

Minutes of the 726<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District held on Wednesday, June 11, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the Metro Parks Headquarters.

### **Present**

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

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

Legal Counsel: Mr. Franzmann

Guests: Mr. Ferencik, 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.

### **Planning Discussion**

The Director presented an overview of the environmental, educational, health, and economic benefits that Metro Parks contributes to Central Ohio.

The Director reviewed various funding, expense and timing options concerning the next Metro Parks levy. Funding from the current levy expires at the end of 2009.

Discussions concerning the amount of the levy request ranged from a renewal levy up to a possible modest increase in levy millage. All agreed that a renewal levy would not provide adequate funding for the continued operation of Metro Parks through the next levy period. Most discussion focused on either a 0.65 mill replacement levy or a 0.75 mill levy.

Information was presented concerning the uncertainties related to Local Government Funds, changes in the State of Ohio tax law, and limitations on other sources of funds.

In addition to maintaining and operating the existing Metro Parks, a variety of possible new projects and programs were discussed.

The Board advised the Director to explore possible alternatives with community leaders and to seek input from the public.

No final decisions were made regarding the timing, projects to include, or amount of the upcoming Metro Parks levy, although a preference for the May 2009 ballot was expressed.

**Executive Session**

Mr. Jeffrey moved to enter into executive session at 10:48 a.m. for the purpose of discussing land acquisition. 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 11:05 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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John R. O'Meara, Executive Director

Approved by the Board of Park Commissioners:

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Tad Jeffrey, Chair