

Minutes of the 713th meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District held on Tuesday, July 10, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. at the Chestnut Ridge Metro Park Maintenance Building.

Present

Commissioners: Ms. Tripp, Mr. Danter

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

Legal Counsel: Mr. Franzmann

Guest: Ms. Litt

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 June 12, 2007 Meeting of the Board

Ms. Tripp made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2007 meeting. Mr. Danter 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 May 2007 invoices. Mr. Danter seconded the motion and the Board approved the resolution. A copy of Resolution No. 4744 is attached to these minutes as part hereof.

Staff Reports

Administration:

Mr. O'Meara stated that the Special Park District Forum went very well. He mentioned many positive comments were received by attendees on how well the Forum was conducted and how professionally our staff performed their duties.

Mr. O'Meara stated that changes are occurring at the Scioto Audubon Metro Park. He added that the City of Columbus is reviewing options for the redevelopment area adjacent to the park. The City of Columbus is currently studying the feasibility of a nine-hole golf course. The proposed golf course has raised additional questions concerning: utilities, vehicular access, storm water runoff and other impacts on our park plans.

Mr. O'Meara stated that the proposed new park development agreement with the Village of New Albany, Plain Township, City of Columbus and Metro Parks is being actively negotiated. The parties are hoping to sign the agreement within a couple of months.

Mr. O'Meara stated that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Natural Resource, the Columbus Zoo and Metro Parks have released northern riffle shell mussels into Big Darby Creek. Northern riffle shells are a federally endangered species, and Big Darby Creek is one of the few locations where this rare specie can still be found. These mussels were utilized at the Zoo's breeding operations and placed at

various locations in Big Darby Creek within Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park.

Design and Visitor Services:

Mr. Peck mentioned that the Month of June was extremely busy, and that the SEED Program has been very popular with schools in central Ohio. Four districts, 42 schools, 104 teachers and over 3,000 children will be part of the program starting this fall. The demand is very high and we are unable to add more students with current staff.

Mr. Peck also stated that good progress is being made with many of the Capital Improvement Projects. All three greenway trail projects: Blacklick Creek, Alum Creek and Darby Creek are progressing. The tree fort at Inniswood Metro Park has been installed. The Big Bugs exhibit is being installed this week with the official opening on July 13th.

Mr. Peck stated that Metro Parks' Urban Youth Initiative is going very well. Seventeen high school age youth are working with staff at numerous parks on a variety of projects. He also mentioned that the Red, White and Boom event at the Scioto Audubon Metro Park continued to be very popular this year with an estimated crowd of over 7,000 visitors.

Finance:

Mr. Ruff stated that the finances continue to be stable. Both revenues and expenditures are within budget. The 2008 Preliminary Budget was discussed and a related resolution will be considered later in the meeting. The golf course continues to show good progress.

Mr. Ruff advised the Board that he submitted a budget revision to the Franklin County Budget Commission that reduced our 2007 budget appropriation for Fund 29, which is used for capital improvements and land acquisition. The appropriation reduction was necessary due to overestimating the funds that would be available in 2007 during the budget approval process in November 2006.

Name for Metro Park on Whittier Peninsula

The Board discussed using 'Scioto Audubon Metro Park' as the new name for the park located on the Whittier Peninsula. Ms. Tripp made a motion to approve the name. Mr. Danter seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion.

Resolutions

#4745 ADOPTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2008 PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND DIRECTING ITS SUBMISSION TO THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BUDGET COMMISSION

The Board adopted the preliminary Metro Parks budget for 2008 for Funds 27, 28, 29, and 30 and the fiduciary funds and approved its submission to the Franklin County Budget Commission.

#4746 AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF CHANGE ORDER WITH SHAW & HOLTER, INC. FOR WORK IN THE METRO PARK ON THE WHITTIER PENINSULA

The Board authorized the Executive Director to approve a Change Order with Shaw & Holter, Inc. in the amount of \$29,282.

#4747 AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE METRO PARK ON THE WHITTIER PENINSULA

The Board authorized the Executive Director to enter into contract with Kinzelman, Kline, Gossman for design services in the amount of \$48,000.

#4748 AUTHORIZING MAKING A DEPOSIT AND PURCHASING REAL ESTATE OWNED BY THE ESTATE OF FANNIE L. SHAFER LOCATED IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

The Board rejected this resolution.

#4749 AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE CLEAN OHIO FUND

The Board authorized the Executive Director to submit an application to the Clean Ohio Fund for the Walker Amity LLC property located at Prairie Oaks Metro Park.

#4750 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE OWNED BY WALKER AMITY LLC LOCATED IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

The Board authorized the Director to enter into a contract to purchase 131.821 acres adjacent to Prairie Oaks Metro Park in Franklin County for \$12,000 per acre, plus other miscellaneous closing costs for a total estimated cost of \$1,592,000 contingent on Metro Parks being awarded a Clean Ohio Fund grant.

Public Comment

None.

Executive Session

Ms. Tripp moved to enter into executive session at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing litigation and land acquisition. Mr. Danter seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Danter	Yes
Ms. Tripp	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