

Minutes of the 910<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District, held at 3:02pm on October 19, 2021 at the Park Office, Prairie Oaks Metro Park, 3225 NE Plain City-Georgesville Rd, West Jefferson, OH 43162.

### **Present**

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

Staff: Mr. Moloney, Mr. McGivern, Ms. Telfer, Mr. Studenmund, Mr. Kasnyik, Ms. Knowles, Ms. Bidinger, Mr. Sargeant, Mr. Klever, Ms. Ingram

Legal Counsel: Mr. Franzmann

Guests: Mr. Bush

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.

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Minutes of the September Board Meeting**

Mr. McCue made a motion to approve the minutes of September 21, 2021 Board Meeting. Mr. Hadden seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

### **Disbursement Resolution #5938**

Mr. McGregor asked a clarifying question about Metro Parks' disbursements to Marketing Barn, the company that Metro Parks currently contracts with for social media services. Mr. Moloney stated that Marketing Barn has helped Metro Parks grow its following online. He also stated that Metro Parks is currently in the process of bidding out its 2022 media contract.

Mr. McGregor then moved to pass the resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Hadden.

### **Staff Reports**

#### **Administration**

Mr. Moloney updated the Board on several ongoing administrative projects. The Rapid 5 initiative continues to pick up momentum in Central Ohio. Several advocacy groups have reached out with questions about Rapid 5 concepts and agencies, individuals and firms involved. The Rapid 5 project is considering establishing a 501c3 group to provide overall guidance on the project. Metro Parks remains a supporter of Rapid 5.

Metro Parks recently featured prominently in 614Magazine, with several pages devoted to "Adventures in Your Metro Parks," including a focus on Quarry Trails Metro Park. Development at Quarry Trails is still moving along. Several trails have been put in,

asphalt paving is well underway and several amenities, such as overlook decks and parking lots, have been completed. Operations staff is aiming for a “soft opening” of Quarry Trails, with designated adventure days and programs scheduled ahead of a more traditional opening. Some delays in development have occurred as contractors continue to struggle with staffing and material shortages.

Administration staff also met with the International City Managers Association, which will be hosting its 2022 annual conference in Columbus. The Association is considering Quarry Trails Metro Park as a field study for the conference.

### **Operations**

Mr. Peck introduced Prairie Oaks Metro Parks’ new Park Manager, Kerry Knowles. Ms. Knowles introduced her own staff and updated the Board on Prairie Oaks’ busy summer; Prairie Oaks hosted several large community events, including PaddleFest, Outdoor Inclusive Adventure and WAG!Fest, the last of which drew in over 21,000 guests and 13,000 dogs to the park.

Mr. Peck praised the efforts of Prairie Oaks’ staff and provided further updates to the Board. Fall Fest, an annual event cancelled last year due to COVID-19 concerns, was hosted successfully at Slate Run Metro Park over the past weekend, drawing thousands of visitors to the park. Paving at Slate Run, using ODOT funds, is slated to begin this month. Over 95% of the park will be repaved.

The WRRSP Stream Restoration Project at Clear Creek Metro Park is nearing completion. Metro Parks will be reimbursed for this project when a sponsor municipality is found.

Metro Parks is working closely with several departments in the City of Columbus, including the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Police Department, to manage issues near the Scioto South/Heer Park property. Rangers patrol the property daily and have noted several incidents of depreciative behavior at the adjacent AEP-owned parcel. Metro Parks is seeking to work with AEP to manage some of these issues.

The Blacklick Woods Golf Course, after a period of transition, is performing well, with a new management staff developing new relationships with local golf organizations, including high school teams, and hosting several events to increase interest in golf. More changes to the staffing structure of the Golf Course are under consideration. 2021 revenues for the Golf Course are projected to be over \$1,000,000 and reservations at the Golf Course’s two facilities are picking back up.

## **Finance**

Mr. McGivern elaborated on the Golf Course's revenues; the Golf Course has brought in \$950,000 YTD, above its projected revenue for this year, and its expenditures are coming in below budget.

The 2022 budgeting process is well underway. The Finance team and the Operations department met with all park and department management teams to develop park and department budgets for 2022. The Finance team plans to have a budget document prepared for the Board in November.

Mr. Moloney added that the Board will be invited to Metro Parks' Headquarters office prior to the Board budget meeting to discuss larger budget items and to get more familiar with the budgeting process.

## **Human Resources**

Ms. Telfer updated the Board on Human Resources; HR staff has begun to review pay scales in an effort to maintain a competitive employer. Metro Parks HR staff will also be attending more recruitment events and job fairs in December and January.

Breakfast with Santa is scheduled for December 4, 2021. HR staff is currently evaluating the best way to conduct this event.

## **Other Business:**

None.

## **Resolutions**

- #5949      AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FOR AGRICULTURAL SERVICES  
The Board authorized Metro Parks to enter into a contract with Robert McCarley for agricultural services across four sites. This contract is for the 2022-23 Farm Rental Program.
- #5950      AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FOR SITE LIGHTING AT QUARRY TRAILS METRO PARK  
The Board authorized Metro Parks to enter into a contract with Jess Howard Electric Company to install eleven poles and lights in the Basin Area of Quarry Trails Metro Park ahead of the park's opening.

## **Executive Session**

Mr. Hadden made a motion to enter Executive Session for the purposes of discussing legal matters. Mr. McGregor seconded the motion, the motion was put to vote, adopted and the Board entered Executive Session at 3:23 pm.

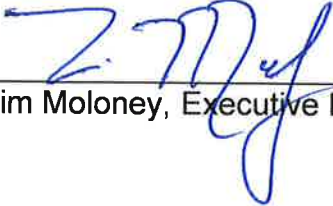
The Board voted to return from Executive Session at 3:45 pm and then voted to adjourn the meeting.


**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by the Board of Park  
Commissioners

  
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Tim Moloney, Executive Director

  
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Chair