

Minutes of the 906<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District, held on at 3:00pm on June 8, 2021 at the Apple Ridge Picnic Area in Sharon Woods Metro Park, 6911 Cleveland Avenue, Westerville, Ohio 43081.

**Present**

Commissioners: Mr. McCue, Mr. McGregor

Staff: Mr. Moloney, Mr. Peck, Mr. McGivern, Mr. Kasnyick, Ms. Telfer, Mr. Studenmund, Mr. Billow, Ms. Ingram, Mr. Anderson, Ms. Strosnider, Mr. Laughbaum, Ms. McClintok, Mr. Koenig, Ms. Brown, Mr. Santabicca, Mr. Mader, Mr. Yablonski, Mr. Eutsey, Mr. Ramsey, Ms. Jacko, Mr. Simon, Ms. Wolf

Legal Counsel: Mr. Franzmann

Guests: Ms. McGregor, Mr. Mark Ferencik and personal guests of Mr. Anderson, Mr. Eutsey, Mr. Ramsey and Ms. Jacko

Mr. McCue 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. Mr. Moloney advised that a revised agenda had been posted and also met the requirements of Section 121.22.

**Minutes of the May 18, 2021 Board Meeting**

Mr. McGregor made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2021 Board Meeting. Mr. McCue seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

**Public Comment**

None. Mr. McGregor thanked staff for their efforts in opening the new Benua Ruins area at Clear Creek Metro Park, which was toured by the Board and other staff on Monday, June 7, 2021.

**Disbursement Resolution #5915**

Mr. McGregor moved for the approval of the Disbursement Resolution for the May 2021 invoices. Mr. McCue seconded the motion and the Board approved the resolution. A copy of Resolution No. 5915 is attached to these minutes as part hereof.

**Other Business**

Mr. Moloney brought Resolution No. 5916 before the Board and asked them to approve the appointment of four full-time park rangers who had completed their training at the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy. Mr. McGregor moved for the approval of Resolution No. 5916, seconded by Mr. McCue, and the resolution was passed.

Four rangers, Mr. Ethan Anderson, Mr. Clinton Eutsey, Ms. Nicole Jacko and Mr. Dakota Ramsey, were sworn in as Park Rangers and are now fully-commissioned officers. Mr. Moloney thanked all four for their efforts and service to the park district.

### **Staff Reports**

#### **Administration**

Mr. Moloney updated the Board on park operations, now out of Incident Command Management and moving on to later stages of Covid-19 response. Attendance is high and the parks have resumed more normal operations. Naturalist and program staff have expanded programming. Brood X Cicadas are abundant in certain parks and are drawing visitors. Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park has four baby bison, which are also drawing visitors.

Mr. Moloney also shared the results of a large wetland mitigation project at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park; mitigation efforts are complete and Metro Parks has sold the mitigation credits, netting over \$500,000 and over 700 acres of restored wetland habitat for the park district.

Metro Parks has also engaged in discussions with the Zimmer development group that purchased land adjacent to Scioto Audubon Metro Park in 2020. Zimmer has modified its plans and now plans to develop a six-story complex of residential buildings on the site. Efforts are ongoing to assess the impact that this development may have on Scioto Audubon's park operations.

Mr. Moloney also shared more information on the new Benua Ruins area at Clear Creek Metro Park, which is now open to the public. The original house on the Benua property was partially demolished and left as an educational "ruin" to showcase the unique history of the property. Visitors may now explore the ruin and the trail.

#### **Operations**

Mr. Peck provided more operational updates; park attendance is lower than it was in 2020, partly due to May's hot weather and to relaxed restrictions in the State allowing residents to participate in other activities, but is still higher than 2019 attendance, showing an upward trend.

Nature Centers are reopening on a staggered schedule, with all Nature Centers slated to be open to the public by the end of June. Summer Day Camps have enrolled over 1,700 children and will start on Monday, June 14 and run for ten weeks.

The Columbus School Internship (CSI) program is also underway, recruiting from Columbus City Schools. The City of Columbus has cancelled its annual Red, White & Boom celebration, which typically draws several thousand visitors to Scioto Audubon Metro Park.

Development at Quarry Trails Metro Park continues, with contractors, Metro Parks' Roving Crew and other developers on site working on a variety of projects ahead of an anticipated Fall 2021 opening. Several resolutions relating to Quarry Trails projects will be brought before the Board during this meeting.

Lastly, Mr. Peck introduced the Manager of Sharon Woods Metro Park, Mr. Vinnie Billow, who introduced his own staff in attendance and shared Sharon Woods' current projects, including replacing all grills in the park, updating public restrooms and catching up on projects from last year that could not be completed due to Covid-19. Sharon Woods is placing high emphasis on staff development and is providing training opportunities for several of its staff members.

### **Finance**

Mr. McGivern provided updates to the Board on the Finance Department. Metro Parks has prepared its tax budget and preliminary budget for 2022, which will be submitted to the Franklin County Budget Commission (Resolution No. 5917).

Several new employees have been processed through the system and the fiber optic cable conduit project at Blacklick Woods Metro Park is now complete. A bid process to have fiber optics routed and internet provided is underway.

The IT department has consolidated the park district's Amazon Business accounts, which is anticipated to save the district approximately \$10,000 annually.

### **Human Resources**

Ms. Telfer updated the Board on seasonal hiring; Metro Parks, like many other employers in the area, has not been able to fill all of its open seasonal positions, but many have been filled and seasonal employees have been trained and integrated into their park units.

The CSI project has required careful coordination with the Columbus City School District. Ms. Telfer commended the efforts of Mr. Joshua Simon, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator, and Ms. Kelsey Wolf, 2021 DVS/CSI Coordinator.

### **Resolutions**

- #5916** APPOINTMENT OF PARK RANGERS  
Four park rangers were appointed by the Board as fully-commissioned Park Rangers for the district.
- #5917** ADOPTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND DIRECTING ITS SUBMISSION TO THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BUDGET COMMISSION

The Board adopted the preliminary budget for the 2022 fiscal year, allowing the Finance Department to submit the budget to the Franklin County Budget Commission.

- #5918 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF PLAY FEATURES AT QUARRY TRAILS METRO PARK  
The Board authorized the purchase of play equipment for the Basin Area of Quarry Trails Metro Park ahead of its anticipated Fall 2021 opening.
- #5919 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A RESTROOM AND PLAZA AREA AT QUARRY TRAILS METRO PARK  
The Board authorized Metro Parks to enter into a contract to build restroom facilities in the Basin Area of Quarry Trails Metro Park ahead of its anticipated Fall 2021 opening.
- #5920 AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE FOR CONCRETE IMPROVEMENTS AT QUARRY TRAILS METRO PARK  
The Board authorized Metro Parks to purchase concrete improvements and related labor for areas in Quarry Trails Metro Park ahead of its anticipated Fall 2021 opening.
- #5921 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CHANGE ORDER WITH MARK HAYNES CONSTRUCTION INC. AT QUARRY TRAILS METRO PARK  
The Board authorized a change order permitting Mark Haynes Construction Inc. to install a gravel parking lot as an expansion of an existing construction contract.
- #5922 AUTHORIZING THE PARTICIPATION IN THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM  
The Board authorized Metro Parks to participate in the ODOT Cooperative Purchasing Program, which allows Metro Parks greater flexibility in purchasing.

### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by the Board of Park  
Commissioners

  
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Tim Moloney, Executive Director

  
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Chair