

Minutes of the 732<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District held on Monday, November 24, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. at the Metro Parks Headquarters.

### **Park Commissioner Appointment**

Prior to the start of the meeting Judge Lawrence Belskis re-appointed Greg Lashutka to the Metro Parks Board of Park Commissioners and administered the oath of office. Mr. Lashutka's new three year term will commence January 1, 2009.

### **Present**

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

Staff: Mr. O'Meara, Mr. Peck, Mr. Ruff, Ms. Hanley, Mr. Studenmund

Legal Counsel: Mr. Franzmann

Guests: Ms. Litt, Mr. Ferenchik, Mr. McNealey

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.

### **Budget Discussion**

The Director presented the proposed goals and budget for 2009. The budget proposal was discussed in detail. The Board encouraged staff to leverage several of the goals for 2009 and build additional partnerships that will help Metro Parks to achieve its mission.

The Director discussed the complexities of preparing a budget for a year when the next levy will be submitted for consideration by the voters. The Director indicated that there are items in almost every budget classification that will not be pursued until we are certain that the levy has been approved. The appropriations that will not be spent until a levy is approved total more than \$6.7 million. The biggest savings will be achieved in the budgets for capital improvements and land acquisition.

The Director explained that the Estimated Ending Cash Balanced at \$12 million was much higher than most years because of the great success that has been realized in attracting grants and forming partnerships that provide funds for specific projects. Most notably, \$8 million was accumulated in 2008 that must be spent for the planned park in Plain Township. More than \$6 million of that amount will carry over into 2009. An additional \$2.5 million has been received for the Camp Chase trail project that also adds to the carryover. The uncommitted carryover is only about \$3.5 million. Carryover must be budgeted to cover expenses in the early months of the year until new tax revenues are distributed to Metro Parks. Mr. Jeffrey recommended that the budget more effectively highlight funds that are dedicated or encumbered through different sources.

The Board noted that the golf courses are projected to have a deficit in 2008 and again in 2009. Staff indicated that we are watching the golf course more closely, with an eye on its profitability. Fee changes will be discussed for 2009, and a resolution to adjust fees will be

presented to the Board. The golf market is down throughout the area with many courses faring worse than our course.

Staff recommended an additional maintenance staff person at Three Creeks and a part time ranger position at Scioto Audubon. Neither of these positions will be filled until after the passage of the park levy. Mr. O'Meara added that additional staff may be necessary for Scioto Audubon before the end of the year depending on how rapidly the park develops and the success of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center. The Board was supportive of the proposed positions.

The Board asked for clarification of some of the proposed capital improvement projects. The capital improvement projects' budget focuses on trail construction and improvements at Scioto Audubon. Additional projects will be completed throughout the park system.

Mr. O'Meara noted that over 90% of the funds allocated for land acquisition will be reimbursed or are contributed to Metro Parks from other funding sources. Six million dollars will be available at the start of the year for the proposed park in Plain Township. The City of Columbus will contribute an additional \$1 million in 2009 for that park. Grants are also available for purchase of land along Hellbranch Run. We have already received the funding for the purchase of the Camp Chase trail easement.

#### **Public Comment**

No Public Comment

#### **Executive Session**

Mr. Lashutka moved to enter into executive session at 9:05 a.m. for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and personnel. Ms. Tripp seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Jeffrey	Yes
Ms. Tripp	Yes
Mr. Lashutka	Yes

The Board returned from executive session at 9:40 a.m.

The Board indicated that they would support a 3% pay increase for employees who meet expectations and a 3.5% increase plus \$1,000 for outstanding performers. Employees not meeting expectations could receive a 0% or 1.5% pay increase. The pay ranges are to be adjusted with a 2% increase. The Director offered to forego a pay increase at this time in light of economic conditions. Pay resolutions will be reconsidered with modifications at the next Park Board meeting.

#### **Resolutions**

The Board considered the following resolutions:

#4901     RELATIVE TO THE ADOPTION OF THE 2009 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR 2009

The Board approved Resolution #4901 Relative to the Adoption of the 2009 Budget and Appropriation of Funds for 2009.

#4902 ESTABLISHING JOB CLASSIFICATIONS AND THE GENERAL PAY PLAN  
The Board tabled this resolution.

#4903 ESTABLISHING SALARY OF DIRECTORS  
The Board tabled this resolution

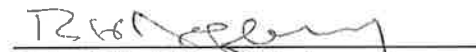
#4904 ESTABLISHING SALARY OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
The Board tabled this resolution

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 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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Robert H. Jeffrey, Chair