

Minutes of the 850th meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District held on January 10, 2017, 4:00 p.m. at Scioto Audubon Metro Park, Main Office Complex, 400 W. Whittier Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Present

Commissioners: Mr. McGregor, Mr. Lashutka.

Staff: Mr. Moloney, Mr. Peck, Ms. Telfer, Mr. Ruff, Ms. Sangale, Mr. Studenmund, Mr. Yablonski, Mr. Kaderly, Scioto Audubon staff members, Greenways staff members.

Legal Counsel: Mr. Tom Kibby

Guests: Ann and Bob Litt

Mr. Lashutka 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. Mr. Moloney responded that yes, all of those requirements and rules have been met.

Minutes of the December 13th 2016 Board Meeting

Mr. Lashutka made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 13th, 2016 Board Meeting. Mr. McGregor seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion.

Disbursement Resolution

Mr. Lashutka moved for approval of the Disbursement Resolution authorizing payment of the December 2016 invoices. Mr. McGregor seconded the motion and the Board approved the resolution. A copy of Resolution No. 5624 is attached to these minutes as a part hereof.

New Board Chair Elected

A motion was made to elect Greg Lashutka the new Chairman of the Metro Parks Board. The motion was accepted. Another motion was made to elect Jim McGregor vice chairman. This motion was also accepted.

Staff Reports

Administration

Mr. Moloney discussed 2016 Metro Parks attendance numbers. Mr. Moloney stated that the Metro Parks had over 10 million visitors in 2016, partially due to opening 3 new parks, 34 new or improved special events, increases in our programming, and Pokémon Go.

Mr. Moloney stated the first annual State of the Metro Parks Volunteer Recognition event was a success. The event was held on Sunday January 8th 2017 and there were approximately 200 people in attendance. The Metro Parks first volunteer of the year award winner was Barbara Merritt.

Mr. Moloney reported that Metro Parks closed on 30 acres of critical wetland adjacent to the Morgan Wetland project at Prairie Oaks. He also stated he is working with the State Legislature to have a significant portion of the Big Darby dedicated, through easement, as a preservation corridor.

Mr. Moloney said he began the final documentation of easements and permission for the Cleveland Ave/Schrock Road intersection improvements adjacent to Sharon Woods. He has also continued ongoing discussions with Columbus Recreation and Parks on potential joint projects (eg. Pickerington Ponds).

Design and Visitor Services:

Mr. Peck introduced the Scioto Audubon Metro Park Staff. He stated the Scioto Audubon Staff had been combined with the Greenways staff under a single park manager in 2016.

Mr. Peck reported that an updated Greenways Memorandum of Understanding is in process with the City of Columbus Recreation and Parks Department.

Mr. Peck also gave an update on the construction and occupancy of the maintenance buildings at Battelle Darby and Scioto Grove Metro Parks. Mr. Peck anticipates that the Multi-Purpose Building at Scioto Grove Metro Park will be completed in the May 2017 timeframe.

Finance:

Mr. Ruff stated expenditures for the year are at the expected level. All categories were below budget, but the true picture of how well expenditures were controlled was that total actual expenditures for operations only grew 2.5% over 2015 actual expenditures.

Human Resources:

Ms. Telfer discussed biometrics screening sessions, which will be offered to the metro parks staff in March and April of 2017. The Board informed Ms. Telfer that they like the biometric screening opportunity for employees and they also like the incentives that are offered to employees to participate.

Ms. Telfer stated negotiations between Metro Parks and the FOP/OLC, the representative of the full-time Park Rangers will begin in January. The current labor agreement expires on January 31, 2017. It is the intent of Metro Parks to conclude negotiations by the end of January and provide a tentatively agreed upon Agreement to the Board of Park Commissioners at the February Board meeting.

Ms. Telfer also reported that Metro Parks received 115 applications for the Customer Service Manager job posting and 69 applications for the Camp & Special Events Coordinator. January will be spent conducting interviews with a goal of having both positions filled in early February.

Other Business

Mr. Moloney requested that the date of the February board meeting be changed from Feb 14th, 2017 to Feb 15th 2017. This request was accepted by the board, with instructions for proper notice to be given to the public and staff.

Resolutions:

#5625 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

The board agreed to authorize the purchase of vehicles and equipment

#5626 AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL OF STRUCTURES AND DEBRIS FROM PARK PROPERTY

The board agreed to authorize the removal of structures and debris from park property

#5627 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF OVER \$50,000 IN GOODS AND SERVICES FROM SPECIFIC VENDORS DURING 2017

The board agreed to authorize the purchase of over \$50,000 in goods and services from specific vendors during 2017

#5628 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FROM VENDORS IN AN AMOUNT EXCEEDING \$50,000 FOR 2016

The board agreed to authorize the purchase of goods and services from vendors in an amount exceeding \$50,000 for 2016

#5629 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF PROMOTIONAL SERVICES FROM THE DISPATCH PRINTING COMPANY

The board agreed to authorize the purchase of promotional services from the Dispatch Printing Company

Public Comment

Ann Litt had a discussion with Mr. Peck about verbal warnings and citations in the park district. Ms. Litt also thanked staff members Andia Sangale and Steve Studenmund for updates on board minutes and board meeting locations.

Ms. Litt also thanked Mr. Peck for taking time to explain Metro Parks' policy to a park visitor who was concerned about being banned from the Metro Parks.

Finally Ms. Litt said thank you to Metro Parks for the volunteer recognition event, which was very impressive and very much appreciated.

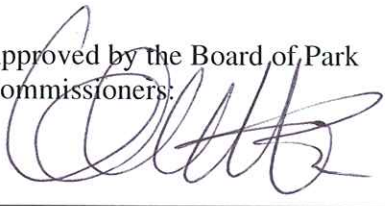
Executive Session

None

Respectfully submitted,



Tim Moloney, Executive Director

Approved by the Board of Park
Commissioners:


Greg Lashutka, Chair