

Minutes of the 926th meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District, held at 3:00pm on December 20, 2022 at Innis House, Inniswood Metro Gardens, 940 South Hempstead Road, Westerville, Ohio 43081.

Present

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

Staff: Mr. Peck, Mr. McGivern, Ms. Telfer, Mr. Studenmund, Mr. Kaderly, Mr. Laughbaum, Mr. Kasnyik, Ms. Boniface, Ms. Ingram, Mr. Knowles, Mr. Smelker, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Fleischer, Ms. Collins, Ms. Bassett-Smith, Ms. Snyder, Ms. Power

Legal Counsel: Mr. Franzmann.

Guests: Mr. John Metzger

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. Peck confirmed that all of those requirements and rules had been met.

Minutes of the November 15, 2022 Board Meeting

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

Minutes of the December 12, 2022 Budget Meeting

Mr. Alex made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2022 Budget Meeting. Mr. McCue seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Disbursement Resolution #6049

Mr. Alex moved for the approval of the Disbursement Resolution for the November 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

Finance

Mr. McGivern stated that the Finance department is in the process of wrapping up 2022 budget items and preparing for the 2023 Fiscal Year. Metro Parks is ending the year in good shape financially, with revenues above projected amounts and expenditures below expected amounts.

The Board approved the 2023 Budget during the December 12, 2022 meeting after reviewing the budget.

Human Resources

Ms. Telfer stated that Human Resources was still busy preparing for the coming year. Annual trainings for staff, including rangers, managers, maintenance crews and other staff, are underway, with several more trainings planned for January and February 2023.

Human Resources is also interviewing for several open management positions this week, and anticipates filling four vacancies, including two Second Shift Supervisor vacancies after both Second Shift Supervisors were promoted last month, and a new Assistant Manager position.

Administration & Operations

Mr. Peck, covering for Mr. Moloney, provided updates on both the Administration and Operations departments. He introduced the Board to Mr. John Metzger, a former Deputy Director, and thanked Mr. Metzger for his time as a Metro Parks employee and volunteer. Mr. Peck also introduced Mr. Bryan Knowles, the Public Gardens Manager for Inniswood. Mr. Knowles introduced his own staff and provided some information about Inniswood Metro Gardens.

Inniswood Metro Gardens is a unique park in the district. Despite its relatively small size (Inniswood is 121 acres), Inniswood is an enormously popular park. Ms. Terri Basset-Smith, the Volunteer Coordinator for Inniswood, manages a crew of over 300 volunteers. Several successful projects were implemented at Inniswood this year, including paving a path in the Conifer Garden to make the area ADA-accessible, implementing a "Fifty Trees Walk" with QR codes for an interactive experience and hosting the annual Winter Hikes kick-off event. Over 1,200 guests attended the Winter Hikes kick-off party.

Mr. Peck added that Metro Parks remains busy. The Winter Hikes have begun, with the featured December parks (Inniswood, Highbanks, Battelle Darby Creek, Blacklick Woods and Homestead) all hosting lighted walks and displays for the holiday season. This is the 50th Anniversary of the Winter Hikes.

Mr. Peck also stated that Metro Parks is preparing for several of its 2023 Capital Improvements projects. Snow is anticipated as early as this week and snow crews are preparing for the season. Most Resource Management hunting activities, including lottery hunts, bow hunts, deer management and public hunting at Battelle Darby Creek have concluded for the season with no incidents. Annual performance appraisals are underway.

Mr. Alex asked how the annual Winter Hikes Series is going and Mr. Peck stated that the hikes are going well and have been well-received by the public. Metro Parks continues to evolve and adapt this program as needed.

Resolutions

#6050 REQUESTING TAX ADVANCES FOR 2023

The Board authorized Metro Parks' Finance Director to submit a request to the Franklin County Treasurer for 2023 tax advances.

#6051 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF VEHICLES

This resolution authorized Metro Parks to purchase pre-budgeted vehicles at its discretion, utilizing state contracts and other methods, to meet Metro Parks' equipment needs in a competitive purchasing environment.

#6052 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A TRACTOR

The Board authorized Metro Parks to purchase a tractor from a local John Deere dealer through a state contract to replace an aging and ineffective tractor at Sharon Woods Metro Park.

#6053 DECLARATION AND AUTHORIZING TO DISPOSE OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS IN 2023

The Board authorized Metro Parks to evaluate older vehicles, equipment and materials and designate items as surplus or salvage. Designated equipment and materials may be donated, sold or disposed of.

Other Business:


The 2023 Board Meeting Schedule has been finalized and posted to Metro Parks' website. The next Board meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2023, at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, Scioto Audubon Metro Park.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by the Board of Park
Commissioners:



Tim Moloney, Executive Director



Chair