

RESOLUTION NO. 6043

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER DISBURSEMENTS

<u>Check #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Dept.</u>
JE 603	Franklin County Treasurer	Payroll	\$688,295.47	000-00
JE 600	Franklin County Treasurer	Payroll	\$668,752.50	000-00
JE 604	VISA	VISA Commercial Card Disbursements	\$128,570.91	000-00
JE 609	US Bank	Bank & wire transfer fees	\$898.86	000-00
859(E)	Electronic Commerce	Bank Account Charges	\$2,823.79	301-10
860(E)	Plug And Pay	Bank Account Charges	\$21.82	301-10
863(E)	PNC	Bank Account Charges	\$1,319.76	301-10
865(E)	American Electric Power	Electric Service	\$7,807.24	000-00
866(E)	AT&T	Telephone Service	\$2,660.70	000-00
867(E)	BP Oil Co.	Credit Card Gas Purchases	\$4,701.48	000-00
868(E)	Breezeline	Telephone Service	\$2,945.97	303-10
869(E)	Centurylink	Long Distance Service	\$6.00	305-10
870(E)	City Of Westerville	Electric & Water Service	\$2,013.96	000-00
871(E)	Columbia Gas Of Ohio	Natural Gas Service	\$1,581.23	000-00
872(E)	Columbus City Treasurer	Water/Sewer/Electric	\$10,740.55	000-00
874(E)	Consolidated Electric Cooperative	Electric Service	\$192.02	118-13
875(E)	Del-Co Water Co., Inc.	Water Service	\$774.56	000-00
876(E)	Earnhart Hill Regional	Water/Sewer Service	\$35.96	112-13
877(E)	Frontier	Telephone Service	\$497.57	000-00
879(E)	Ohio Edison Co.	Electric Service	\$355.47	000-00
881(E)	South Central Power Co.	Electric Service	\$2,149.00	000-00
882(E)	Sunoco	Credit Card Gas Purchases	\$1,823.18	109-13
884(E)	Union Rural Electric Cooperative	Electric Service	\$410.36	115-13
885(E)	Verizon	Telephone Service	\$4,755.67	000-00
64514	AM Roofing And Siding, LLC	Metal Roof Replacement	\$6,838.00	500-20
64515	Beem's BP Distributing, Inc.	Bulk Gasoline	\$16,588.26	000-00
64516	Breezeline	Fiber Optic Service	\$26.65	101-13
64518	D&L Cleaning	Cleaning At Headquarters	\$740.00	105-19
64519	Enterprise Rent A Car	Summer Camp And CSI Van Rentals	\$527.02	201-12
64520	Franklin County Data Center	Computer Usage Services	\$6,782.63	303-10
64523	Jess Howard Electric Co.	Electric Service To Entrance Light Poles	\$8,310.00	500-20
64524	Land Grant Brewing Company, LLC	Music And Sound/Lighting For Scioto Fest	\$3,000.00	900-14
64525	Leo Meyers, Inc.	Uniforms	\$3,185.53	000-00
64529	Three+One Company, Inc.	Liquidity And Banking Fees Analysis	\$2,475.00	301-10
64530	Vernon Dell Tractor Sales	Equipment	\$7,915.00	000-00
64534	Robert J. Allen Jr.	Receipt #48199 - Paid 2022, Refund	\$250.00	000-00
64535	Teresa Branham	Receipt #48145 - Paid 2021, Refund	\$225.00	301-10
64537	Beem's BP Distributing, Inc.	Bulk Gasoline	\$2,582.58	104-13
64538	BS&A Software	One-Day Budgeting Training Session	\$550.00	301-10
64540	Charter Oaks Tree & Landscaping	Hazard Tree Removal	\$2,000.00	104-13
64542	Franklin County Purchasing Dept.	Business Cards	\$14.16	310-14
64547	Mike's Trucking, Ltd.	Aggregates	\$826.29	103-13
64550	Robin Technologies	Website Services	\$3,927.50	310-14
64551	Ron Mast	Mow/Trim At Heritage Trail	\$1,400.00	115-13
64553	Travco Construction, Inc.	Fixing Line For The Grinder Pump	\$3,537.01	114-13
64554	Treasurer, State Of Ohio	AOS Review Of IPA Audit	\$377.20	301-10
64555	Williams Scotsman, Inc.	9-Month Mobile Office Rental	\$1,085.74	121-13
64559	Kaleigh Kenney	Receipt #48380 - Paid 2021, Refund	\$490.00	000-00
64561	Beem's BP Distributing, Inc.	Bulk Gasoline	\$6,191.85	000-00
64562	Bowman Harness, Ltd.	Horse Harness And Collars	\$4,091.00	112-13
64563	Cat-The Rental Store	Rental Of A Compact Loader With Mulcher	\$2,300.00	119-13
64564	Daisy Hill Farm	Cattle Purchase	\$3,000.00	305-11
64567	Taylor & Sons Equipment	Kubota RTV 1100	\$23,053.12	121-13
64570	Todd Detty	Reimbursement	\$91.40	306-10

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64571	Beem's BP Distributing, Inc.	Bulk Gasoline	\$6,585.67	000-00
64572	Burgess & Niple, Inc.	Algae Tests And Analysis For Wagfest	\$1,111.17	307-16
64574	Evolution Ag, LLC	Kubota RTV Repair	\$2,190.50	305-13
64576	Intrinsic Landscaping, Inc.	Green Roof Maintenance At Nature Center	\$1,274.22	103-19
64578	Mid City Electric Company	Connect Power To New Trailer	\$4,480.00	121-13
64583	RKE Management, Inc.	Aggregates	\$460.25	103-13
64584	Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP	Legal Services	\$34.50	304-10
64585	Suburban Propane	Propane	\$886.40	109-13
64587	Jesse Harler	Reimbursement	\$60.00	305-18
64588	Leo Meyers, Inc.	Uniforms	\$1,815.44	000-00
64589	Ohio Nature Education	Fall Fest Programming	\$800.00	202-11
64590	Spartan Training Gear	Redman Suit	\$4,475.00	305-18
64591	Beem's BP Distributing, Inc.	Bulk Gasoline	\$1,335.85	114-13
64592	Brunner Lawn Care Co.	Lawn Care Service At HQ	\$802.00	105-19
64593	Fire Stone Masonry	Masonry At Rocky Fork Pestel House	\$2,350.00	500-20
64594	Krueger International, Inc.	20 Armless Stack Chairs	\$2,851.40	105-17
64595	Neeley Farms	Pumpkins For Fall Fest 2022	\$910.00	202-11
64598	Vic Art Masonry, LLC	Park Office Masonry Project	\$3,000.00	500-20
64601	Lisa Gallagher-Hall	Receipt #48544 - Paid 2022, Refund	\$490.00	000-00
64603	Beem's BP Distributing, Inc.	Bulk Gasoline	\$4,984.62	000-00
64604	Breezeline	Fiber Optic Service	\$1,607.37	000-00
64605	BS&A Software	Financial Software Maintenance And Support	\$9,219.00	303-10
64606	Colorblends	7450 Spring Bulbs And Shipping	\$3,312.61	108-13
64608	Gatorguard, LLC	Restroom Floor Epoxy	\$3,710.00	500-20
64611	Peterman's Tree & Lawn Service	Removal Of Hazard Trees	\$997.00	113-13
64612	Primo Paint & Body Shop	Body Repair Work On Truck	\$3,438.72	113-13
64613	Rumpke Of Ohio, Inc.	Trash Collection	\$2,117.30	000-00

FUND 27 TOTAL

\$1,711,813.99

<u>Check #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Dept.</u>
JE 597	Franklin County Commissioners	Franklin County COVID Incentive Payment	\$209,900.41	000-00

FUND 28 TOTAL

\$209,900.41

<u>Check #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Dept.</u>
JE 604	VISA	VISA Commercial Card Disbursements	\$3,600.41	000-00
64517	Cornerstone Landscaping, Inc.	Hand Rail For The Floating Boardwalk	\$16,165.64	700-35
64521	Hartman Engineering	QT Maintenance Shop Stormwater Design	\$2,482.50	700-35
64522	Hina Environmental Solutions, LLC	Asbestos Survey For Hoover Y Demos	\$1,772.00	700-35
64526	Longhorn Fab Shop, LLC	20 Plaques And Bases For Memorial Signs	\$4,019.00	700-35
64527	Midstates Recreation	Playground For Darby-Cedar Ridge	\$115,933.49	700-35
64528	Southeastern Equipment Co., Inc.	Equipment Rental For Roving Crew Use	\$2,900.00	700-35
64536	Franklin County Recorder	Recording Fees	\$202.00	700-33
64539	Burgess & Niple, Inc.	Wetland Restoration Design Build	\$40,000.00	700-33
64541	Custom Cutters	Slate Run Sign Posts	\$3,352.90	700-35
64543	Gametime C/O DWA Recreation	Scioto Audubon Dog Park Shade Structures	\$20,324.50	700-35
64544	Hina Environmental Solutions, LLC	Asbestos Survey For Hoover Y Demos	\$1,080.00	700-35
64546	Micro	Demolish Structures At Hoover Y	\$33,300.00	700-35

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APPROVAL OF OCTOBER DISBURSEMENTS

<u>Check #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Dept.</u>
64548	Norwalk Concrete Industries	5 Precast Restrooms	\$71,790.00	700-31
64552	Toole Design Group, LLC	Engineering Services For Scioto Trail	\$8,047.01	700-34
64565	Mike's Trucking, Ltd.	Aggregates	\$48,727.20	700-35
64566	Sandhya Elango	Graphic Design Services For Bulletin Boards	\$1,250.00	700-35
64568	Z&K Excavating	Precast Restroom Excavations	\$2,500.00	700-31
64573	E & S Services, LLC	Hydroseeding At Quarry Trails	\$6,461.68	700-35
64575	Gametime C/O DWA Recreation	Accessible Playground	\$113,999.33	700-35
64577	Korda/Nemeth Engineering, Inc.	Engineering Services For Basin Area	\$4,417.20	700-34
64579	Mike's Trucking, Ltd.	Aggregates	\$874.65	700-35
64580	Norwalk Concrete Industries	5 Precast Restrooms	\$35,895.00	700-31
64581	R.D. Holder Oil Co., Inc.	Fuel Services For Equipment At Quarry Trails	\$2,112.51	700-35
64582	Ram Tool Construction Supply Co.	ADA Tile For All Crosswalks At Quarry Trails	\$5,080.97	700-35
64584	Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP	Legal Services	\$476.64	000-00
64586	Toole Design Group, LLC	Engineering Services For Scioto Trail	\$9,524.77	700-34
64596	Southeastern Equipment Co., Inc.	Equipment Rental For Roving Crew Use	\$4,800.00	700-35
64597	The Davey Tree Expert Co.	Tree Clearing At Blendon Woods	\$13,800.00	700-35
64607	Gale Larue	Straw Bales For Sled Hill	\$765.00	700-35
64609	Heiberger Paving, Inc.	Asphalt Paving At Burning Lake	\$48,511.00	700-35
64614	Setterlin Building Company	Construction Of A Restroom At Quarry Trails	\$46,766.33	700-31
64615	Sunbelt Rentals, Inc.	One Month Roller Rental	\$3,700.00	700-35

FUND 29 TOTAL **\$674,631.73**

<u>Check #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Dept.</u>
JE 603	Franklin County Treasurer	Payroll	\$29,593.50	000-00
JE 600	Franklin County Treasurer	Payroll	\$30,857.08	000-00
JE 604	VISA	VISA Commercial Card Disbursements	\$10,789.92	000-00
861(E)	Tee Snap LLC	Point of Sale Services	\$690.00	199-17
862(E)	Treasurer, State Of Ohio	Sales Tax	\$4,137.16	000-00
864(E)	Heartland Payment Systems	Bank Account Charges	\$2,429.76	111-17
865(E)	American Electric Power	Electric Service	\$3,595.78	111-17
866(E)	AT&T	Telephone Service	\$364.14	111-17
871(E)	Columbia Gas Of Ohio	Natural Gas Service	\$292.15	111-17
873(E)	Columbus Distributing	Resale Merchandise - Food/Beverage	\$1,117.84	199-17
878(E)	Heidelberg Distributing	Resale Merchandise - Food/Beverage	\$630.05	199-17
880(E)	Rhinegeist Columbus	Craft Beer For Resale	\$206.29	199-17
883(E)	Superior Beverage Group	Resale Merchandise - Food/Beverage	\$808.10	199-17
885(E)	Verizon	Telephone Service	\$195.69	111-17
64525	Leo Meyers, Inc.	Uniforms	\$101.50	111-17
64531	Jhamerra Smith	Receipt #4807 - Paid 2022, Refund	\$240.00	000-00
64532	Laura Mourné	Receipt #48043 - Paid 2022, Refund	\$108.00	000-00
64533	Paramount Fleet - Safety Services	Receipt #48189 - Paid 2022, Refund	\$108.00	000-00
64537	Beem's BP Distributing, Inc.	Bulk Gasoline	\$2,386.12	111-17
64545	Klone Lab, LLC - New Balance Golf	Resale Merchandise- Footwear	\$416.06	199-17
64549	Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co.	Resale Merchandise	\$2,742.50	199-17
64556	Believers' Ministries	Receipt #48304 - Paid 2022, Refund	\$440.00	000-00
64557	Chi'Mere Sullivan	Receipt #48304 - Paid 2021, Refund	\$80.00	000-00
64558	Isabella Kaufman	Receipt #48371 - Paid 2021, Refund	\$320.00	000-00
64560	Rosalind Foy	Receipt #48251 - Paid 2022, Refund	\$440.00	000-00
64569	Chi'Mere Sullivan	Receipt #48480 - Paid 2022, Refund	\$100.00	000-00
64588	Leo Meyers, Inc.	Uniforms	\$45.30	111-17
64599	Gospel Lighthouse Church	Receipt #48663 - Paid 2022, Refund	\$140.00	000-00

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64600	Kayla Morris	Receipt #48564 - Paid 2021, Refund	\$240.00	000-00
64602	The Believers' Ministries	Receipt #48532 - Paid 2022 Refund	\$80.00	000-00
64603	Beem's BP Distributing, Inc.	Bulk Gasoline	\$3,504.79	111-17
64604	Breezeline	Fiber Optic Service	\$1,265.96	111-17
64610	Jana Shipley	Staffing Fees- Division 1 And 2 Sectionals	\$1,700.00	111-17
64613	Rumpke Of Ohio, Inc.	Trash Collection	\$195.52	111-17

FUND 30 TOTAL **\$100,361.21**

GRAND TOTAL **\$2,696,707.34**

Then and Now Certifications during October, 2022 per ORC 5705.41(D)(1)
(Instances of invoices received prior to purchase order issuance)

<u>Check #</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Dept.</u>
64524	Land Grant Brewing Company, LLC	Music And Sound/Lighting For Scioto Fest	\$3,000.00	900-14
64578	Mid City Electric Company	Connect Power To New Trailer	\$4,480.00	121-13
64590	Spartan Training Gear	Redman Suit	\$4,475.00	305-18

BE IT RESOLVED, That the above disbursements, and any Then and Now certifications be, and the same hereby are approved as paid by the Treasurer for the Board of Park Commissioners

Adopted this 15th day of November, 2022.

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
Columbus and Franklin County
Metropolitan Park District


Chair

Attest:






RESOLUTION NO. 6044

AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF DIGITAL MARKETING SERVICES FROM THE MARKETING BARN, LLC

WHEREAS, Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks ("Metro Parks") seeks to raise public awareness and usage among Franklin County residents about existing park resources and amenities through the use of more advanced digital strategies; and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks seeks to define who and where target audiences are, track and evaluate key performance indicators to ensure Metro Parks is reaching and growing the community through digital platforms, that build on existing parks social media platforms; and

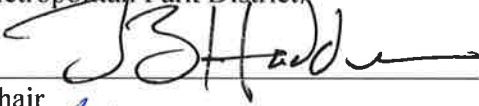
WHEREAS, the comprehensive proposal submitted by Marketing Barn, LLC would most effectively achieve the goal of Metro parks to plan, implement and adapt, as needed, a comprehensive and integrated digital marketing mix; and

WHEREAS, the digital advertising will include, but is not limited to, delivering print and video content through various online and digital channels, website retargeting and video production: Now, Therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District authorizes an appropriation in the amount \$190,000 to purchase services from the Marketing Barn, LLC.

Adopted this 15th day of November, 2022.

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
Columbus and Franklin County
Metropolitan Park District



Chair



Attest:


Executive Director

RESOLUTION NO. 6045

DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND AUTHORIZING THE REPLACEMENT OF THE ENTRYWAY ELEVATED WALKWAY AT THE BLACKLICK WOODS GOLF COURSE

WHEREAS, access to the Blacklick Woods Activity Building and Pro Shop is gained by crossing an elevated walkway; and

WHEREAS, the walkway and supporting elements have greatly deteriorated over the years and there is great concern that there are structural and safety-related issues; and

WHEREAS, replacement of the elevated walkway needs to occur as soon as possible and certainly before the golf season in 2023; and

WHEREAS, the bidding climate currently is extremely difficult and time is of the essence; and

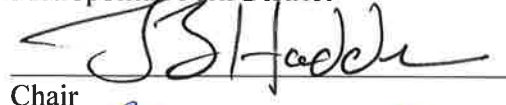
WHEREAS, staff has assembled a team of known qualified and competent members including an architect (Paros Architecture and Design), structural engineer (Korda Engineering), and contractor (The Righter Company) who can accomplish this work in a timely manner and at a reasonable price; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated this project will cost around \$120,000 which requires the approval of the Board of Park Commissioners; Now, Therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by this Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District that an emergency has been declared and authorization is given to enter into contracts with Paros Architecture and Design, Korda Engineering, and the Righter Bridge Company to design, engineer, and replace the elevated walkway at the Blacklick Woods Golf Course at an estimated cost of \$120,000, with the work to be accomplished by March of 2023 and further authorization is given to enter into any change orders or additional contracts necessary to accomplish this project.

Adopted this 15th day of November, 2022.

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
Columbus and Franklin County
Metropolitan Park District


Chair





Attest:


Executive Director

RESOLUTION NO. 6046

AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF A POLICY REGARDING THE SALE OR
GRANTING OF OWNERSHIP RIGHTS OF METRO PARKS LAND

WHEREAS, Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks ("Metro Parks") owns and manages over 28,000 acres of land in Central Ohio for the taxpayers of Franklin County; and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks is approached regularly and increasingly by a variety of outside entities who wish to acquire rights, including permanent or temporary easements that may impact park operations, visitor experiences or other aspects of Metro Parks' mission; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive policy for how to manage these requests is not yet in place, and Metro Parks has been employing a case-by-case approach to requests that involves the consideration of a variety of factors when granting or denying a request; and

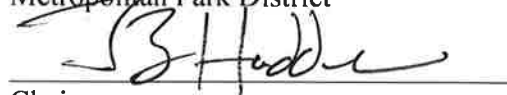
WHEREAS, this case-by-case basis served Metro Parks well when requests were infrequent, but has become cumbersome and burdensome to staff, as well as potentially confusing; and

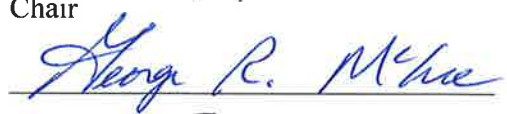
WHEREAS, ongoing discussions with the Board have directed Metro Parks towards developing a comprehensive policy for managing these requests (comprehensive policy attached), with implementation of this policy to occur immediately; Now, Therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District authorizes the adoption of a policy regarding the sale or granting of ownership rights of Metro Parks land, and further authorizes Metro Parks to implement this policy for all current and future requests that involve the acquisition of rights on Metro Parks land.

Adopted this 15th day of November, 2022.

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
Columbus and Franklin County
Metropolitan Park District


Chair


George R. McHale



Attest:


Executive Director



Metro Parks
1069 W. Main Street
Westerville OH 43081

Tel: 614.891.0700
Fax: 614.895.6208
www.metroparks.net

POLICY: Sale or granting of ownership rights of Metro Parks Land

DATE APPROVED: November 14, 2022 (Resolution #6046)

AUTHORITY: Board of Park Commissioners

Introduction

The following policy is to be used when Metro Parks is approached by any entity who wishes to either use, purchase, or gain any property interest, whether temporary or permanent, of Metro Parks land. As Metro Parks is a major land owner in Central Ohio (over 28,000 acres of land in 7 counties), we are approached regularly (and increasingly) by a variety of outside entities who wish to acquire rights on Metro Park property. The decision to allow such acquisition is made on a case by case basis and at times these decisions are easy and at other times they are very challenging as we need to consider a variety of sometimes competing interests. This policy will provide a framework for how and why these decisions are made.

Requests to acquire an interest in Metro Parks property come in all shapes and sizes. Some involve a very small amount of land with little displacement to the public. Others involve major initiatives that affect significant amounts of land and have a major impact on the park affected. Some are clearly beneficial to the park, another unit of government, or the community at large and some only really benefit a few individuals. Some requests are simply the easiest, straightest line, or lowest cost alternative and others involve projects that actually cannot go forward without the use of Metro Parks land.

Another major consideration involves whether deed or other restrictions have been placed on the land through its inclusion in the state nature preserve system and related articles of dedication, use of funds like WRRSP, Clean Ohio, and other programs where restrictions, covenants, or easements that have been entered into in order to secure funding for land acquisition, habitat restoration, facility development or to advance Metro Parks efforts in conservation and public access to the outdoors.

We need to look at how approval would impact park visitors, the park itself, and/or programs.

Finally, consideration has to be given to site specific situations. Is the property in question a sensitive habitat environmentally or in the vicinity of such an area or would approval have a negative impact on state and federal listed species? Will the request create difficulties in future park facility development or habitat restoration efforts? Is the park large in scale (Battelle Darby) or is it a relatively small property (Inniswood or Scioto Audubon)? Will approval harm the very nature of the park now or in the future?

Policy Statement

It shall be the policy of Metro Parks that approvals of requests to gain a property interest in Metro Parks land shall require clear and convincing proof that at least one of the following criteria is clearly present. Sale of land in fee simple shall only be done rarely. Easements should not be assignable.

1. The request being made is by a government entity and will benefit either the community at large or a larger scale public purpose consistent with the government entity's mission
2. The request has a clear and direct benefit to Metro Parks and/or park visitors
3. The request is made by a private entity, utility, developer, etc. and:
 - a. The impact to the park is insignificant and would not impair the ability to install reasonably anticipated improvements Metro Parks would want to consider in the future
 - b. If this request is for utilities, roadway, or other needed infrastructure, all efforts should be made to have this transfer of land be to another public entity
 - c. The request involves a license, easement, trade of land, or another legal instrument which properly compensates the tax payers of Franklin County.
 - d. The private entity is agreeable to all requests made by Metro Parks to limit the impact on our park(s) and visitors
 - e. Metro Parks shall not take on any additional maintenance as a result of this land transfer

Process

In addressing these requests, it is imperative a standard process be utilized during the evaluation of the request. Regardless, of who receives the initial request (Board, Director, Park Manager, HQ Administrator, etc.), before any position is taken by Metro Parks, a written request should be requested and received. The request should be clear as to what is being requested and the rationale on why Metro Parks is the only logical location. All such requests (regardless on the status of the requesting party as a government entity, utility, private developer, etc.) shall be routed immediately to the Strategic Planning Manager who will circulate the request to the Director, Deputy Director, appropriate Manager of Park Operations, Resource Manager, applicable Park Manager, and other affected Metro Parks entities as deemed appropriate. After reviewing the request, the Strategic Planning Manager will generate a draft position statement and circulate it to affected Metro Park staff who will be able to offer their insights. A determination will be made that could involve:

Approving the request

Denying the request

Tabling the request until necessary information is received and reviewed

Giving preliminary approval or denial pending further discussion with the requesting party (*Approving authority for entering into land use/sale may involve the Executive Director, Board of Park Commissioners, or the Probate Court*)

Staff involved in the review process need to understand that at this stage of the process they are offering input and recommendations and that decisions will be made that involve weighing all the factors present that require consideration. Some of these factors may involve strategic and future thoughts and not just what is at hand presently. Another factor that deserves

consideration is the overall reputation of Metro Parks—we should not be seen as obstructionists nor should we be seen as pawns in a bigger game.

After the request is received and the initial evaluation occurs, a staff assignment of who is best suited to deal with the requesting party will be made. Through this evaluation period Metro Parks staff will evaluate the proposal and communicate with the requesting party about moving this request forward to the proper authority.

Compensation

If a determination is made to proceed with approving or considering the request until more information is gathered, a decision needs to be made on compensation to Metro Parks and ultimately the taxpayers of Franklin County. Compensation shall be based on consideration of the impact of the project on Metro Parks and its visitors both now and in the future, appropriate prices for land in the area, any costs that Metro Parks might incur should approval of the request be granted in terms of impact on facilities, habitat improvements, and programs offered by Metro Parks. Metro Parks is not in the business of divesting itself of land holdings and this shall only occur in the most extreme of situations. While this may seem as being uncooperative by some, it is not. Our ownership in land has been and should be considered by all as permanent. Any allowance differing from this has the potential of harming our reputation as a stable land steward.

In general, compensation will not be sufficiently addressed by “writing a check”. Appropriate compensation may involve exchanging property, paying a one-time fee or on-going fees. Any compensation package agreed to should be easily understood by the public, media, and auditors in the future. The value of the land should be set by either an appraisal or other means determined by Metro Parks. Compensation will generally focus on the specific park the request is being made in regard to. Simply doing something at Park B to allow something at Park A is going to be discouraged. If the impact is on Park A, the compensation should tie to that park directly in all but extreme situations.

As the Board of Park Commissioners have ultimate authority regarding decisions, they should be fully briefed in a timely manner of requests and consistent with Metro Parks rules and regulations, by-laws, and policies in affect at that time take actions as they see fit and in accordance with Open Meeting Laws in Ohio.

Conclusion

Metro Parks will consider all requests Metro Parks receives to grant easement or sell property owned or controlled. Because of the unique nature of our land holding throughout Central Ohio, each request will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Decisions will always be made based on the overall interests of the taxpayers of Franklin County and considering the conservation of our limited natural resources.