

Minutes of the 716<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District held on Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. at the Beech Maple Lodge, Blacklick Woods Metro Park.

### **Present**

Commissioners: Ms. Tripp, Mr. Danter, Mr. Jeffrey

Staff: Mr. O'Meara, Mr. Peck, Mr. Ruff, Ms. Burchfield, Mr. Studenmund, Ms. Hanley, Ms. Ricart, Mr. Laughbaum, Mr. Hoffman, Ms. Williamson, Ms. Morse

Legal Counsel: Mr. Franzmann

Guests: Ms. Hoholik, Mr. Asher

Mr. Danter asked if all of the notice requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code and the rules of this Board regarding open meetings have been complied with for this meeting. The Executive Director responded that yes, all of those requirements and rules have been met.

### **Minutes of the September 11, 2007 Meeting of the Board**

Ms. Tripp made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2007 meeting. Mr. Jeffrey seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion.

### **Disbursement Resolution**

The Board asked for clarification of a few items. Mr. Jeffrey moved for approval of the Disbursement Resolution authorizing payment of the September 2007 invoices. Ms. Tripp seconded the motion and the Board approved the resolution. A copy of Resolution No. 4764 is attached to these minutes as part hereof.

### **Staff Reports**

#### ***Administration:***

Mr. O'Meara stated that the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program grant was tentatively approved for the Hellbranch Run watershed area, in the amount of \$1,600,000. An additional \$400,000 may become available.

Mr. O'Meara mentioned that he is participating in the Big Darby Accord Plan, Town Center planning process. He also attended Children in Nature program at Camp Wyandot in Clear Creek Metro Park sponsored by Camp Fire USA. Metro Parks is planning to incorporate several interpretive programs next year relating to children and their lack of outdoor activities.

#### ***Design and Visitor Services:***

Mr. Peck introduced Assistant Park Manager Josh Laughbaum, who then introduced the Blacklick Woods park staff in attendance.

Mr. Peck stated that Blacklick Woods Metro Park just completed a 12 day Senior Camp with over 600 in attendance. This camp is continuing to be very popular and is an important part of the Metro Parks expanding camp program.

Mr. Peck stated that the Big Bugs exhibit at Inniswood Metro Garden would be ending on October 14. The public has received this exhibit very well with a total attendance of over 565,000 visitors.

Mr. Peck shared that good progress is being made on reconstructing Whittier Street at Scioto Audubon Metro Park. Several upcoming projects will be presented to the board that address removing asbestos in the Lazarus Warehouse, demolition of the City of Columbus Recreation and Parks offices, site preparation of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center and utility relocation.

***Human Resources:***

Ms. Burchfield stated that the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Employee and Volunteer Recognition Picnic would be held on October 13 with an expected attendance of 360 people. She mentioned that the Employee Recognition program has been improved with several suggestions from staff.

Ms. Burchfield stated that Metro Parks has completed Equal Employment Opportunity and Sexual Harassment training for all employees. Several new training programs will be implemented later this year.

***Finance:***

Mr. Ruff stated that the Finance department has been preparing the 2008 Preliminary Budget. He mentioned that Metro Parks' finances are stable and within expected projections. The Special Park Districts Forum held in June made a small profit of \$1,300.

Mr. Ruff mentioned that the 2007 Capital Improvement Budget is under budget for the year, and the golf course budget should show a profit.

**Resolutions**

- #4765 AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A CHANGE ORDER WITH EVANS, MECHWART, HAMBLETON, TILTON INC. FOR ADDITIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES AT PLEASANT VALLEY QUARRY, BATTELLE DARBY CREEK METRO PARK  
The Board authorized the Executive Director to add to the contract for engineering services with Evans, Mechwart, Hambleton Tilton Inc. for \$15,250. Commissioner Jeffrey abstained.
- #4766 Authorizing Additional Environmental Consultanting Services for Scioto Audubon Metro Park  
The Board authorized the Executive Director to add to the contract for environmental services with Burgess and Niple Inc. an additional \$130,000.
- #4767 AUTHORIZING THE MODIFICATION OF DEED RESTRICTIONS ON LANDS ADJACENT TO GLACIER RIDGE METRO PARK  
The Board authorized the Executive Director to modify deed restrictions on an adjacent parcel to Glacier Ridge Metro Park.
- #4768 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FOR RESTORATION OF THE PLEASANT VALLEY QUARRY, BATTELLE DARBY CREEK METRO PARK  
The Board authorized the Executive Director to enter into contract for restoration improvements with Performance Site Co. for \$333,222.50.
- #4769 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE OWNED BY KENNETH AND REBECCA ISAACS IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

The Board authorized the Executive Director to purchase property from Kenneth and Rebecca Isaacs at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park for \$210,000.

#4770 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FROM VENDORS IN AN AMOUNT EXCEEDING \$15,000 FOR 2007.

The Board authorized the expenditure of funds with Redskins Logistics Inc. for \$150,000 and with The Ohio State University for \$26,000.

#4771 ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR.

The Board accepts the 2008 Estimated Tax Rate generated from property tax approved by the Budget Commission and County Auditor in the amount of \$12,999,941.10.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Other Business**

Herb Asher from The Ohio State University, an elections expert, lead a discussion on levy planning.

Mr. Asher and the board discussed when to place the Metro Park levy on the ballot, the amount of levy millage, and what is needed to successfully present and pass a levy initiative.

**Executive Session**

Ms. Tripp moved to enter into executive session at 5:35 p.m. for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and personnel. Mr. Jeffrey seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Danter	Yes
Ms. Tripp	Yes
Mr. Jeffrey	Yes

The Board returned from executive session at 6:24 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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John R. O'Meara, Executive Director

Approved by the Board of Park Commissioners:

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Ken Danter, Chair