

Minutes of the 898<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District, held on October 20, 2020, 3:00 p.m. at Prairie Oaks Metro Park, Park Office, 3225 NE Plain City-Georgesville Road, West Jefferson, Ohio 43162

**Present**

Commissioners: Mr. Hadden, Mr. McCue

Staff: Mr. Moloney, Mr. McGivern, Mr. Peck, Mrs. Telfer, Mr. Studenmund, Mrs. Boniface, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Bosworth

Legal Counsel: Mr. Franzmann

Guests: Mr. Ferenchik

Mr. Moloney asked for a motion to appoint an acting chair in Mr. McGregor's absence. Mr. McCue made a motion to appoint Mr. Hadden as acting chair. Mr. Hadden seconded the motion and the Board approved the appointment.

Mr. Hadden asked if all of the notice requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code and the rules of the Board regarding open meetings had been met. Mr. Moloney confirmed that all of those requirements and rules had been met.

**Minutes of the September 15, 2020 Board Meeting and October 5, 2020 Special Board Meeting**

Mr. McCue made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2020 Board Meeting and the October 5, 2020 Special Board Meeting. Mr. Hadden seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion.

**Public Comment:** None

**Disbursement Resolution September 2020**

Mr. McCue moved for the approval of the Disbursement Resolution for the September 2020 invoices. Mr. Hadden seconded the motion and the Board approved the resolution. A copy of Resolution No. 5862 is attached to these minutes as part hereof.

**Staff Reports**

**Administration**

Mr. Moloney thanked staff for their dedication in meeting the needs, wants and desires of the public. The parks look great as attendance continues to be 30% over last year's numbers. Operationally, staff continues to provide excellent service during the pandemic while balancing family life with different work schedules.

Mr. Moloney mentioned that he is working with the Director of Recreation and Parks Department, City of Columbus in reviewing joint projects where resources could be shared through a variety of partnerships with all city departments.

Mr. Moloney stated that coordination continues with MORPC and Franklin County relating to future growth in Central Ohio. Planned growth corridors are being outlined in an effort to plan future transportation and city service needs, in addition to future park opportunities.

He also stated that he continues to work with the City of Columbus on several partnership opportunities that will increase opportunities and efficiencies for our residents.

### **Operations**

Mr. Peck introduced Tom Cochran, Manager of Prairie Oaks and Jen Boniface, Manager for Park Operations. Both have served in different functions during the pandemic and are excellent managers.

Mr. Peck stated that Scioto Fest had successfully completed at Scioto Audubon Metro Park last weekend. This was the first special event held by the district since the beginning of the pandemic. Advanced registration was required for all participants. Activities included movies, lessons on the climbing wall, kayaking on the Scioto River, food vendors, children's activities and overnight camping.

Mr. Peck mentioned that the Olentangy Reemployment Program is into its second week. Six new employees are making great progress on removing invasives, opening views and access to the Olentangy River from the Olentangy Greenway Trail. Trail users have thanked staff for their efforts.

Mr. Peck shared updates on several projects. Several projects at Quarry Trails are progressing well with the single track mountain bike course close to completion. The golf course multipurpose building is being painted and the Blacklick Woods new treehouse structure is working through the design process.

The Board expressed their gratitude and thanked staff for its leadership in this difficult time.

### **Finance**

Mr. McGivern mentioned that staff has completed the initial budget requests for 2021 and have advanced all initial requests to the subsequent stages of managerial review. He stated that the Information Technology staff remains busy facilitating remote access for employees working from home.

### **Human Resources**

Mrs. Telfer shared that she was recently notified by Franklin County that there will be no increase in insurance premiums for the park district nor the employee.

Mrs. Telfer also mentioned that today there is a resolution to appoint two new park rangers. In addition, four new candidates have been identified for the next police academy.

Mrs. Telfer stated that the annual Breakfast with Santa program will take on a different approach. Given the social distancing requirement, no in-person activities will take place this year, but rather each employee who registers will receive activities and gifts from Santa.

**Other Business.**

None

**Resolutions:**

- #5863 APPOINTMENT OF PARK RANGERS  
The Board designated Samuel G. Auricchio and Robert N. Rountree as Park Rangers.
- #5864 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FOR REFORESTATION PLANTINGS AT BATTELLE DARBY CREEK AND SCIOTO GROVE METRO PARKS  
The Board authorized the Executive Director to enter into contract with Williams Forestry & Associates for reforestation plantings in the amount of \$200,000.
- #5865 AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A CHANGE ORDER WITH FACEMYER COMPANY AT QUARRY TRAILS METRO PARK  
The Board authorized the Executive Director to execute a change order with Facemyer Company in the amount of \$312,556.16.
- #5866 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE AND ACCEPTING A DONATION OF REAL ESTATE OWNED BY THE NATURE CONSERVANCY FOR PARK LAND AT BATTELLE DARBY CREEK METRO PARKS  
The Board authorized the Executive Director to purchase property and accept a donation of property from the Nature Conservancy in the amount of \$305,000.
- #5867 AUTHORIZING ACCEPTING A TRAIL EASEMENT FROM ANNEHURST VILLAGE RESIDENT'S ASSOCIATION AT SHARON WOODS METRO PARK  
The Board authorized the Executive Director to accept a trail easement from Annehurst Village Resident's Association.

The meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by the Board of Park  
Commissioners:

  
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Tim Moloney, Executive Director

  
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Acting Chair