

Minutes of the 707th meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District held on Tuesday, February 13, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. at Spring Hollow Lodge, Sharon Woods Metro Park.

Present

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

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

Guest: Mr. Messerly

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.

Minutes of the January 9, 2007 Meeting of the Board

Mr. Jeffrey made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2007 meeting. Ms. Tripp seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion.

Disbursement Resolution

The Board asked for clarification of a few items. Mr. Jeffrey moved for approval of the Disbursement Resolution authorizing payment of the January 2007 invoices. Ms. Tripp seconded the motion and the Board approved the resolution. A copy of Resolution No. 4709 is attached to these minutes as part hereof.

Staff Reports

Administration:

Mr. O'Meara stated that the recent cold weather and snowfall has attracted many visitors to our sled hills.

Mr. O'Meara highlighted that Audubon Ohio held a design workshop for the Grange Insurance Audubon Center last month. Metro Park representatives included Mr. Jeffrey, Mr. Peck, Mr. Studenmund and Mr. Reese. Construction at Whittier Metro Park is progressing with soil being placed at the park from various City of Columbus projects and from a new construction project at Grange Insurance. The soil is being used to provide the required cap over soils that were impacted by previous industrial uses.

Design and Visitor Services:

Mr. Peck introduced Assistant Park Manager Marshal Reese and Hub Naturalist Allison Shaw.

Mr. Peck stated that the staff has done a great job of keeping the roadways and park sites open with the recent snow and cold weather. The sledding hills are currently very popular with the increased snow.

Finance:

Mr. Ruff stated the month of January was productive with completion of the 2006 bookkeeping and production of reports requested by Franklin County. He also stated that the financial books have been opened for 2007 and his staff is preparing for the conversion from cash to accrual accounting methods.

Human Resources:

Ms. Burchfield noted that Franklin County has invited Metro Parks to participate in the County Benefits Committee. Participation on this committee should help us to be aware of, and prepare for, changes in employee benefits that may occur.

Wetland Mitigation Bank

Mr. O'Meara outlined a proposal from the Ohio Wetland Foundation to establish a mitigation bank of upland forested wetlands on 100 acres of park property located at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park. There is a current need from public agencies and private land developers who need to offset wetland disturbance on their sites through purchase of wetland credits. Mr. O'Meara also stated that if an agreement can be reached, then the Ohio Wetland Foundation would pay Metro Parks \$400,000 for the first 34 acres of mitigation credits and \$16,820 for each additional credit that is sold at the site.

Mr. O'Meara introduced Vince Messerly of the Ohio Wetland Foundation who answered questions and stated that engineering would begin this spring with construction beginning late fall 2007.

Special Park District Forum

Mr. O'Meara mentioned the upcoming Special Park District Forum hosted by Metro Parks June 5-8, 2007. He also asked the Board if they would like to host a park board reception during the event. It was agreed that a reception would be scheduled before dinner on Thursday, June 7, 2007.

Compensation Review

Mr. O'Meara stated that Metro Parks would like to proceed with a compensation review in 2007. It has been five years since our last compensation review. Ms. Burchfield explained the process and stated that Jeanette Murphy, an independent consultant, will be conducting the assessment. After a short discussion, the board granted permission to proceed with the compensation review.

Resolutions

#4710 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FROM VENDORS IN AN AMOUNT EXCEEDING \$15,000 FOR 2006 AND 2007
The Board authorized the expenditure of funds necessary to purchase goods and services from the listed vendors up to the amount listed by each vendor.

#4711 AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF AUDIT FEES TO THE TREASURER OF THE STATE OF OHIO FOR THE SERVICES OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES SECTION OF THE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR OF STATE

The Board authorized the expenditure of funds necessary to pay the required fees in the amount not to exceed \$15,000.

- #4712 AUTHORIZATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION PURCHASING PROGRAM
The Board authorized the Executive Director to purchase goods through the General Services Administration Purchasing Program, or through the solicitation of competitive bids, whichever method is to the benefit of Metro Parks.
- #4713 AUTHORIZING THE GRANT OF A NATURAL GAS EASEMENT ON PARK PROPERTY LOCATED IN UNION COUNTY AND AFFILIATED WITH GLACIER RIDGE METRO PARK
The Board authorized the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Columbia Gas for an easement at Glacier Ridge Metro Parks for a negotiated price of \$6,838.
- #4714 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WITH PAUL WERTH ASSOCIATES TO REDIRECT CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE METRO PARKS MESSAGE AND MEDIA STRATEGIES
The Board authorized the Executive Director to enter into contract for services on implementing Metro Parks communication strategies in the amount of \$72,500.
- #4715 AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES FOR WHITTIER METRO PARK
The Board authorized the Executive Director to enter into contract with Kinzelman Kline Gossman for design services at Whittier Metro Park for \$45,000.
- #4716 AUTHORIZING PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE BLACKLICK CREEK GREENWAY CROSSING US 33 AND BLACKLICK CREEK
The Board authorized the Executive Director to enter into contract with ME Companies, Inc. for engineering services along the Blacklick Creek Greenway at US 33 for \$31,238.
- #4717 AUTHORIZATION ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO CONSTRUCT PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCE IMPROVEMENT AT INNISWOOD METRO GARDENS
The Board authorized the Executive Director to enter into contract with Shaw and Holter, Inc. for construction of improvements at Inniswood Metro Gardens in the amount of \$148,333.
- #4718 AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF RECYCLED PLASTIC SIGN MATERIAL
The Board authorized the Executive Director to enter into contract with Piedmont Plastics, Inc. for the purchase of sign material in the amount of \$24,990.

#4719 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO WETLAND FOUNDATION TO ESTABLISH A WETLAND MITIGATION BANK AT BATTELLE DARBY METRO PARK
The Board authorized the Executive Director to enter into contract with the Ohio Wetland Foundation for engineering and construction of a wetland mitigation bank.

Public Comment

None.

Executive Session

Ms. Tripp moved to enter into executive session at 4:58 p.m. for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and litigation. Mr. Jeffrey seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Danter	Yes
Ms. Tripp	Yes
Mr. Jeffrey	Yes

The Board returned from executive session at 5:30 p.m.

Resolution:

#4720 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE OWNED BY DAVID L. ANGEL AND CONNIE G. ANGEL LOCATED IN FRANKLIN COUNTY
The Board authorized the Director to enter into a contract to purchase 78.469 acres in Pleasant Township, Franklin County for \$314,000 plus environmental, survey and closing costs.

In addition to approving the resolution, the Board authorized the Director to bid for the property at auction if Metro Parks was unable to acquire the Angel property with the purchase agreement.

The meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. O'Meara, Executive Director

Approved by the Board of Park Commissioners:

Ken Danter, Chair