

Board tangles over merits of names on signs

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Cook County commissioners want everyone to know they're the ones responsible for the forest preserves -- and spent nearly an hour Wednesday arguing how best to convey that.

Some said it's a waste of taxpayer money to put up new signs that include names and titles.

Most signs now prominently feature County Board President John Stroger's name and the title "Board of Commissioners," but with a vote set to solicit bids for new signs, some commissioners said it's time to feature only the name of the woods and district.

Stroger repeatedly called the battle "picayunish," saying they were "trying to invade on the prerogative of the president," then warning, "I have the right to do certain things that won't make your life easy."

But Republican Tony Peraica said "there's no need to incur unnecessary expenses" by adding names to signs, though he couldn't get the votes for his no-name fight.

Republican Liz Gorman tried to get separate bids -- with titles and without -- but couldn't get support.

They'll take it up again in April. Friends of the Forest Preserves have urged no politicians' names be featured on district signage.

While Commissioner Roberto Maldonado called it "a ridiculous motion" and Deborah Sims, who said if ownership isn't on signs, it could lead to "municipalities saying it's theirs," called it "45 minutes of stupid conversation," Stroger bluntly said, "I'll veto it," if signs are approved without titles.