

Minutes of the 899<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District, held on November 17, 2020 at Eagleview Lodge, Blacklick Woods Golf Course, 7309 E Livingston Avenue, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068.

**Present**

Commissioners: Mr. Hadden, Mr. McGregor, Mr. McCue

Staff: Mr. Moloney, Mr. McGivern, Mr. Peck, Ms. Telfer, Mr. Studenmund, Ms. Hanley, Mr. Hall, Mr. Towle, Ms. Ingram, Mr. Simon

Legal Counsel: Mr. Franzmann

Guests: Ms. McGregor

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 October 20, 2020 Board Meeting**

Mr. McCue made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2020 Board Meeting. Mr. Hadden seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion.

**Public Comment:** None

**Disbursement Resolution #5868**

Mr. McGregor moved for the approval of the Disbursement Resolution for the October 2020 invoices. Mr. Moloney and Mr. Peck clarified that the disbursement of funds for a wallpaper renovation was for historically-accurate wallpaper for a room at the Slate Run Living Historical Farmhouse. Mr. Hadden seconded the motion and the Board approved the resolution. Mr. McCue abstained. A copy of Resolution No. 5859 is attached to these minutes as part hereof.

**Staff Reports**

**Administration**

Mr. Moloney stated that the parks continue to be very busy with and are averaging a 30% increase in visitation. A new mask mandate went into effect in all parks on Monday, November 16, 2020. Most parks are now offering small, pre-registration programs to interested visitors.

Mr. Moloney said that site development at Quarry Trails is continuing well. The single-track mountain bike course is 90% complete. Mr. Moloney stated that this mountain bike course is one of a kind in Franklin County and will appeal to a new set of users.

Mr. Moloney provided an update on Social Media: The Social Media team has begun to transition back towards promoting Metro Parks events, programs, parks and features.

Mr. Moloney also stated that Friends of Metro Parks is in a holding pattern, having recently confirmed a new Director and being largely unable to host traditional events. Friends of Metro Parks did host two popular tours of Quarry Trails Metro Park, both of which sold out.

### **Operations**

Mr. Peck introduced the staff in attendance at the meeting and reintroduced Mr. Joshua Simon, the Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator for Metro Parks.

Mr. Simon introduced his own staff to the Board and described their progress on the Olentangy Restoration project. Mr. Simon and his staff have been working on eight-week rotations, with other members of Metro Parks, to clear invasive species on the Olentangy Greenway Trail. He further described the program's positive effects in job training and introducing participants to the field of natural resource management.

Mr. Simon's staff spoke individually of their experiences in the program.

Mr. Peck provided an update on the new Treehouse Project at Blacklick Woods Metro Park. Currently the project is in progress, with the latest development being negotiations over a fire suppression system.

Deer management within the parks is nearly complete and Mr. Peck expects the 2020 program to conclude over the next week.

Mr. Peck also provided further information on Metro Parks' COVID-19 response. Metro Parks' overall goal is to keep the parks open and both visitors and employees safe. To best help slow the spread and remain open, Mr. Peck as Incident Commander authorized a district-wide mask order for all employees and visitors to the parks. The district remains in Incident Command Management and is monitoring the situation.

### **Finance**

Mr. McGivern stated that budget requests have been submitted. He and his staff are examining various factors and pulling reports to assess Metro Parks' overall financial health as the COVID-19 situation continues. He plans to provide the Board with revenue and expenditure reports at the annual budget meeting.

Mr. McGivern also mentioned that revenues for the Blacklick Woods Golf Course are down for the year. The Golf Course was closed for 45 days in March and April, costing the course those rounds, and the Course's two event facilities have been closed since mid-March.

### **Human Resources**

Ms. Telfer informed the board that arbitration for an employee discipline matter had occurred and that arbitration results are expected in December. She stated that

employee Open Enrollment is currently open and ongoing and that this year, Metro Parks employees will not see changes to their premiums or to their coverage.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Moloney spoke to the Board about an email sent to members of the Board by a representative of a solar company regarding a proposed solar energy farm adjacent to a Metro Parks property near Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park. In the email, the representative offered the Board several options for easements or other solutions that would allow the solar company to build their farm.

Mr. Moloney stated that he did not know why the representative emailed the Board directly and that they had not done so on Mr. Moloney or any other Metro Parks employee's behalf. Mr. Moloney feels that the representative misrepresented Metro Parks' interest in the solar project to other parties involved.

Mr. Moloney is concerned primarily with Metro Parks' property rights on the land and wishes to honor the covenant the property is under with Clean Ohio, who provided funds for the site's acquisition. Mr. Moloney does not want Metro Parks to jeopardize relationships between Metro Parks and the Ohio Public Works Commission, the local Natural Resource Assistance Council or Clean Ohio.

### **Resolutions:**

#5869 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FOR RESTORATION IMPROVEMENTS OF CLEAR CREEK AT CLEAR CREEK METRO PARK

The Board approved authorized the Executive Director to enter into contract with Haynes Construction in the amount of \$762,975 for improvements at Clear Creek Metro Park.

#5870 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FOR AN OVERLOOK DECK AND PARKING AREA AT QUARRY TRAILS METRO PARK

The Board authorized the Executive Director to enter into contract with Sheckler Excavating Inc. in the amount of \$413,179.10 for site improvements at Quarry Trails Metro Park.

### **Other Comments:**

None

### **Executive Session**

Mr. Hadden moved to enter into executive session at 3:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a complaint against an employee of the Park District.

Mr. Hadden	Yes
Mr. McGregor	Yes
Mr. McCue	Yes

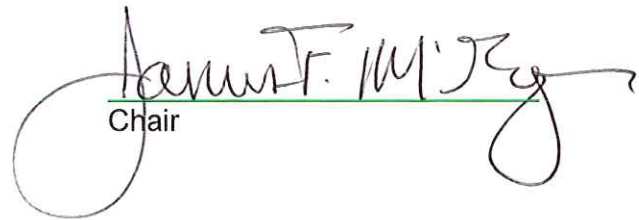
The Board returned from executive session at 3:47 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by the Board of Park  
Commissioners:

  
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Tim Moloney, Executive Director

  
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Chair