

Minutes of the 923th meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District, held at 3:00pm on October 18, 2022 at the Lakeside Pavilion, Homestead Metro Park, 4675 Cosgray Road, Hilliard, Ohio 43026.

Present

Commissioners: Mr. Alex, Mr. McCue

Staff: Mr. Moloney, Mr. McGivern, Ms. Telfer, Mr. Studenmund, Mr. Kaderly, Mr. Laughbaum, Mr. Kasnyik, Ms. Boniface, Ms. Ingram,

Legal Counsel: None.

Mr. Alex 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 September 20, 2022 Board Meeting

Mr. McCue made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2022 Board Meeting. Mr. Alex seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Disbursement Resolution #6033

Mr. Alex moved for the approval of the Disbursement Resolution for the September 2022 invoices. Mr. McCue seconded the motion and the Board approved the resolution. A copy of Resolution No. 6033 is attached to these minutes as part hereof.

Public Comment:

None.

Staff Reports

Administration

Mr. Moloney reported that Administration staff has had good conversations with other agencies about prioritizing greenspace in Central Ohio as development pressures continue across the region. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is taking the lead in talks with Intel regarding greenspace considerations as the Intel factory is being developed.

A coalition called Broadband Ohio has also put together talks about the availability of digital infrastructure in Central Ohio and has put together sources of funding for digital infrastructure improvements. Metro Parks has been invited to participate in these discussions.

Mr. Moloney also updated the Board regarding the progress of the Zimmer development adjacent to Scioto Audubon Metro Park. The last contact that Metro Parks had with anyone on Zimmer's team was in August. A letter was sent to the Board this month from the Zimmer team asking to communicate with Metro Parks staff, despite no attempts to contact Mr. Moloney or any Administration staff between August and October.

Mr. Moloney maintains that Metro Parks is willing to meet and work with Zimmer. Administration staff and the Board will continue to communicate and work closely together on any response to Zimmer to avoid confusion. Metro Parks is still concerned about several challenges posed by the Zimmer project, including an unsustainable increase in traffic through Scioto Audubon Metro Park. Zimmer is currently proposing a one-way entrance off of Whittier Street. The City of Columbus has the right-of-way on Maier Place; Metro Parks would like a City-sponsored design team to look at Maier Place and determine possible impacts and solutions to the increased traffic. Zimmer Development has become the official owner of the property adjacent to the park.

Mr. McCue thanked Mr. Moloney for updating the Board. He agreed that communication between the Board and park staff was essential.

Several options, including whether or not Metro Parks could be forced to give up an easement to Zimmer and if removing the roadway that Metro Parks does own, were discussed.

Operations

Mr. Peck provided his thoughts on the Zimmer development as well. He reiterated Metro Parks' stance that our visitors are our top priority at Scioto Audubon. He also stated that Metro Parks is willing to work with the City on potential solutions, but that staff has concerns about the project that we do not want ignored.

Mr. Peck also introduced the Homestead Metro Park staff, including Mr. Jerry Strosnider, Park Manager. Mr. Strosnider introduced his staff in attendance and talked to the Board about Homestead Metro Park and Glacier Ridge, which is managed by the same team. Glacier Ridge's annual FallFest program is scheduled for the coming weekend. Several playgrounds at both Glacier Ridge and Homestead are slated for improvements in the coming year, including the installation of a ninja warrior-themed obstacle course and an ADA playground.

Mr. Peck also stated that several 2022 Capital Improvements projects are wrapping up, and several large special events are scheduled for the fall across the park district.

Second Shift Supervisors

Mr. Clint Eutsey and Ms. Nicole Jacko, Metro Parks' two Second Shift Supervisors, introduced themselves to the Board and outlined their responsibilities within the park district.

The Second Shift Supervisors serve as management for the second shift of Metro Parks' Operations team (2:00p – 10:00p in the summer, 12:00p – 8:00p in the winter). Most park managers work first shift, so Mr. Eutsey and Ms. Jacko serve as supervisors

for all rangers on the second shift, typically handling park closings and any incidences that happen during the second operational period.

Unlike park managers, who are assigned to one work unit, Mr. Eutsey and Ms. Jacko are mobile, traveling to multiple parks per shift to assist the staff as needed. Both are commissioned officers and manage as many as ninety rangers per shift.

In addition to their normal duties, Mr. Eutsey and Ms. Jacko are heavily involved in the Metro Parks-run "mini academy" currently being offered to employees considering a career track as full-time, commissioned rangers. This mini academy was designed to prepare employees for the Peace Officer's Academy that all commissioned full-time rangers must pass.

Finance

Mr. McGovern stated that the Finance department is busy preparing the 2023 Budget for all parks and departments. The annual Budget Meeting, in which the Board approved the budget for the next operational year, is coming up in December.

Human Resources

Ms. Telfer provided updates on the HR department. The county payroll system, administered by Franklin County, is being updated soon and staff is working to make sure there are no disruptions in service for employees. The HR team has begun visiting job fairs to prepare for 2023 seasonal hiring. Staff is also learning more about any changes to Open Enrollment and county benefits that may occur for 2023.

Finally, Ms. Telfer shared the good news that Metro Parks was able to participate in a county incentive program, in which eligible employees who had remained employed during a set period of time through the COVID-19 pandemic received a \$1,000 one-time bonus. This incentive was covered by the American Rescue Plan Act.

Resolutions

#6034 HONORING JEFFREY P. MATHIAS

The Board thanked Mr. Jeffrey P. Mathias for his many dedicated years of service to Metro Parks and congratulated him on his retirement.

#6035 TABLED

This resolution was tabled and no action was taken.

#6036 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR BRIDGE INSPECTION PROGRAM SERVICES

The Board authorized Metro Parks to participate in the Ohio Department of

Transportation-led Bridge Inspection Program for the purposes of inspecting Metro Parks' bridges and roadways.

#6037 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE PARK ROAD TRAIL PROJECT ADJACENT TO SHARON WOODS
The Board authorized Metro Parks to enter into a contract with Toole Design in order to design a trail connection along Park Road behind Sharon Woods Metro Park. This project is funded through a State Capital Community Improvement program grant.

#6038 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE DEMOLITION AND REMOVAL OF STRUCTURES AND DEBRIS FROM PARK PROPERTY AT MULTIPLE SITES
The Board authorized Metro Parks to enter into a contract with Raze International, LLC to demolish several structures through the park district.

#6039 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FOR CONCRETE SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE DOG PARK AT QUARRY TRAILS METRO PARK
The Board authorized Metro Parks to enter into a contract with Pummell Construction Services for concrete and sidewalk improvements to the new dog park at Quarry Trails.

#6040 AUTHORIZING INCREASES IN APPROPRIATION AUTHORITY FOR THE GENERAL FUND (FUND 27) AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUN (FUND 29) FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND LAND ACQUISITION
The Board authorized Metro Parks to increase appropriations for two funds within the 2022 Budget in order to acquire new land and complete additional capital improvement projects beyond what were initially expected for 2022.

#6041 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE OWNED BY THE BRENNING IRREVOCABLE HERITAGE TRUST, TY BRENNING, TIA BRENNING, TRICIA ENGLISH, LESTER BRENNING, ROBERTA SCHULTZ FOR PARK LAND AT ROCKY FORK METRO PARK
The Board authorized Metro Parks to purchase approximately ninety-two acres of land near Rocky Fork Metro Park.

#6042 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE OWNED BY JERRY AND MARIA ONG FOR PARK LAND AT BLACKLICK WOODS METRO PARK
The Board authorized Metro Parks to purchase approximately nine acres of land adjacent to Blacklick Woods Metro Park.

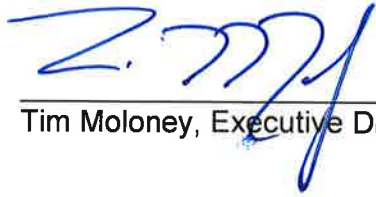
Other Business:

None.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tim Moloney, Executive Director

Approved by the Board of Park
Commissioners:



Chair