



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 27, 2024

TO: Forest Preserve District Finance & Administration Committee

FROM: Benjamin Haberthur, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Presentation and Approval of the President's Expenses Attending the 2024 IAPD/IPRA Annual Conference in Chicago

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Committee with information to consider the approval of the conference and travel expenses for the Commissioners who attended the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD)/Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) Soaring to New Heights Conference in Chicago, Jan. 25-27, 2024.

BACKGROUND:

The Local Government Travel Expense Control Act, Public Act 99-0604, requires all non-home rule public agencies, including forest preserve districts, to regulate the reimbursement of all travel, meals and lodging expenses of their commissioners, employees and representatives, effective Jan. 1, 2017. The District approved, by resolution on Dec. 13, 2016, a policy for the regulation of said expenses, which requires all travel expenses for commissioners be approved through a public meeting of the Commission.

President Kious and staff attended the IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference in Chicago, Jan. 25-27, 2024. Expenses for President Kious totaled \$365.00, which included conference registration.

More than 2,400 parks, recreation and conservation professionals and commissioners attended this multi-day conference, which includes more than 120 educational sessions and workshops, as well as an exhibition hall featuring hundreds of product and service vendors. Some commissioners and staff earn continuing-education credits, to maintain professional certification status in their respective fields, through attendance of educational sessions and workshops.

Also during the conference, annual meetings are conducted for IAPD, IPRA, the Illinois Association of Conservation and Forest Preserve Districts (IACFPD), and the Forest Preserve and Conservation Section of IPRA of which the District, commissioners and/or staff are members. The Friday Conference Awards Luncheon recognizes and honors leaders and volunteers of park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Funds totaling \$9,000 were budgeted in the 2023/24 fiscal year for conference and meeting expenses. Sufficient funds are available in the Conferences and Meetings Account # 01-11-11-5001 for this expense totally \$365.00.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Committee approve the conference and travel expenses for the President who attended the IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference held in Chicago, Jan. 25-27, 2024 totaling \$365.00, as presented.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.
