

Minutes of the 706th meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District held on Tuesday, January 9, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. at Glacier Ridge Metro Park, Maintenance Center.

Present

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

Staff: Mr. O'Meara, Mr. Peck, Ms. Burchfield, Mr. Ruff, Mr. Studenmund, Ms. Hanley, Ms. Gebbie, Mr. Heisey, Ms. Lynch, Ms. Sudman, Mr. Pachan, and Ms. Simpson.

Legal Counsel: Mr. Franzmann

Ms. Tripp 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.

Election of Officers

Ms. Tripp relinquished the Chair to Mr. O'Meara. Mr. O'Meara asked for nominations for Chair for 2007. Mr. Jeffrey nominated Mr. Danter. The nomination was seconded by Ms. Tripp. Mr. Danter was elected to serve as Chair for 2007.

Minutes of the December 12, 2006 Meeting of the Board

Mr. Jeffrey made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2006 meeting. Ms. Tripp seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion.

Disbursement Resolution

The Board asked for clarification of a few items. Ms. Tripp moved for approval of the Disbursement Resolution authorizing payment of the December 2006 invoices. Mr. Jeffrey seconded the motion and the Board approved the resolution. A copy of Resolution No. 4700 is attached to these minutes as part hereof.

Staff Reports

Administration:

Mr. O'Meara highlighted the fact that Metro Parks had reached a milestone with six million in visitor attendance for 2006, which is a 12% increase over 2005. He also shared that the traffic light at the entrance to Highbanks Metro Park is working smoothly. There has been recent phone trouble affecting the District Office.

Mr. O'Meara stated that he met with representatives of the Columbus Zoo concerning a possible Metro Parks' financial commitment towards creating a major exhibit at the Zoo about Big Darby Creek. He also mentioned that the Governor approved the state capital appropriations budget that included a \$2,000,000 appropriation for Metro Parks to spend on the Ohio to Erie Trail.

Mr. O'Meara informed the Board that our attorney is taking the lead on preparing an amicus brief to the State Supreme Court. This is on behalf of Metro Parks and other park districts in the state that support an appellate court ruling upholding limitations of the adverse possession law as it affects government agencies. A lawsuit has been filed in northwest Ohio challenging a park district's ownership of a trail corridor.

Mr. O'Meara also discussed the new Strategic Planning and Land Acquisition Manager staff position. The Board approved the creation of this position.

Mr. O'Meara mentioned his discussions with Audubon Ohio and others concerning the name of Whittier Metro Park. After a short discussion, Mr. O'Meara suggested on having a marketing committee established with the City of Columbus, Audubon, Grange Insurance and Metro Parks provide recommendations of potential new names for the park.

Design and Visitor Services:

Mr. Peck introduced park manager Mike Heisey, who introduced his staff.

Mr. Peck stated that construction has begun on the parking lot and site improvements at the windmill site of Glacier Ridge.

Mr. Peck mentioned the completion of the first Winter Hike at Blacklick Woods Metro Park, with attendance of over 550 visitors. The hike offered both guided and unguided opportunities, which have become very popular. He also thanked Ms. Hanley for the recent advertisements of the hiking series.

Mr. Peck stated that work is progressing well at Whittier Metro Park, with the deck and other improvements near the boat ramp progressing well. A pre-construction meeting will be held this week on the next phase that includes wildlife observation and fishing decks.

Mr. Peck informed the Board that Metro Parks has received a right-of-way permit from Ohio Department of Transportation to resume work on the Alum Creek Trail Phase 2, south of Petzinger Road.

Mr. Peck mentioned the recent news of the City of Columbus being rated as one of the top four cities in the country deemed most prepared for their ability to communicate during a disaster, according to a new report by the Department of Homeland Security. Metro Parks' ability to communicate through their radio network with the City of Columbus during the Red, White & Boom event in July was very successful and part of the evaluation process.

Finance:

Mr. Ruff said the month of December was typically busy with closing the financial books, and he noted that we would end the year with \$2,000,000 surplus revenue over expenses. This is mainly due to limited land acquisition activity. He also stated that this offset the \$2,800,000 budget deficit that had been projected for 2006.

Mr. Ruff informed the Board that the golf course had a good month of December, with a 500% increase in revenue over 2005, attributable to the unseasonably warm weather.

The Board asked Mr. Ruff about the credit card purchases that are included in the total figure allocated to National City Bank in Resolution #4702. The Board asked for a breakdown of these purchases to delineate the vendors rather than listing only the purchase card provider. Staff promised to provide a summary of the transactions by vendors for the Board.

Human Resources:

Ms. Burchfield noted the recent holiday activities for employees were well attended. Breakfast with Santa at Inniswood had 175 in attendance and 200 attended the holiday

dinner. Ms. Burchfield also noted the filling of various positions.

Resolutions

#4701 REQUESTING TAX ADVANCES FROM FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Board authorized the Executive Director to request the County Auditor and County Treasurer to make tax advances in 2007 to the Park District as authorized by Section 321.34 of the Ohio Revised Code.

#4702 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF OVER \$15,000 IN GOODS AND SERVICES FROM SPECIFIC VENDORS DURING 2007

The Board authorized expenditure of funds necessary to purchase services from the listed vendors up to the amounts indicated for each vendor.

#4703 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FROM VENDORS IN AN AMOUNT EXCEEDING \$15,000 FROM 2006

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

#4704 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT AND ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT FROM MULTIPLE CREWS AND LOCATIONS

The Board authorized the Executive Director to purchase the items listed through the Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program, or through the solicitation of competitive bids, whichever method is to the benefit of Metro Parks.

#4705 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF PROMOTIONAL COVERAGE SERVICES FROM THE DISPATCH MARKETING GROUP

The Board authorized an appropriation of \$369,250 to purchase services from The Dispatch Marketing Group.

#4706 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FROM VECTRA PRINTING AND MAILING OF THE *PARKSCOPE* MAGAZINE

The Board authorized the Executive Director to enter into a contract for the purchase goods and services for \$198,199 from Vectra Printing.

#4707 AUTHORIZING PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE BLACKLICK CREEK GREENWAY TRAIL AND THE INTERSTATE 70 UNDERPASS

The Board authorized the Director to enter into a contract with Evans, Mechwart, Hambleton & Tilton, Inc. to engineer the work for \$29,980 plus other changes deemed necessary for the satisfactory completion of the project.

#4708 AUTHORIZING THE DESIGNATION OF SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY L.L.P. AS PARK ATTORNEY

The Board designated Christopher Franzmann and the firm of Squire, Sanders & Dempsey as the Park District's attorney; and authorized Mr. Franzmann and Squire, Sanders & Dempsey to manage the legal affairs of Metro Parks at the rate of up to \$240.00 per hour for Partners and up to \$200.00 per hour for Associates.

Public Comment

None.

Executive Session

Mr. Danter moved to enter into executive session at 4:50 p.m. for the purpose of discussing land acquisition. 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 5:55 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. O'Meara, Executive Director

Approved by the Board of Park Commissioners:

Ken Danter, Chair