

Minutes of the 901st meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District, held on January 19, 2021 at the Grange Audubon Insurance Center, Scioto Audubon Metro Park, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Present

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

Staff: Mr. Moloney, Mr. McGivern, Mr. Peck, Mrs. Telfer, Mr. Studenmund, Ms. Ingram, Mr. White, Mr. Brewer, Mr. Schantz, Mr. Yablonski, Mrs. Boniface

Legal Counsel: Mr. Franzmann

Guests: Ms. Leanne Miller

Mr. McGregor 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.

Election of Officers

Mr. McGregor opened the meeting for the election of officers for 2021. Mr. Hadden nominated Mr. McCue as Chairman of the Board. Mr. McGregor seconded his nomination and Mr. McCue was named Chairman of the Board for 2021.

Special Recognition

A special recognition ceremony planned for this meeting has been moved to March 16, 2021.

Auditor's Award

Mr. McGivern updated the Board on an award received by Metro Parks' Finance Department. The Auditor's Office of the State of Ohio presented Metro Parks with an award recognizing Metro Parks' exemplary compliance with the Auditor's Office and its rules. Mr. McCue congratulated the Finance Department and gave credit to the hard work of Mr. McGivern and his staff. The award has been posted on Metro Parks' website.

Minutes of the December 7, 2020 Budget Meeting

Mr. McGregor made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2020 Budget Meeting. Mr. Hadden seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Minutes of the December 15, 2020 Board Meeting

Mr. McGregor made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2020 Board Meeting. Mr. Hadden seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Public Comment: None

Disbursement Resolution #5877

Mr. Hadden moved for the approval of the Disbursement Resolution for the December 2020 invoices. Mr. McCue seconded the motion and the Board approved the resolution. A copy of Resolution No. 5877 is attached to these minutes as part hereof.

Staff Reports

Administration

Mr. Moloney updated the Board on Metro Parks' final 2020 attendance numbers. Over 14.2 million visitors came to the parks in 2020, up over 30% from 2019. December 2020 saw an increase of 40% in visitor traffic.

Park staff continues to operate in pods to minimize the spread of Covid-19 among staff. Mr. Moloney recognized and thanked park staff for their hard work and effort in a challenging year.

Mr. Moloney introduced the Board to Leanne Miller, the new Director of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, which is in partnership with Scioto Audubon Metro Park. He also updated the Board on two major projects that are anticipated to impact Scioto Audubon in the next few years. The Ohio Department of Transportation I-70/I-71 project will have major impacts on the park. Metro Parks is working with ODOT to determine what those impacts will be. The current plan is to close and relocate Scioto Audubon's dog park to allow ODOT access to I-70/71. Temporary closures of the Greenway trails out of Scioto Audubon are also being discussed.

The Zimmer development immediately adjacent to Scioto Audubon will also impact the park. Zimmer currently plans to have a 100% site buildout, including a 30-story building. Mr. Moloney and Operations staff continues to negotiate with Zimmer to determine potential impacts to the park.

Operations

Mr. Peck introduced Scioto Audubon's manager, DJ White, who in turn introduced the Board to other members of his staff; Assistant Managers Nick Brewer and Kevin Schantz, Park Technician David Johnson, and GIAC Director Leanne Miller. Ms. Miller spoke briefly about how helpful Scioto Audubon's staff had been during her onboarding as GIAC Director and expressed excitement about continuing to work with park staff to develop and grow the GIAC. Mr. White updated the Board on several projects at Scioto Audubon, including invasive species removal, assistance in developing Quarry Trails Metro Park, logging over 7,000 miles on Greenway Trails patrol and managing high attendance throughout the year.

Mr. Peck further updated the Board on Metro Parks' management of pandemic impacts. Park staff will remain in pods at least through February. More employees have tested

positive for Covid-19, but Metro Parks has not had to close any parks due to staff outbreaks. HR continues to manage employee self-reporting.

Attendance in the parks for January 2021 is still elevated. Mr. Peck anticipates another busy year for the District. A modified Winter Hikes program is ongoing, with several considerations in place to make this annual event socially-distant and safe for visitors. Operations staff has received positive feedback from visitors regarding the Winter Hikes this year.

Over 7,000 inquiries were made to and answered by the Metro Parks Infoline email, which has been Metro Parks' primary method of responding to visitors during the pandemic, as nature centers and front offices have been closed since March.

Mr. Peck also updated the Board on vehicle break-ins within the District; Metro Parks saw 99 car break-ins during 2020, most connected to an organized group out of Florida. Other areas of Columbus have also been targeted. Metro Parks is working with other law enforcement agencies to address this issue.

Lastly, Mr. Peck shared two Resource Management projects with the Board; the wetlands at Scioto Audubon have been temporarily drained in an attempt to remove invasive goldfish, and the salamander crossing project at Battelle Darby Creek has been completed. Park staff will be monitoring the crossing to determine its impact on salamander mortality, and if the project is successful at reducing road crossing deaths for salamanders, Mr. Peck will recommend the project to the county engineer for a larger crossing project under Darby Creek Drive.

Finance

Mr. McGivern reported that the annual year-end and year-opening financial procedures are well underway to close out all records from 2020 and prepare the parks for 2021. Mr. McGivern thanked Ms. Lynn Krueger, Payroll Specialist, and Ms. Renee Telfer, HR Director, for their work in the early part of 2020 setting up a payroll code to provide employees with Covid-19 leave and pay as part of the CARES Act. Because the infrastructure was in place and Metro Parks was tracking hours underneath the Covid-19 payroll code, Metro Parks received \$145,000 from the CARES Act.

Mr. McGivern also stated that December had three payroll periods.

Human Resources

Ms. Telfer informed the Board that summer recruitment is getting off the ground, with the HR team signed up to attend several virtual job fairs. These fairs will be more

targeted than traditional in-person events, with participants uploading profiles to match them with organizations that might interest them.

Seasonal interviews will be held online.

Other Business

None.

Resolutions

- #5878 AUTHORIZING THE DESIGNATION OF SQUIRE PATTON BOGGS (US) LLP AS METRO PARKS' ATTORNEYS
The Board approved the authorization of Metro Parks' contract with Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP, authorizing the firm to continue as Metro Parks' attorneys.
- #5879 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT
The Board approved the authorization vehicle and equipment purchases for several parks in 2021. Vehicles and equipment range from new patrol trucks to maintenance equipment.
- #5880 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FROM VENDORS IN AN AMOUNT EXCEEDING \$50,000 FOR 2020
The Board approved the authorization of purchasing goods and services over \$50,000 from vendors in 2020, helping the Finance Department close out their 2020 books.
- #5881 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FROM VENDORS IN AN AMOUNT EXCEEDING \$50,000 FOR 2021
The Board approved the authorization of purchasing goods and services over \$50,000 from vendors in 2021, helping the Finance Department prepare for vendors whose goods or services will be over \$50,000.
- #5882 AUTHORIZING GRANT OF SANITARY SEWER EASEMENTS TO THE CITY OF COLUMBUS FOR PROPERTY AT ROCKY FORK METRO PARK
The Board approved the authorization of an easement to the City of Columbus for an subsurface sewer improvement at the western edge of Rocky Fork Metro Park.
- #5883 AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS TO CONSTRUCT PUBLIC USE FACILITIES AT QUARRY TRAILS METRO PARK
The Board approved the authorization of expenditures of funds as the District prepares to build public use facilities at Quarry Trails Metro Park ahead of its anticipated opening. This authorization will allow Metro Parks to purchase materials, labor and other services.

Other Comments:

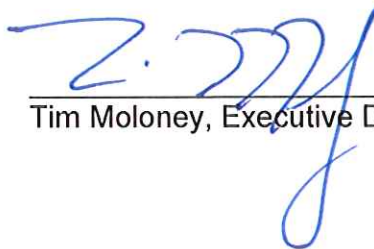
None

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by the Board of Park
Commissioners:



Tim Moloney, Executive Director



Chair