

Minutes of the 916th meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District, held at 3:00pm on March 15, 2022 at the Grove, Scioto Grove Metro Park, 5172 Jackson Pike, Grove City, OH 43123.

Present

Commissioners: Mr. Hadden, Mr. Alex, Mr. McCue

Staff: Mr. Moloney, Mr. McGivern, Mr. Peck, Ms. Telfer, Mr. Studenmund, Mr. Fortman, Ms. Ingram, Ms. Blair, Mr. Kaderly, Mr. Laughbaum, Ms. Moheimani

Legal Counsel: Mr. Franzmann

Guests: Ms. Stephanie Shaffer and family

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 February 15, 2022 Board Meeting

Mr. Alex made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2022 Board Meeting. Mr. McCue seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Public Comment:

None.

Disbursement Resolution #5980

Mr. Alex moved for the approval of the Disbursement Resolution for the February 2022 invoices. Mr. McCue seconded the motion and the Board approved the resolution. A copy of Resolution No. 5980 is attached to these minutes as part hereof.

Staff Reports

Administration

Mr. Moloney updated the Board on several administrative projects. The Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA), of which Metro Parks is a member, hosted its annual conference in February. Several Metro Parks employees attended and presented at the conference and Mr. Larry Peck, Deputy Director, was honored with the Harvey Woods

Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his many years of dedicated service at Metro Parks and other organizations.

Several other projects, including continuing negotiations with the Zimmer development group regarding their proposed development on Whittier Peninsula and work with the City of New Albany to discuss park expansions, are ongoing.

Operations

Mr. Peck introduced Scioto Grove's staff, including Assistant Park Manager Robin Blair and Park Manager Kurt Fortman. Scioto Grove has had several projects underway, including a new front entrance, built with assistance from the City of Grove City, a new playground that will be built in 2022, reforestation projects and the installation of CNG (compressed natural gas) equipment for Scioto Grove's ranger and maintenance trucks.

Mr. Peck also updated the Board on other park operations. Resource Management will undertake controlled burning at Battelle Darby Creek and Scioto Grove in the coming weeks if weather permits. The bison at Battelle Darby Creek will be moving to their summer pasture soon, and the bull bison on loan from The Wilds will be returned. Several staff trainings, including ranger, technician, CPR/First Aid and other seminars, have already occurred or are scheduled for the immediate future.

Negotiations with Invenergy, the company behind the Pleasant Prairie Solar Project, are still ongoing. Metro Parks has several concerns to address before closing negotiations. Mr. Peck and Mr. Kasnyik, Manager of Park Operations and Resource Manager, continue to be closely involved in these negotiations.

Finally, Mr. Peck updated the Board on a situation at Scioto South/Heer Park, a property Metro Parks purchased a few years ago and continues to manage. Record flooding on the Scioto River earlier this month caused a dike on American Electric Power land adjacent to our property to fail. In the subsequent flooding, five transmission poles on AEP property were downed. In the interest of being good neighbors, Metro Parks has assisted AEP with recovery efforts and is in discussions with AEP to address future needs in the face of flooding.

Mr. Alex asked Mr. Peck and the Scioto Grove staff a question regarding the development of Scioto Grove Metro Park, which was, until Quarry Trails opened last November, the newest park in the district. Mr. Alex wanted to know if the current use of Scioto Grove matched what park staff had planned for during the design phases of the park.

Mr. Peck said that yes, Scioto Grove's users were enjoying the park and using it in many of the ways park staff had anticipated and designed for; the park is completely pet-friendly, with leashed pets welcome on all trails, and is very popular with dog owners in particular. The City of Grove City has embraced the park and is in the process of linking Scioto Grove to its own bike and multiuse trails. Connecting Scioto

Grove and Scioto Audubon Metro Parks with a bike trail is also a long-term goal of Metro Parks' Operations team.

Finance

Mr. McGivern's staff has been busy this month. Ms. Lynn Krueger, longtime Payroll Specialist, retired at the end of February. Her successor, Ms. Amy Klimek, has stepped fully into the role. The Finance department conducted a software training for staff members this month. Finance is also in the process of renewing Metro Parks' insurance.

Upcoming projects for the Finance department include extending fiber optics to Highbanks and Clear Creek Metro Park, following successful fiber optic installations at Blacklick Woods Metro Park and Blacklick Woods Golf Course.

Human Resources

Human Resources is hard at work with seasonal recruitment efforts. Several seasonal positions have already been filled and Ms. Telfer is confident that Metro Parks will be able to fill most of its seasonal vacancies in order to support summer operations within the parks.

New hire orientations will begin later this month and continue into April as seasonal staff are onboarded. Ms. Telfer thanked all of Metro Parks' employees who have contributed to the training and onboarding process.

Resolutions

- #5981 HONORING STEPHANIE L. SHAFFER**
The Board thanked Ms. Stephanie L. Shaffer, Assistant Manager of Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park, for her many years of service and wished her well on her retirement.
- #5982 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF PLAY FEATURES AT BLENDON WOODS AND SHARON WOODS METRO PARKS**
The Board authorized Metro Parks' Operations Department to purchase playground features for renovation projects at Blendon Woods and Sharon Woods Metro Parks utilizing state purchasing programs.
- #5983 AUTHORIZING THE AMENDMENT OF BOARD RESOLUTION 5978 AND AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF VARIOUS VEHICLES**
The Board authorized Metro Parks' Operations Department to amend Board Resolution 5978, which had granted Metro Parks permission to purchase vehicles from GSA AutoChoice, and purchase vehicles through Montrose

Ford instead, as the vehicles offered by GSA AutoChoice had become unavailable.

- #5984** AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE CLEAN OHIO GREEN SPACE CONSERVATION FUND FOR PROPERTY IN FRANKLIN COUNTY
The Board authorized Metro Parks to submit an application to the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Fund for a ninety-six acre parcel of land in Plain Township, Franklin County, near Rocky Fork Metro Park.
- #5985** AUTHORIZING THE GRANT OF AN EASEMENT FOR UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT QUARRY TRAILS METRO PARK
The Board authorized Metro Parks to grant an easement to Marble Cliff Canyon, LLC, for sanitary sewer and water improvements that will service Quarry Trails Metro Park and the development adjacent.
- #5986** AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL OF STRUCTURES AND DEBRIS FROM PARK PROPERTY
The Board authorized Metro Parks to begin assessing structures and debris at the Hoover Y property, purchased in 2020, and to remove, sell or demolish structures and debris on that property to assist in park development.
- #5987** AUTHORIZING A TRANSFER FROM THE E.S. THOMAS EDUCATIONAL FUND (FUND 40) TO THE GENERAL FUND (FUND 27)
The Board authorized a transfer from the E.S. Thomas Educational Fund to the General Fund to pay for transportation costs for school field trips to Three Creeks and Battelle Darby Creek Metro Parks as part of the SEED program.
- #5988** AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF PLAY EQUIPMENT FOR BATTELLE DARBY CREEK METRO PARK
The Board authorized the purchase of playground equipment for two play areas at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park.
- #5989** AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A DESIGN/BUILD CONTRACT FOR A VIA FERRATA AND ROCK-CLIMBING AREA AT QUARRY TRAILS METRO PARK
The Board authorized Metro Parks to enter into a contract with Via Ferrata Works to design and build a Via Ferrata and rock-climbing area at Quarry Trails Metro Park.
- #5990** AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A DESIGN/BUILD CONTRACT FOR WETLAND RESTORATION SERVICES AT WALNUT WOODS METRO PARK
The Board authorized Metro Parks to enter into a contract with Burgess & Niple, Inc. for design/build work on the H2Ohio wetland restoration project at Walnut Woods Metro Park.

Other Business:

None.

Adjournment:

Mr. Hadden asked if there was a motion to end the meeting. Mr. Alex made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCue, and the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by the Board of Park
Commissioners:



Tim Moloney, Executive Director



Chair