

Minutes of the 750th meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District held on March 9, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. at Blendon Woods Metro Park Nature Center.

Present

Commissioners: Ms. Beasley, Mr. Lashutka

Staff: Mr. O'Meara, Ms. Telfer, Mr. Peck, Mr. Ruff, Mr. Studenmund, Ms. Sangale, Mr. Berisford, Mr. Fortman, Mr. Ferrell, Ms. Dalton, Ms. Townsend, Mr. Simpson

Legal Counsel: Mr. Franzmann

Guests: Ms. Litt

Acting Chair Mr. Lashutka 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.

Disbursement Resolution

Ms. Beasley moved for approval of the Disbursement Resolution authorizing payment of the February 2010 invoices. Mr. Lashutka seconded the motion and the Board approved the resolution. A copy of Resolution No. 5070 is attached to these minutes as part hereof.

Staff Reports

Administration:

Mr. O'Meara stated that record breaking snowfall in the month of February impacted our operations in several ways. Winter sports enthusiasts felt blessed by the unusually snowy conditions. Staff put in many extra hours plowing roads, monitoring sled hills, and keeping the skating areas in good shape. All parks remained open every day.

Mr. O'Meara mentioned that there are pairs of bald eagle nests at Highbanks Metro Park and Three Creeks Park. The recovery of bald eagles is a great conservation success story.

Mr. O'Meara stated that meetings were held with several members of the Franklin County delegation to discuss upcoming legislation and funding opportunities. Plans are also being made to meet with our federal legislators in Washington in March. Funding for future trail construction and proposed legislation are the primary topics of discussion.

Mr. O'Meara mentioned that Metro Parks and governmental jurisdictions are reviewing the potential impacts of the proposed Darby Accord Town Center. Consultants who are preparing the Town Center plan are suggesting that the Town Center be moved farther south adjacent to Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park.

Design and Visitor Services:

Mr. Peck introduced staff in attendance.

Mr. Peck mentioned that the Winter Hike series concluded with 6,660 participants for the year. The lower attendance (9,600 in 2008, 8,150 in 2009) may have been due in part to the record snowfall in the month of February.

Mr. Peck stated that the spring construction season will soon commence with work on the Camp Chase Trail, Blacklick Creek Greenway Trail, on the program shelter at Inniswood and at Walnut Woods. Paving will also be completed at Scioto Audubon Metro Park.

Finance:

Mr. Ruff stated that the month of February was relatively quiet. He mentioned that both income and expenses are under budget.

Mr. Ruff mentioned that the year-end GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) conversion has begun. This project converts our books from a cash basis to an accrual basis of accounting. The Auditor of State's Office performs the conversion.

Human Resources:

Ms. Telfer mentioned that Metro Parks has filled the Manager of Park Operations and the Planning Assistant positions. She also stated that over 117 applications have been received for the Golf Course Manager/Professional position.

Other Business

None.

Resolutions

- #5071 AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A CHANGE ORDER WITH JOHN ERAMO AND SONS INC. FOR ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION SERVICES AND INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL AT WALNUT WOODS METRO PARK
The Board authorized the Executive Director to enter into a change order contract with John Eramo and Sons Inc. in the amount of \$125,000.
- #5072 AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES WITH MICHAEL BAKER JR., INC. FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE CAMP CHASE TRAIL
The Board authorized the Executive Director to contract with Michael Baker Jr. Inc. for additional services in the amount of \$55,165.
- #5073 AUTHORIZING THE DONATION OF REAL ESTATE OWNED BY THE TURNBERRY CREEK APARTMENTS LLC LOCATED IN THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, FAIRFIELD COUNTY
The Board exercised its right to accept the donation of a trail easement from the Turnberry Creek Apartments LLC and authorized the Executive Director to obtain approval from the Franklin County Probate Court for acceptance of the donation and to execute the necessary documents.
- #5074 AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A DONATION OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT FROM CHRISTINA AND BRIAN BOGGS, TRUSTEES, LOCATED ADJACENT TO BATTELLE DARBY CREEK METRO PARK
The Board exercised its right to accept the donation of a conservation easement from Christina and Brian Boggs, Trustee and authorized the Executive Director to obtain approval from the Franklin County Probate Court for acceptance of the donation and to execute the necessary documents.

#5075 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE AND DONATION OF REAL ESTATE OWNED BY THE NATURE CONSERVANCY LOCATED ALONG BIG DARBY CREEK
The Board exercised its right to accept the donation of a conservation easement and authorized the Executive Director to obtain approval from the Franklin County Probate Court for acceptance of the donation, and also to contract to purchase property from The Nature Conservancy along Big Darby Creek at an estimated cost of \$585,000.

#5076 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE OWNED BY THE CAMP FIRE GIRLS OF COLUMBUS AND FRANKLIN COUNTY LOCATED AT CLEAR CREEK METRO PARK
The Board authorized the Executive Director to purchase property from the Camp Fire Girls of Columbus and Franklin County located at Clear Creek Metro Park at an estimated cost of \$130,000.

#5077 AWARDING METRO PARKS LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE TO GARDINER ALLEN DEROBERTS
The Board authorized the Executive Director to purchase insurance coverage from Gardiner Allen DeRoberts in the premium amount of \$83,164.

Public Comment

None.

Executive Session


Ms. Beasley moved to enter into executive session at 4:28 p.m. for the purpose of discussing land acquisition. Mr. Lashutka seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Ms. Beasley Yes
Mr. Lashutka Yes

The Board returned from executive session at 4:40 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John R. O'Meara, Executive Director

Approved by the Board of Park Commissioners:


Greg Lashutka, Acting Chair