden of mental health conditions; and

WHEREAS, there are practical tools that all people can use to improve their mental health and increase resiliency, which include exercise, increase sleep, positive thinking and healthy diet; and

WHEREAS, with effective treatment, those individuals with mental health conditions can recover and lead full, productive lives; and

WHEREAS, each business, school, government agency, health care provider, organization and citizen share the burden of mental health problems and has a responsibility to promote mental wellness and support prevention and treatment efforts; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Cook County will: Led by the Cook County Board President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners (County Board), in collaboration with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County to commit to increasing awareness and understanding of mental health issues, the steps our citizens can take to protect their mental health, and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental health conditions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, We established May as Mental health Awareness Month in the Forest Preserve District of Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, We establish May, 19th as Mental Health Awareness Day in the Forest Preserve District of Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board hereby supports the efforts of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County to raise awareness of mental health issues and the importance of maintaining one's mental health; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Legislative and

Intergovernmental Affairs Committee meet to discuss the Forest Preserve District of Cook County's outreach in regards to mental health awareness.

A motion was made by Commissioner Daley, seconded by Commissioner Sims, to refer 21-0285 to the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Arroyo, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner LUIS ARROYO JR., seconded by Commissioner DENNIS DEER, to adjourn. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Arroyo, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

Absent: Moore (1)

Respectfully submitted,



Secretary

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