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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tobolski Urges County Board and Peraica to Reject Hinsdale Land Lease

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La Grange, IL – Citing opposition from *Friends of the Parks*, the *Sierra Club*, and the *Openlands Project*, McCook Mayor Jeff Tobolski called on the Cook County Board and Commissioner Tony Peraica to abandon the Hinsdale Land Lease.

Last fall the Board, and Commissioner Peraica, voted 9-4 to continue negotiating a lease of about 30 acres to Hinsdale in part to clear some prairie land for soccer fields. The opposed groups believe that creating a village park by clear cutting areas for soccer fields and restroom facilities is fundamentally different from protecting and preserving the flora and fauna, the mission of the forest preserve.

“With the weather getting increasingly nicer and this deal coming closer to a reality, I stand with people like Gerald Edelman, Executive Director of *Openlands Chicago*, in urging the County Board to reject this deal. This would set a terrible precedent, opening up all protected land to those who would rather divvy up our preserves than do the leg work to protect them,” said Tobolski.

Tobolski also had pointed criticism for his opponent this fall, “This has become a dangerous pattern of behavior for Tony Peraica. He would much rather shirk his responsibilities as a Commissioner, abandoning them to an independent board or village, than to do the job that the people elected him to do. It’s very unfortunate for the 16th District.”

Cook County District 16 includes the villages of Berwyn, Cicero, Schiller Park, Franklin Park, McCook, Hodgkins, Lyons, Summit, Willow Springs, Countryside, Western Springs, LaGrange, LaGrange Park, Northlake, Forest Park, Westchester, Stone Park, Berkley, Broadview, Hillside, Melrose Park, Brookfield, Riverside, North Riverside, and Stickney.

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