

Minutes of the 735th meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District held on Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. at Cedar Ridge Lodge, Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park.

Present

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

Staff: Mr. O'Meara, Mr. Peck, Mr. Ruff, Ms. Burchfield, Mr. Studenmund, Mr. Kasnyik, Ms. Freas, Mr. Sargeant

Legal Counsel: Mr. Franzmann

Guests: Mr. Ferenchik, Ms. Litt

Mr. Jeffrey 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.

Election of Officers

Mr. Jeffrey relinquished the Chair to Mr. O'Meara. Mr. O'Meara asked for nominations for Chair for 2009. Mr. Jeffrey nominated Ms. Tripp. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Lashutka. Ms. Tripp was elected to serve as Chair for 2009.

Minutes of the December 9, 2008 Meeting of the Board

Mr. Jeffrey made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2008 meeting. Mr. Lashutka 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 December 2008 invoices. Mr. Lashutka seconded the motion and the Board approved the resolution. A copy of Resolution No. 4909 is attached to these minutes as part hereof.

Staff Reports

Administration:

Mr. O'Meara mentioned that the proposal for restoring bison to prairies in the Metro Parks received very good media coverage. The *Dispatch* printed a story on the proposal and followed with a supportive editorial.

Mr. O'Meara stated that the earth moving portion of the Hellbranch Run stream restoration project is nearly complete. Planting of trees and shrubs has been initiated.

Mr. O'Meara mentioned that the 482 acre former Eastside Nursery property became Metro Parks' property in December. This brought our land acquisition total for the year to 740 acres. We now have over 24,000 acres in the Metro Parks.

Design and Visitor Services:

Mr. Peck introduced park staff in attendance.

Mr. Peck stated the Ohio Park and Recreation Association Conference held in Columbus this week is going well, thanks to a lot of assistance from Metro Park staff. In addition, Metro Parks will be participating in the AAA Vacation Expo this coming weekend with a major display.

Mr. Peck mentioned that work at Scioto Audubon Metro Park is progressing. The waterline installation is still being worked through the City of Columbus.

Human Resources:

Ms. Burchfield stated that Metro Parks' employees are participating in an on-site weight management class offered through the Rite Bite Corporate Wellness Center this month. In addition, Metro Parks will be hosting a hearing and vision clinic for employees this spring.

Ms. Burchfield mentioned the 2009 Intern recruiting brochure was completed and 21 positions are currently being advertised.

Finance:

Mr. Ruff stated that 2008 was a good year financially. Expenses were under budget and revenue was a little higher than budgeted, mainly due to grant revenue and land acquisition cost reimbursements approximately 50% higher than budgeted. Overall, Metro Parks ended the year with a 2.6 million dollar annual surplus compared to a 6 million dollar projected annual deficit.

Levy Recommendation

Mr. O'Meara provided a summary of the levy recommendations outlined in Resolution 4910. The Board discussed the need for the levy and stressed the importance of passing the levy for the park system to continue providing a great park system that provides critical benefits to the Central Ohio community.

Resolutions

#4910 A RESOLUTION DECLARING IT NECESSARY TO REPLACE AN EXISTING 0.65 MILL TAX LEVY AND TO INCREASE THAT LEVY BY 0.10 MILL FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COLUMBUS AND FRANKLIN COUNTY METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT (METRO PARKS) FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSERVING AND IMPROVING NATURAL RESOURCES, WILDLIFE HABITAT, STREAMS AND NATURAL AREAS; DEVELOPING, IMPROVING, MAINTAINING AND OPERATING BATTELLE DARBY CREEK, BLACKLICK WOODS, BLENDON WOODS, CHESTNUT RIDGE, CLEAR CREEK, GLACIER RIDGE, HERITAGE TRAIL, HIGHBANKS, INNISWOOD METRO GARDENS, PICKERINGTON PONDS, PRAIRIE OAKS, SCIOTO AUDUBON, SHARON WOODS, SLATE RUN, THREE CREEKS METRO PARKS AND OTHER PROPERTIES OF THE PARK DISTRICT; AND ACQUIRING, DEVELOPING, IMPROVING, MAINTAINING AND OPERATING ADDITIONAL LANDS FOR PARK AND TRAIL PURPOSES, AND REQUESTING THE FRANKLIN COUNTY AUDITORS TO CERTIFY THE TOTAL CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF THE COLUMBUS AND FRANKLIN COUNTY METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT AND THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY A 0.75 MILL LEVY

The Board declared that it is necessary to replace the Park District's existing 0.65 mill ad valorem property tax outside of the ten mill limitation and to increase that levy by 0.10 mill to constitute a tax in excess of such limitation at a rate not exceeding 0.75 mill for a period of ten (10) years, commencing in 2009, first due in calendar year 2010.

- #4911 AUTHORIZING THE DESIGNATION OF SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY L.L.P. AS METRO PARKS' ATTORNEYS
The Board designated Christopher Franzmann and the firm of Squire, Sanders & Dempsey as Metro Park's attorney; and authorized Mr. Franzmann and Squire, Sanders & Dempsey to manage the legal affairs of Metro Parks at the rate of \$245.00 per hour.
- #4912 REQUESTING TAX ADVANCES
The Board authorized the Executive Director to request the County Auditor and County Treasurer to make tax advances in 2009 to the Park District as authorized by Section 321.34 of the Ohio Revised Code
- #4913 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FROM VENDORS IN AN AMOUNT EXCEEDING \$25,000 FOR 2008
The Board authorized increased expenditure of funds necessary to purchase services from the listed vendors up to the amount listed for each vendor.
- #4914 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF OVER \$25,000 IN GOODS AND SERVICES FROM SPECIFIC VENDORS DURING 2009
The Board authorized expenditure of funds necessary to purchase services from the listed vendors up to the amounts indicated for each vendor.
- #4915 AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM FUND 27 TO FUND 29
The Board authorized the transfer of funds in the amount of \$2,008,000.
- #4916 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF PROMOTIONAL SERVICES FROM THE DISPATCH GROUP
The Board authorized an appropriation of \$421,507 to purchase services from The Dispatch Marketing Group.
- #4917 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF \$184,712 IN GOODS AND SERVICES FROM MARKETING SERVICES BY VECTRA FOR PRINTING AND MAILING OF THE *PARKSCOPE* MAGAZINE
The Board authorized the Executive Director to enter into a contract for the purchase of goods and services from Vectra Printing.
- #4918 AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL OF STRUCTURES AND DEBRIS FROM PARK PROPERTY AT PICKERINGTON PONDS METRO PARK
The Board declared the structures and debris as surplus and authorized the structures and debris to be removed.
- #4919 AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL OF STRUCTURES AND DEBRIS FROM PARK PROPERTY IN PLAIN TOWNSHIP, FRANKLIN COUNTY

The Board declared the structures and debris as surplus and authorized the structures and debris to be removed.

#4920 AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF CHANGE ORDER WITH MARK ALLARD EXCAVATION AT SCIOTO AUDUBON METRO PARK

The Board authorized the Executive Director to execute change orders with Mark Allard Excavation at a total cost of \$220,000.

#4921 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE OWNED BY ABLE BUILDING SERVICES INC. IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY

The Board authorized the Executive Director to purchase property from Able Building Services Inc. in Fairfield County for \$14,500.

Public Comment

Ms. Litt thanked the Board for their leadership and support of the upcoming levy.

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John R. O'Meara, Executive Director

Approved by the Board of Park Commissioners:



Ellen Tripp, Chair