

Minutes of the 774th meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District held on December 13, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. at Inniswood Metro Gardens.

Present

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

Staff: Mr. O'Meara, Mr. Peck, Ms. Telfer, Mr. Ruff, Ms. Sangale, Mr. Yablonski, Mr. Studenmund, Mr. Brown, Ms. Hall, Ms. Steelman, Ms. Hanley, Ms. Thomas, Ms. Maravick, Ms. Eby, Ms. Collins, Ms. Snyder, Mr. Moreen, Mr. Knowles, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Deeds, Ms. Defourney, Mr. Whittington, Mr. CJ Johnson.

Legal Counsel: Mr. Franzman

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

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 November 8, 2011 Meeting of the Board

Mr. McNealey made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2011 Board Meeting. Ms. Beasley seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion.

Minutes of the November 29, 2011 Budget Meeting of the Board

Mr. McNealey made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 29, 2011 Board Budget Meeting, as amended. Ms. Beasley seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion.

Disbursement Resolution

Ms. Beasley moved for approval of the Disbursement Resolution authorizing payment of the November 2011 invoices. Mr. McNealey seconded the motion and the Board approved the resolution. A copy of Resolution No. 5262 is attached to these minutes as part hereof.

Staff Reports

Administration:

Mr. O'Meara stated that the groundbreaking ceremony was held for the new nature center in Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park. The event was well attended with several elected officials joining us to celebrate the occasion.

Mr. O'Meara mentioned that Metro Parks' budget for 2012 was completed and approved. Reductions in funding due primarily to changes in State law will significantly reduce funds available to Metro Parks in 2012 and beyond. The Land Acquisition Strategy was also updated.

Mr. O'Meara advised that meetings were held with attorneys for the developers regarding the former Cooper Stadium and the proposed conversion of the stadium to a racetrack and concert venue. Metro Parks again shared our concerns about the impact of increased noise levels in close proximity to Scioto Audubon Metro Park. The developers rejected most of our suggested actions for improved noise monitoring.

Mr. O'Meara stated that the process is continuing in Madison County to convert the stream draining Metro Parks' Pearl King Prairie to a Petition ditch. The Madison County Commissioners have tentatively approved our suggestion to allow Metro Parks to retain responsibility for the stream segment on park property in accordance with the existing agreement with a neighboring landowner. They plan to include Metro Parks' property as a 'benefited property', which means that they would assess Metro Parks along with all other landowners in the watershed for the drainage construction and maintenance work downstream of our property. An additional public hearing on this proposal will be held in 2012. The Board suggested that the Director should express concern that our property is not really 'benefited'.

Design and Visitor Services:

Mr. Peck introduced staff in attendance and stated that the Inniswood staff, which is the largest in the district, does an outstanding job in an intensively used park with a strong education program. The board acknowledged and thanked the staff as well.

Mr. Peck mentioned that recent rainy weather has delayed several projects including the Battelle Darby Creek Nature Center, which is behind schedule. The contractor is working to accelerate the schedule. He also stated that restoration is currently taking place at Scioto Audubon, with soil being imported for environmental remediation. The cost of the remediation will be reimbursed by the City of Columbus and through a grant.

Mr. Peck stated that staff has received a large number of special event permits for next year. Metro Parks has become a popular venue for running and fund raising events.

Mr. Lashutka thanked all staff for their efforts this past year on their accomplishments and stated "a job well done in serving the public".

Finance:

Mr. Ruff advised that year-end financial processing has begun. Staff is working to close existing purchase orders as soon as possible and processing year-end paperwork. He also met with a retail electric provider to determine if Metro Parks could save money by switching to a provider other than American Electric Power for electric service.

Mr. Ruff stated that the financial position of the park district remains good through November. Tax revenue is down, but we received the hold harmless payment for the tangible personal property tax right after the close of November, and expenditures are still under budget.

Human Resources:

Ms. Telfer stated that the annual Breakfast with Santa was well attended and very successful. Ms Beasley agreed and thanked staff for their efforts.

Ms. Telfer also mentioned that staff is researching several employee benefit projects for next year.

Other Business

The 2012 Board of Park Commissioners Meeting Schedule was approved as proposed. Meetings will generally be held on the second Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m.

Resolutions

#5263 AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM GENERAL FUND – FUND 27 TO THE ENTERPRISE FUND – FUND 30 AND THE APPROPRIATION OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS IN FUND 30

The Board authorized the transfer and appropriation of funds.

#5264 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FROM VENDORS IN AN AMOUNT EXCEEDING \$25,000 FOR 2011

The Board authorized increased expenditure of funds necessary to purchase goods and services from the listed vendors up to the amount listed for each vendor.

#5265 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A RENTAL AGREEMENT WITH JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP FOR THE FORMER PHYLLIS BOEHNKE PROPERTY

The Board authorized the Executive Director to enter into an agreement and work cooperatively with Jefferson Township Trustees to establish a public park in Jefferson Township.

#5266 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR PROPERTY AT HIGHBANKS METRO PARK

The Board authorized the Executive Director to enter into a license agreement for pedestrian traffic controls with the Ohio Department of Transportation and to apply for Probate Court of Franklin County for approval to grant the license, and if approved, execute the necessary documents for granting the license.

#5267 AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL OF STRUCTURES AND DEBRIS FROM PARK PROPERTY AT ROCKY FORK METRO PARK

The Board declared the described structures and debris as surplus and authorized the structures and debris to be removed.

#5268 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FOR FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION OF INTERPRETIVE EXHIBITS FOR THE BATTELLE DARBY CREEK METRO PARK NATURE CENTER

The Board authorized the Executive Director to enter into contract with Boss Display for interpretive exhibits in the amount of \$253,900.

#5269 AUTHORIZING EXECUTING A CHANGE ORDER FOR THE BATTELLE DARBY CREEK METRO PARK NATURE CENTER

The Board authorized the Executive Director to enter into a change order with Setterlin Construction for site improvements in the amount of \$75,000.

#5270 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION OF THE IMPOUND LOT AT SCIOTO AUDUBON METRO PARK

The Board authorized the Executive Director to enter into contract with Environmental Management Specialists for site improvements in the amount of \$205,390.

#5271 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE MORGAN RUN WATER RESOURCE PROJECT

The Board authorized the Executive Director to enter into contract with Oxbow River and Stream Restoration Inc. for site engineering in the amount of \$30,595.

Public Comment

None.


The meeting adjourned at 4:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



John R. O'Meara, Executive Director

Approved by the Board of Park Commissioners:



Greg Lashutka, Chair