

Board Meeting May 2, 2006  
Forest Preserve District Cook County

Nice start to the meeting with an award given to the Forest Preserve for the Bartel Grassland Restoration Project (between Vollmer Road, Flossmoor Road, Ridgeland and Central.) Spokesperson reported that search party of Bob-o-link's was spotted May 2, 2006. Last year over 1,000 birds arrived to nest near Mother's Day. It is expected to be the same this year.

The actual award will be presented on Monday August 7, 2006 at the National Association of County Park and recreation Officials (NACPRO) conference in Chicago Monday, August 7, 2006 at their award banquet.

A Resolution sponsored by all Commissioners recognized Forest Preserve Education Manager IV John Elliott as the "Outstanding Cook County Forest Preserve District Employee". John has been a 30 year employee of the Forest Preserve. John has worked as Naturalist I at Sand Ridge Nature Center, Naturalist III at River Trail Nature Center, and is currently education Manager IV now assigned to coordinate environmental education programs for all FPD nature centers.

On March 12, 2006 John was awarded the Friends of the Parks Outstanding Cook County Forest Preserve District Employee for excellence and dedication as an Education Manager.

The Purchasing Agent received approval to advertise for bid, items declared surplus by the District. Comm. Quigley (10<sup>th</sup>) suggested they use EBay. Comm. Steele (2<sup>nd</sup>) said "they even sold the outhouses."

Two smoking policy ordinances submitted by Comm. Quigley (10<sup>th</sup>) for both the Brookfield Zoo and Chicago Botanic Gardens were approved unanimously. The ordinance bans smoking in all enclosed and semi-enclosed public and office buildings including private offices and also vehicles owned or leased by the Zoo and Gardens. The ordinance is effective immediately.

The meeting ended with a lengthy and interesting discussion on eleven encroaching properties on Forest Preserve land. The most discussed was Riverside Brookfield High School that has had an agreement with Brookfield Zoo for 50 years for use of parking lot and stadium seating and track. The potential for liability was discussed. No mention of any reports or complaints in the 50 years was reported.

A certified letter was sent to each establishment October 18, 2004. A limited preliminary report on potential high liability encroachments was updated April 12, 2005. Some of these issues are in the Real Estate Committee. No decisions were made.

Observed and Reported by Mary Ann Tate