

Minutes of the 718th meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District held on Tuesday, November 27, 2007 at 8:00 a.m. at the Metro Parks District Office

Present

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

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

Legal Counsel: Mr. Franzmann

Visitors: None

Mr. Danter 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 budget for 2008. Discussions followed on several items.

The Board questioned the staff uniform allowance and the Director provided an explanation of the change, which is being required by the Internal Revenue Service. The Board asked about the Metro Parks Urban Conservation Corps and asked if this program could be expanded. Staff responded that this initiative will be modified in 2008 to improve upon its success, but did not necessarily want to increase the number of Urban Conservation Corps members due to impact on individual parks. The Board was highly supportive of this program.

The Board noted that the golf courses are barely breaking even and discussed possible options for Blacklick Woods Golf Courses. Staff expressed hope that the policy changes that were approved in 2006 will begin to show financial benefit in 2008. Staff indicated that we will be watching the golf course more closely, with an eye on its profitability. Fee changes have been approved for 2008 and staffing changes may be needed.

Ms. Tripp asked about the number of computers Metro Parks has and how often they are replaced. Mr. Ruff responded that there are about 85 computers and they are replaced on a six-year schedule.

Mr. O'Meara recommended an additional staff person to increase our service to seniors. In addition it was recommended that one of the part time ranger positions at Battelle Darby be converted to a fulltime position. Additional part-time and intern position modification were also recommended.

An extensive discussion was held regarding the proposed funding and priorities for land acquisition in 2008. The Board indicated they would approve the appropriation but not necessarily the allocation of funds for specific project areas that had been proposed with the budget. Staff will refine the recommendations and consider additional alternatives.

Resolution:

#4783 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FOR DESIGN AND ENGINEERING SERVICES AT BATTELLE DARBY CREEK METRO PARK

The Board approved resolution #4783 authorizing a contract with Oxbow River & Stream Restoration, Inc. in the amount of \$72,915.

#4784 RELATIVE TO THE ADOPTION OF THE 2008 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR 2008

The Board approved Resolution #4784 Relative to the Adoption of the 2008 Budget and Appropriation of Funds for 2008.

The Board voted to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel at 10:22 a.m.

The Board returned from executive session at 11:28 a.m.

Resolutions:

#4785 ESTABLISHING JOB CLASSIFICATIONS AND THE GENERAL PAY PLAN

The Board adopted resolution #4785 effective the first full pay period of March 2008.

#4786 ESTABLISHING SALARY OF DIRECTORS

The Board set the annualized salary effective the first full pay period of March 2008 for the Directors.

#4787 ESTABLISHING SALARY OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Board set the annualized salary effective the first full pay period of March 2008 for the Executive Director.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. O'Meara, Executive Director

Approved by the Board of Park Commissioners:

Kenneth F. Danter, Chair