

Minutes of the 917<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District, held at 3:05pm on April 19, 2022 at the Nature Center, Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park, 1415 Darby Creek Drive, Galloway, OH 43119.

### **Present**

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

Staff: Mr. Moloney, Mr. McGivern, Ms. Telfer, Mr. Studenmund, Mr. Kaderly, Ms. Boniface, Mr. Laughbaum, Mr. Kasnyik, Mr. Hamilton, Ms. Ruppertsberg, Mr. Biegler, Ms. Ingram, Mr. Auricchio

Legal Counsel: Mr. Franzmann

Guests: Mr. Bob Litt, Ms. Ann Litt, Mr. Mark Ferenchik

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, and that minor changes had been made to Resolution No. 5993.

### **Minutes of the March 15, 2022 Board Meeting**

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

### **Public Comment:**

None.

### **Disbursement Resolution #5991**

Mr. Alex moved for the approval of the Disbursement Resolution for the March 2022 invoices. Mr. McCue seconded the motion and the Board approved the resolution. A copy of Resolution No. 5991 is attached to these minutes as part hereof.

### **Staff Reports**

#### **Administration**

Mr. Moloney updated the Board on the Administrative staff's ongoing projects, including continuing discussions with Invenergy regarding the Pleasant Prairie Solar Project, the completion of an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Columbus regarding the Greenway trail system and discussions with the City of New Albany and Plain Township regarding park development and land acquisition in New Albany. The updated Greenways MOU allows Metro Parks and Columbus to manage the growing trails network more efficiently, as the Greenways have expanded considerably since Metro Parks first entered into the Greenways partnership.

Administrative staff has also applied for funding to the FY2023-24 State Capital Improvements Fund through the State of Ohio. Metro Parks hopes to receive funding to

aid the Heritage Trail Extension project, which is looking to extend the Heritage Trail from its current terminus in Hilliard, Ohio into downtown Columbus. Metro Parks has also applied for FY2023 Congressional Discretionary Spending (CDS) funds for the same project.

### **Operations**

Mr. Dan Kaderly, Manager of Park Operations, provided the monthly Operations report in Mr. Peck's absence. The Operations team has been busy as shelter reservations, special events and several nice weather days have brought lots of people to the parks. Park hours changed on April 1, 2022 and most parks (with the exception of dark parks) are now open until 10:00pm.

Mr. Kaderly also introduced Mr. Geoff Hamilton, Park Manager for Battelle Darby Creek, who introduced his own staff in attendance and updated the Board on Battelle Darby Creek's year. Battelle Darby Creek staff oversaw a veterinarian visit in early April; several bison are pregnant again this year, and two bulls were transported back to the Wilds as part of the bison conservation program. Battelle Darby staff is also working on an interactive mussel education station for the Nature Center, a salamander monitoring program and operational challenges. Battelle Darby Creek has experienced a spike in vehicle break-ins. Rangers have adjusted patrol patterns to deter thieves. Roadway improvements in the Cedar Ridge area are expected to begin soon.

Metro Parks' Resource Management team is also hard at work. Several prescribed burns were completed in the parks during favorable conditions earlier in the spring. A new dog park has opened at Scioto Audubon and is enormously popular with visitors. Quarry Trails is still very busy on nice days and staff is participating in several additional training opportunities.

### **Finance**

Mr. McGivern updated the Board on the Finance team's current projects. A fiber optic cable project for Highbanks Metro Park has gone to bid. An insurance renewal, slated for every third year, has been completed.

### **Human Resources**

Metro Parks is in a good place with regards to seasonal hiring. Staff is working hard in the parks. Due to several challenging incidents in the parks, Human Resources has made counselors available to park staff the help with these challenges.

## Resolutions

- #5992** AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF METRO PARKS INSURANCE COVERAGE TO BURNHAM & FLOWER INSURANCE GROUP  
The Board authorized Metro Parks to award a contract for insurance coverage to Burnham & Flower Insurance Group following a successful proposal by Burnham & Flower to insure Metro Parks for the next two (2) years, with the option to extend the contract for an additional two (2) years at the end of that period.
- #5993** AUTHORIZING THE ADDITION OF QUARRY TRAILS METRO PARK TO THE NEW COMMUNITY DISTRICT OF MARBLE CLIFF QUARRY COMMUNITY AUTHORITY  
The Board authorized Metro Parks to join Quarry Trails Metro Park to the new Marble Cliff Quarry Community Authority so that Quarry Trails Metro Park may receive utility services through said NCA.
- #5994** AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF ONE APPLICATION TO THE OHIO RIVER BASIN H2OHIO WETLAND GRANT PROGRAM  
The Board authorized Metro Parks' Resource Management staff to submit one application to the Ohio River Basin H2Ohio Wetland Grant Program for wetland restoration on approximately thirty acres of parkland along the Big Darby Creek.
- #5995** AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF THREE APPLICATIONS TO THE FY2023 CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING PROGRAM  
The Board authorized Metro Parks to submit three applications for FY2023 Congressionally Directed Spending Program (CDS) funds to acquire abandoned railway in west-central Franklin County as part of the Heritage Trail Extension project. One application each was submitted to Representative Carey, Representative Beatty and Senator Brown.
- #5996** AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FOR MANUFACTURE AND PLACEMENT OF PRE-CAST RESTROOMS AT NUMEROUS METRO PARKS  
The Board authorized Metro Parks purchase several pre-cast restrooms from Norwalk Concrete Industries for construction and placement at several parks.
- #5997** AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO AN OPTION AGREEMENT REGARDING THE PLEASANT PRAIRIE SOLAR PROJECT  
The Board authorized Metro Parks to sign an Option Agreement between Metro Parks and Invenergy in order to ensure that Metro Parks' concerns regarding the Pleasant Prairie Solar Project are satisfactorily addressed before the Ohio Power Siting Board.

**Other Business:**

Mr. Moloney provided the Board with more information regarding the Pleasant Prairie Solar Project. Part of the agreement that has been reached with Invenergy includes a 300-foot buffer between the site of the project and Metro Parks' property. Whether this buffer will be granted to Metro Parks through fee simple or through a ninety-nine year lease has yet to be determined. Other factors, including mitigation plantings, appropriate fences, provisions to protect water quality and wildlife and others, are still under discussion between Metro Parks and Invenergy.

The Board thanked Mr. Moloney, Mr. Kasnyik and Mr. Franzmann for their hard work to ensure that Metro Parks' property and conservation focus are protected.

**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 3:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by the Board of Park  
Commissioners:

  
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Tim Moloney, Executive Director

  
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Chair