

Forest Preserve Board Meeting

March 21, 2007

Before the opening of the board meeting Comm. Quigley put a package on each commissioner's desk. Laughter when they found they were from Nuts on Clark. The joke being the County Building is on Clark.

That bit softened the lengthy finance meeting.

Several bids and purchases had long discussions for various reasons.

The Commissioners would like to do business with State and County companies if possible.

The headquarters for the R. J. Thomas Mfg. Co. is in Iowa. R. J. Thomas was the low bidder for 1,000 metal-legged picnic tables. Cost of each metal and wood table is \$193.00.

From Wisconsin will come eight rear-loading Refuse Packer Trucks. The trucks have an environmentally friendly engine. (green)

All of the bidders for the boating concession at Busse Lake were from the county but unfortunately none had completed the contract correctly. This automatically rejects the bid. It is hoped that correct bids will be in before the boating season is upon us.

Lenny Moore is no longer FPD CFO. The new CFO is Marlo Kemp. His academic background is extensive, with a chemistry degree, a business degree from University of Chicago, and a six-year enlistment in the Marines, not necessarily in that order.

It was approved that the County, with the City of Chicago and the Chicago Park District, will continue to operate NeighborSpace. NeighborSpace is a non-profit that owns or leases and insures small parks, gardens, natural areas, river edges and scenic landscapes in the City of Chicago. The program is 11 years old and maintains 52 small areas. The County's contribution will be \$100,000.00.

The Chicago Botanic Gardens has asked for an increase of \$3.00 to their parking fees to help balance their 2007 budget. Fees are high but there is no entry fee if you walk or bike in.

Membership in the Gardens is a real value. Parking is free for members.

Mary Ann Tate
April 2, 2007