

**Cook County Forest Preserve Meeting
January 10, 2007**

A beautiful opening to the meeting. A 2007 calendar, published by the FPD, with fabulous photos of various locations in Cook County, was given to all in attendance.

Each Commissioner was given 500 copies for their constituents. If you see one it will inspire you to get out doors.

The FPD has a task to make the bidding ordinances more user friendly. Jobs of \$100,000.00 or more "funded solely by FPDCC" requires 50% of employees to be residents of Cook County. Apparently not all bidders have not been aware of this requirement.

We heard the annual discussion of the racial make up of employees of the Zoo and Botanic Garden. Four pages of statistics and 2 pages of the Annual Diversity Report are available.

Citizen George Blakemore has spoken in the past year about the lack of black employees at the Zoo. With the new Board rules, there is no public speaking at the regular Board meetings so Mr. Blakemore was unable to make his presentation. Public speaking is possible after committee meetings if you are aware of time and place.

Mena Boulanger, Zoo Vice President of Governmental Affairs., spoke of the outreach program that the Zoo has implemented, at minority schools and employment fairs, to interest young people. Comm. Beavers stated he "favors the patronage system." Ms. Boulanger stated that there has been little turnover of employees at the Zoo.

Comm. Suffredin and others proposed a resolution creating a river trail honoring Ralph Frese on the North Branch of the Chicago River from Willow Road to Dempster. Mr. Frese has been a life long canoeist and environmentalist in the Chicago area. In 1984 Mr. Frese began taking people out on the North Branch to canoe on New Year's Day. For the past three years the Forest Preserve, with the help of Comm. Suffredin, has been a sponsor of this event.

The Forest Preserve Board has approved the Annual Appropriations Ordinance for the Forest Preserve which is the Levy of Taxes for the Year 2007. The appropriation for the year 2007 is 4.9%.

Mary Ann Tate