

Minutes of the 771st meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District held on October 11, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. in the Spring Hollow Lodge, Sharon Woods Metro Park.

Present

Commissioners: Mr. McNealey, Mr. Lashutka

Staff: Mr. O'Meara, Mr. Peck, Ms. Telfer, Mr. Ruff, Ms. Sangale, Mr. Yablonski, Ms. Hanley, Ms. Turpening, Ms. Shaw, Ms. Weber, Mr. Billow, Mr. Studenmund

Legal Counsel: Mr. Franzman

Guests: Ms. Litt

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.

Minutes of the September 7, 2011 Meeting of the Board

Mr. McNealey made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2011 Board Meeting. Mr. Lashutka seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion.

Disbursement Resolution

Mr. McNealey moved for approval of the Disbursement Resolution authorizing payment of the September 2011 invoices. Mr. Lashutka seconded the motion and the Board approved the resolution. A copy of Resolution No. 5244 is attached to these minutes as part hereof.

Staff Reports

Administration:

Mr. O'Meara stated that First Energy is planning to construct a new high power line that may impact Glacier Ridge Metro Park. The utility held public meetings in September and presented three possible routes for the new power lines. Their preferred route would bisect Glacier Ridge. We will be meeting soon to discuss options with the utility representatives.

Mr. O'Meara mentioned that planning is underway for the next phase of park improvements at Scioto Audubon Metro Park. A meeting with Mayor Coleman is scheduled to get the City's input regarding the improvements. Meetings were also held this month with several elected officials. We are researching a velodrome, which is a frequently requested facility for bicycling.

Mr. O'Meara advised that discussions have continued on how to best attempt to address our continued concerns of the excessive noise from concerts and the proposed racetrack at Cooper Stadium. We will be meeting with an attorney representing the developer and are preparing for the Board of Zoning Adjustment hearing.

Design and Visitor Services:

Mr. Peck introduced staff in attendance and commended their efforts in serving the public and working with the headquarters facility and staff.

Mr. Peck stated that work is progressing well at the Blacklick Woods Golf Course driving range. Mr. McNealey asked when the project would be completed. Mr. Peck stated that the facility would be open next spring.

Mr. Peck mentioned that several projects are making good progress including: site work and facilities under construction at Walnut Woods Metro Park, connector trail at Highbanks Metro Park, Blacklick Creek greenway trail phase 10 along Hines Road, the western portion of the Camp Chase Trail and the Nature Center at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park. A groundbreaking ceremony for the Nature Center will be held in November. In addition, the new mountain bike trail at Chestnut Ridge Metro Park will be open October 16th.

Mr. Peck advised that visitation at our spontaneous nature programs has been well attended. Mr. McNealey asked if attendance has been tracked with our social media advertised events. Ms. Hanley stated the staff has been keeping records of all programs.

Finance:

Mr. Ruff stated the budget for 2012 is being fine tuned with personnel and capital expenditures being reviewed for the 2012 needs. A preliminary budget will be presented to the board next month.

Mr. Ruff mentioned that staff is reviewing a request by Ohio EPA to certify our expenditures of federal funds for fiscal year 2010. Ohio EPA sent a letter for Metro Parks to sign off that we did not meet the requirements for a single audit or to certify we had a single audit performed. However, while we meet the requirements for a single audit, one was not performed based on the opinion of the Auditor of State's office. We are in discussions with Ohio EPA and the Auditor of State's office to resolve this issue.

Human Resources:

Ms. Telfer stated that she would like to thank the staff of Three Creeks and Slate Run Metro Park for their assistance with the Volunteer/Employee picnic. She also mentioned that flu shots would be offered through Franklin County / Ohio Health for employees and family members on November 8th.

Other Business

None.

Resolutions

- #5245 AUTHORIZING THE DONATION OF PROPERTY FOR HIGHWAY PURPOSES TO THE FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR PROPERTY ASSOCIATED WITH BATTELLE DARBY CREEK METRO PARK
The Board exercised its right to grant an easement for highway purpose to the Franklin County Commissioners for property associated with Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park and authorized the Executive Director to apply to the Probate Court of Franklin County for approval to grant the easements, and if approved, execute the necessary documents for granting of the Easements.
- #5246 AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE BLACKLICK CREEK GREENWAY TRAIL PHASE 10
The Board authorized the Executive Director to enter into a change order with Double Z Construction for escalated construction costs in the amount of \$53,566.40.
- #5247 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A TRUCK FOR THE ROVING CONSTRUCTION CREW
The Board authorized the Executive Director to purchase a truck through the Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program or through the General Services Administration Purchasing Program or through the solicitation of competitive bids or quotes, whichever method is to the benefit of Metro Parks.
- #5248 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF PLAY EQUIPMENT FOR WALNUT WOODS METRO PARK
The Board authorized the Executive Director to purchase play equipment from Landscape Structures Inc through the Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program in the amount of \$67,000.
- #5249 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT TO MANUFACTURE A TIMBER FRAME SHELTER AT WALNUT WOODS METRO PARK
The Board authorized the Executive Director to enter into contract with Oakbridge Timber Framing to manufacture a timber frame shelter in the amount of \$26,850.
- #5250 ADOPTING RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE COLUMBUS AND FRANKLIN COUNTY METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT
The Board rescinded Resolution 5233 and adopted this resolution to update our rules and regulations.
- #5251 RESOLUTION 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 accepted the 2012 Estimated Tax Rate generated from property tax as provided by the Budget Commission and County Auditor in the amount of \$20,821,210.52.

#5252 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FOR WETLAND RESTORATION AT BATTELLE DARBY CREEK METRO PARK

The Board authorized the Executive Director to enter into contract with Brian Hunter for wetland restoration in the amount of \$24,995.

Public Comment

None.

Executive Session

Mr. McNealey moved to enter into executive session at 5:02 pm 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:

Mr. McNealey	Yes
Mr. Lashutka	Yes

The Board returned from executive session at 5:14 pm.


The meeting adjourned at 5:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



John R. O'Meara, Executive Director

Approved by the Board of Park Commissioners:



Greg Lashutka, Chair