

Minutes of the 924th meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District, held at 3:02pm on November 15, 2022 at the Banquet Room, Blacklick Woods Golf Course, 7309 East Livingston Avenue, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068.

Present

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

Staff: Mr. Moloney, Mr. McGivern, Mr. Peck, Ms. Telfer, Mr. Studenmund, Mr. Kaderly, Mr. Laughbaum, Mr. Kasnyik, Ms. Boniface, Ms. Snyder, Ms. Ingram, Mr. Sorgini, Ms. Gordon, Ms. Christian, Ms. Stiles, Mr. Samulski

Legal Counsel: Mr. Franzmann.

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 October 18, 2022 Board Meeting

Mr. McCue made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2022 Board Meeting. Mr. Alex seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Disbursement Resolution #6043

Mr. Alex moved for the approval of the Disbursement Resolution for the October 2022 invoices. Mr. McCue seconded the motion and the Board approved the resolution. A copy of Resolution No. 6043 is attached to these minutes as part hereof.

Public Comment:

None.

Staff Reports

Administration

Mr. Moloney provided updates on several projects, including Metro Parks' continued partnership with RAPID5, work regarding greenspace planning at the Intel site and a discussion with Mr. Scott Messer, the Building & Zoning Services Director for the City of Columbus.

RAPID5 continues to meet with local organizations and agencies to discuss plans and potential projects related to the five major river corridors in Central Ohio. Staff met with representatives of the Nature Conservancy, the City of New Albany and several other Central Ohio groups to discuss strategies and relationships with Intel and other businesses that are moving into the area. Metro Parks and the City of New Albany own land near the Intel site – including Rocky Fork Metro Park – that could be converted into a green corridor and Greenway system to serve that area.

Mr. Moloney also provided more details about ongoing discussions with the City of Columbus, particularly Mr. Scott Messer. The Board encouraged Metro Parks' staff in previous meetings to continue to work with the City to resolve some challenges. Mr. Moloney stated that the meeting with Mr. Messer was productive and Metro Parks was able to communicate its needs regarding zoning and permitting within the City.

Operations

Mr. Peck first introduced Mr. Danny Sorgini, the Golf Course Manager, who in turn introduced his staff and outlined several projects and initiatives at the Golf Course for 2022.

The Golf Course is currently in a revenue-positive position for 2022. Staff has worked hard to increase visitation, including hosting several high school tournaments, special events and other programs. Renovations at the Golf Course Pro Shop were completed. An emergency resolution will be going before the Board later during the meeting regarding urgently-needed repairs to the concrete walkway leading up to the Pro Shop.

Mr. Peck thanked the Golf Course staff for their hard work and updated the Board on the Operations department. The parks have transitioned to winter operations and are preparing for the season. Deer management is underway. Metro Parks entered into a bridge inspection program with the Ohio Department of Transportation last month and several bridges in need of repair have been identified. This program inspected the walkway at the Golf Course that needs repair. Metro Parks continues to experience a competitive and difficult bidding climate, with several projects in recent months receiving either no bids or unawardable bids.

An in-house ranger training academy, which was designed to help prepare potential full-time rangers for the Ohio Peace Officer's Academy and for the rigors of the ranger position within Metro Parks, wrapped up earlier this month and was successful. Mr. Peck and other upper management staff are putting together a curriculum for a manager training in the winter. Training for maintenance staff is also ongoing.

Jill Snyder, Visitor Engagement Manager

Ms. Jill Snyder, the Visitor Engagement Manager, introduced herself and a few members of her staff – Ms. Liz Christian and Ms. Virginia Gordon – to the Board. The Visitor Engagement section of Metro Parks is a newly-reorganized section made up of elements of other sections that have been consolidated over the past few years. The Visitor Engagement team handles everything from managing Metro Parks' social media presence to organizing special events, naturalist programming and reservations.

Ms. Snyder shared a presentation on how Metro Parks builds advertisements and content to engage with the public. Using a variety of social media strategies, Metro Parks has created location-targeted ads and posts, award-winning commercials and other content to help Metro Parks reach Franklin County visitors and residents.

The Board asked several questions regarding social media, including how Metro Parks' social media strategies have changed over the years, how location-based advertisements work and what Metro Parks plans to continue in the future as the next levy cycle approaches.

Finance

Mr. McGivern updated the Board on the Finance team's current projects, most of which involve preparing for the end of the 2022 budget year and the opening of 2023. The Board will receive a draft budget for 2023 within the next few weeks.

The annual budget meeting, in which the Board reviews the proposed budget for the coming year and approves both the budget and the salaries of Metro Parks' directors, is scheduled for 8:00am, December 12, 2022, at Spring Hollow Lodge, Sharon Woods Metro Park.

Human Resources

Ms. Telfer stated that Human Resources is continuing to work on filling vacancies and hiring staff. Several additional positions are being considered as part of the 2023 budgeting process. Open Enrollment for the County health plan will begin on November 16 and run until November 30.

The popular Breakfast with Santa program, for the children of Metro Parks' employees, is scheduled for December 3, 2022 at Highbanks.

Resolutions

- #6044 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF DIGITAL MARKETING SERVICES FROM THE MARKETING BARN, LLC
The Board authorized Metro Parks' Visitor Engagements team to enter into a contract with The Marketing Barn, LLC for digital marketing services to continue to raise public awareness and usage of the parks to Franklin County residents.
- #6045 DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND AUTHORIZING THE REPLACEMENT OF THE ENTRYWAY ELEVATED WALKWAY AT THE BLACKLICK WOODS GOLF COURSE
The Board declared an emergency regarding the state of the entryway/elevated walkway at the Blacklick Woods Golf Course, citing safety

concerns posed by damaged concrete, and authorized Metro Parks to hire engineers and contractors for repair outside of the standard bidding process.

- #6046 AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF A POLICY REGARDING THE SALE OR GRANTING OF OWNERSHIP RIGHTS OF METRO PARKS LAND
The Board authorized Metro Parks to adopt a comprehensive policy regarding procedures for considering any requests by external entities seeking to acquire rights to or from Metro Parks land.

Other Business:


None.

Adjournment:


The meeting adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by the Board of Park
Commissioners:



Tim Moloney, Executive Director



Chair