

Minutes of the 927th meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District, held at 3:01pm on January 17, 2022 at the Grange Audubon Insurance Center, Scioto Audubon Metro Park, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Present

Commissioners: Mr. Hadden, Mr. Alex

Staff: Mr. Moloney, Mr. McGivern, Mr. Peck, Ms. Telfer, Mr. Studenmund, Ms. Ingram, Mr. White, Mr. Brewer, Mr. Schantz, Ms. Boniface, Ms. Snyder, Ms. Lofton, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Parfenova, Mr. Buescher, Ms. Baker

Legal Counsel: Mr. Franzmann

Guests: Honorable Jeff Mackey, Franklin County Probate Judge

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.

Election of Officers

Mr. Hadden opened the meeting for the election of officers for 2022 and nominated Mr. Alex as Chair of the Board. Mr. Alex seconded his nomination and Mr. Alex was named Chair of the Board for 2023.

Minutes of the December 20, 2022 Board Meeting

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

Public Comment: None.

Disbursement Resolution #6054

Mr. Hadden moved for the approval of the Disbursement Resolution for the December 2022 invoices. Mr. Alex seconded the motion and the Board approved the resolution. A copy of Resolution No. 6054 is attached to these minutes as part hereof.

Staff Reports

Administration

Mr. Moloney updated the Board on several projects. RAPID5 has formed a full Board and added additional staff. RAPID5's overall vision is to create "the longest continuous park system" in Ohio.

Conversations have continued between Metro Parks and the Village of Plain City regarding opportunities for partnership near the Heritage Rail Trail. The Village of Plain City is growing and is seeking to balance residential growth with opportunities for recreation and greenspace. Mr. Alex asked Mr. Moloney about the proposed expansion

of the Village's wastewater treatment facility, citing potential impacts on the Big Darby Creek, and Mr. Moloney stated that the plant had been reviewed by the Ohio EPA. The Village has received permission to double the capacity of their plant, but is limited to the same amount of discharge as before. Other development in the Big Darby Creek watershed includes a second proposed solar farm in Madison County just west of Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park. Metro Parks is watching this project closely.

Operations

Mr. Peck greeted the Board and introduced the park manager at Scioto Audubon, DJ White, who in turn introduced his own staff. Mr. White provided some information about his team and the units they operate. The Scioto Audubon team also manages the Central Ohio Greenways.

Several projects were completed at Scioto Audubon in 2022, including the installation of a popular new dog park, invasive species removal along much of the Greenways, homeless outreach and several events. Tree planting is planned for the spring. The Scioto Audubon team also helped open Quarry Trails Metro Park and patrols the site of Great Southern Metro Park in addition to the Greenways. Mr. Peck added that Scioto Audubon also serves as Metro Parks' Dispatcher, managing radio communication between all of the parks and coordinating emergency responses.

Mr. Alex asked Mr. White and his staff what they felt was the biggest challenge facing Scioto Audubon. Mr. White said that Scioto Audubon is often an "experimental" park, with visitors experimenting with different types of recreation like using electric scooters or flying drones, and staff has to be flexible enough to enforce park rules and allow visitors to enjoy the parks.

Mr. Peck also updated the Board on several projects. Metro Parks is reengaging with American Electric Power (AEP) regarding washouts and infrastructure challenges at Great Southern Metro Park. Last year during a heavy rain event, the Scioto River breached a dike and with increased stormwater flooded the site, washing away several of AEP's power lines. The erosion and damage left by this flood event worsens with every heavy rain event.

The Winter Hikes are underway and are going well. Several parks through January and February are offering hot chocolate on select Saturdays and Sundays, and have been well-attended.

Deer management has almost concluded, with only a few more days of management activities scheduled. Gun season lottery hunts at Clear Creek and Slate Run Metro Parks concluded without any incidents. Park rangers issued 8,485 verbal warnings,

seven court citations and over 94,000 Positive Visitor Contacts (PVCs) in 2022. Rangers are expected to make at least five PVCs per shift.

Finally, Mr. Peck said that the Blacklick Woods Golf Course ended 2022 in a revenue-positive position. The First Tee agreement with the Golf Course is also under review.

Finance

Mr. McGivern provided the Board with a list of statistical highlights in 2022, attached to the Board packet. He thanked his staff for all of their hard work in 2022 and stated that the staff's skill, combined with technology, has allowed the Finance department to manage their workload.

Human Resources

Ms. Telfer provided Human Resources updates. Metro Parks has sent four full-time rangers to the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy. This round will last approximately five months, after which the rangers will be commissioned.

A manager training curriculum has been developed and the first trainings have taken place. Metro Parks has hired several new managers and assistant managers over the past few years, and this training will help standardize management across the park district. Mr. Alex stated that he had received positive feedback from park managers who participated in this training.

Metro Parks has started attending job fairs in the Central Ohio area with the goal of recruiting seasonal employees for the 2023 summer season. Ms. Telfer also thanked the Finance department for their hard work and help transitioning to a new payroll system.

Planning & Design

Mr. Steve Studenmund, Planning & Design Manager, introduced himself and his staff to the Board. Mr. Studenmund manages the Planning & Design team and the Roving Crew. Between these teams, Planning & Design manages park planning for new parks and renovations, land acquisition, design (both internal and external), construction management, grant applications and mapping.

Planning & Design's primary function is to support the Operations department and park staff. To that end, Planning & Design manages most of the project bidding process,

oversees much of the construction occurring in the parks and performs a variety of other roles as well. The Planning staff provided graphics of various projects for display.

Resolutions

- #6055** AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FROM SPECIFIC VENDORS IN AN AMOUNT EXCEEDING \$50,000 FOR 2022
The Board authorized Metro Parks' Finance Department to complete any remaining purchase orders from 2022 to specific vendors totaling \$50,000 or more.
- #6056** AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF SUPPLIES AND SERVICES EXCEEDING \$50,000 FROM SPECIFIC VENDORS, OUTSIDE OF STATUTORY COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCEDURES, DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2023
The Board authorized Metro Parks' Finance Department to open annual purchase orders with specific vendors totaling \$50,000 or more, allowing park staff to begin to purchase equipment, contract services and start on other business.
- #6057** AUTHORIZING THE DESIGNATION OF SQUIRE PATTON BOGGS (US) LLP AS METRO PARKS' ATTORNEYS
The Board authorized Metro Parks to retain Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP as attorneys for 2023. Squire Patton Boggs shall bill at a rate of \$360 per hour.
- #6058** AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A PLAY FEATURE AT BLACKLICK WOODS METRO PARK
The Board authorized Metro Parks to purchase playground equipment from Gametime, DWA Recreation, Inc. using the Omnia Partners purchasing program.
- #6059** AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF PLAY FEATURES AT BATTELLE DARBY CREEK AND Highbanks METRO PARKS
The Board authorized Metro Parks to purchase playground equipment from Snider Recreation, Inc. using the Ohio State Term Schedule contracting program. One playground will be installed at Battelle Darby Creek and the other at Highbanks Metro Park.

Other Business

The Honorable Judge Mackey introduced himself to Metro Parks' assembled staff and gave his thanks to the Board for their work with Metro Parks. Mr. Moloney and Mr. Peck

in turn thanked Judge Mackey and his staff for their work as the Franklin County Probate Court.

Adjournment:

Mr. Alex asked if there was a motion to end the meeting. Mr. Hadden made a motion, seconded by Mr. Alex, and the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by the Board of Park
Commissioners:



Tim Moloney, Executive Director



Chair