

Minutes of the 746th meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District held on Wednesday, December 2, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. at the Metro Parks Headquarters.

Park Commissioner Appointment

Prior to the start of the meeting, Judge Eric Brown appointed Frances Beasley to the Metro Parks Board of Park Commissioners and administered the oath of office. Ms. Beasley's three-year term will commence January 1, 2010. Judge Brown thanked Ellen Tripp for her years of dedicated service.

Present

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

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

Legal Counsel: Mr. Franzmann

Guests: Ms. Beasley, Ms. Hill

Ms. Tripp 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 2010. The budget proposal was discussed in detail.

The Director reviewed the financial projections. He explained that the Estimated Ending Cash Balance of \$8 million included \$6 million of dedicated funds that can only be spent for land acquisition for the planned park in Plain Township in accordance with the Rocky Fork agreement. Property tax revenues are projected to increase by \$8 million over 2009 due to passage of the property tax levy in May of 2009.

The Director noted that the Blacklick Woods golf courses are projected to have a financial deficit in 2009 and again in 2010. Staff indicated that the golf market continues to be down as fewer rounds are being played and Central Ohio has been overdeveloped with golf courses.

The Director recommended adding several new positions to accomplish Metro Parks' goals. The focus will be developing staff to 1) manage the Greenway Trails program, 2) expand the educational programs for students and senior citizens, and 3) open additional facilities at Scioto Audubon Metro Park. The Board was supportive of the proposed positions.

The Director outlined the proposed major projects for 2010, which include several initiatives relating to the greenway trails, additional work at Scioto Audubon Metro Park, habitat restoration efforts at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park and the former Eastside Nursery property, developing park facilities at Eastside Nursery, and expanding the education program. The Board asked for clarification of some of the proposed capital improvement projects.

The Director noted that of the \$11 million proposed for land acquisition; over \$7 million will be reimbursed or is being contributed to Metro Parks from partnerships and other funding sources.

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Resolutions

The Board considered the following resolutions:

#5032 RELATIVE TO THE ADOPTION OF THE 2009 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR 2010

The Board approved Resolution #5032 Relative to the Adoption of the 2010 Budget and Appropriation of Funds for 2010.

#5033 HONORING CAROL W. BURCHFIELD

The Board recognize the work and contributions of Carol W. Burchfield, and seeks to honor and pay tribute to her distinguished service to the Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks and to the citizens of Central Ohio.

Executive Session

Mr. Lashutka moved to enter into executive session at 3:45 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel. Mr. Jeffrey 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 4:17 p.m.

#5034 ESTABLISHING JOB CLASSIFICATIONS AND THE GENERAL PAY PLAN

The Board adopted resolution #5034 effective the first full pay period of March 2010.

#5035 ESTABLISHING SALARY OF DIRECTORS

The Board set the annualized salaries effective the first full pay period of March 2010 for the Directors.

#5036 ESTABLISHING SALARY OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Board set the annualized salary effective the first full pay period of March 2010 for the Executive Director.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by the Board of Park
Commissioners:


John R. O'Meara, Executive Director


Chair