

Minutes of the 759th meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District held on Wednesday, December 1, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. at the Metro Parks Headquarters.

Park Commissioner Appointment

The Board was notified that Judge Alan S. Acker appointed J. Jeffrey McNealey to the Metro Parks Board of Park Commissioners and administered the oath of office. Mr. McNealey's three-year term will commence January 1, 2011.

Present

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

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

Legal Counsel: Mr. Franzmann

Guests: Mr. McNealey, Mr. Tremante

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 2011. The budget proposal was discussed in detail.

The Director reviewed the financial projections. He explained that the Estimated Ending Cash Balance of \$8.6 million for 2010 included \$4 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, and other restricted funds.

Property tax revenues are projected to be approximately \$22 million. Mr. Lashutka mentioned that property tax revenues are likely to decline due to re-assessments with declining property values. There was considerable discussion concerning the uncertainty of Local Government Funds, currently projected at over \$4 million. The budget presents a section that addresses projects and proposals in every area of the budget that will not be implemented until after it is clear how our finances will be impacted by changes to Local Government Fund distributions and other possible reductions in our revenues.

The Director noted that the Blacklick Woods golf courses are projected to have a financial deficit in 2009 and again in 2010. For the first time in more than a decade, funds will be transferred from the General Fund to the golf course Enterprise Fund to cover expenses. Mr. Peck indicated that the golf market continues to be down as fewer rounds are being played and Central Ohio has been overdeveloped with golf courses. A golf course strategy document was distributed with suggestions for addressing the golf course's financial situation. It was recommended that we hire a consultant to review some of the proposals.

A list of the more expensive pieces of equipment was presented and the major proposed equipment purchases were reviewed. The most expensive purchase would be a new tram to replace the ten year

old current tram. The new tram is among the equipment whose purchase will not proceed until after the Local Government Fund situation is clarified.

The Director recommended adding several new positions to accomplish Metro Parks' goals. The focus will be developing staff to 1) open new facilities at Walnut Woods Metro Park, 2) manage the Greenway Trails program, 3) expand the educational programs for students and senior citizens, and 4) meet increased needs in Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park. The Board was supportive of the proposed positions with the understanding that several of the positions are not to be filled until after it is clear how finances are affected by the State's decision regarding Local Government Funds.

The Director outlined the proposed major construction projects and initiatives for 2011, which include several trail construction projects, the proposed nature center at Battelle Darby Creek, new facilities at Walnut Woods Metro Park, the impound lot environmental clean-up at Scioto Audubon Metro Park, habitat restoration efforts, 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; \$4 million will be dedicated to the new park planned in Plain Township, and almost \$7 million will be reimbursed or has been contributed to Metro Parks through partnerships and grants.

The Board asked for a prioritization of land acquisition projects. The Director explained that projects funded through partnerships or grants were the highest priority. We are negotiating potential acquisitions for the three proposed new parks. All of the acquisitions would be in keeping with the commitments that were made in the ten-year plan for the levy period.

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Resolutions

The Board considered the following resolutions:

#5148 RELATIVE TO THE ADOPTION OF THE 2011 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR 2011

The Board approved Resolution #5148 Relative to the Adoption of the 2011 Budget and Appropriation of Funds for 2011.

Executive Session

Mr. Lashutka moved to enter into executive session at 9:40 a.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel and land acquisition. Ms. Beasley seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Mr. Jeffrey | Yes |
| Ms. Beasley | Yes |
| Mr. Lashutka | Yes |

The Board returned from executive session at 10:26 a.m.

#5149 ESTABLISHING JOB CLASSIFICATIONS, THE GENERAL PAY PLAN AND BENEFITS

The Board adopted resolution #5149 effective the first full pay period of March 2011.

#5150 ESTABLISHING SALARY OF DIRECTORS

The Board set the annualized salaries effective the first full pay period of March 2011 for the Directors.

#5151 ESTABLISHING SALARY OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Board set the annualized salary effective the first full pay period of March 2011 for the Executive Director.

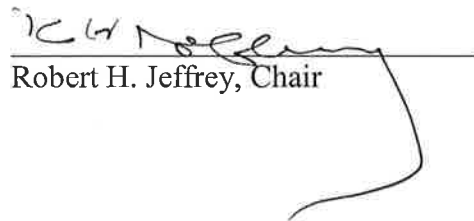
The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John R. O'Meara, Executive Director

Approved by the Board of Park Commissioners:



Robert H. Jeffrey, Chair