

Minutes of the 929<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District, held at 3:02pm on March 21, 2023 at Scioto Grove Metro Park, 5172 Jackson Pike, Grove City, OH 43123.

**Present**

Commissioners: Mr. Alex, Mr. McCue

Staff: Mr. Moloney, Mr. McGivern, Mr. Peck, Ms. Telfer, Mr. Studenmund, Ms. Ingram, Ms. Snyder, Ms. Blair, Mr. Fortman

Legal Counsel: Mr. Franzmann

Guests: 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 February 21, 2023 Board Meeting**

Mr. McCue made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2023 Board Meeting. Mr. Alex seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Disbursement Resolution #6068**

Mr. McCue moved for the approval of the Disbursement Resolution for the February 2023 invoices. Mr. Alex seconded the motion and the Board approved the resolution. A copy of Resolution No. 6068 is attached to these minutes as part hereof.

**Staff Reports**

**Administration**

Mr. Moloney updated the Board on the Administration team's current project. Staff has met with representatives of the City of Westerville to discuss possible connections between the east and west parts of Westerville. Townships in the area are interested in connections to greenspace as well.

Staff also met with representatives of the Boys and Girls Club of America to discuss potential partnerships aimed at introducing young people to conservation and careers in the parks and recreation field.

Mr. Moloney stated that staff also continues to work with various stakeholders on the Heritage Trail Connection project. Metro Parks planned on applying for federal funds through Senator Brown's office, but was advised that Ohio Republicans are not allocating federal funds this year and that Senator Brown's office had other funding

priorities. Staff is also in talks with the City of Hilliard to potentially partner on acquisition of a portion of the extant rail line in Hilliard's jurisdiction.

### **Operations**

Mr. Peck introduced the Board to Mr. Kurt Fortman, Park Manager at Scioto Grove. Mr. Fortman introduced his own staff and provided updates on Scioto Grove's current projects.

The park is expecting a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) system to be installed in April. The park has several vehicles and pieces of equipment that will switch to CNG after the system is installed. Last year, Scioto Grove staff worked extensively to repair the South Canoe Access area, which often flooded and closed frequently due to those floods. Those repairs have held up during several heavy rain events this year.

Park staff also continues to work with the City of Grove City to partner on several initiatives to better serve the residents of Grove City. Scioto Grove's popular backpacking campsites open for reservation in April.

Mr. Peck added that his team had met with contractors to discuss the next phase of the Canopy Walk project at Blacklick Woods Metro Park. Work on that project is anticipated to start in the next few weeks. Staff has also made progress at Great Southern Metro Park, and is working on developing a master plan for that site.

### **Finance**

Mr. McGivern updated the Board on the Finance team's current projects.

The Information Technology team is also working on Metro Parks' levy promise of building connectivity in the parks. Spectrum has been contracted to provide high speed internet to facilities at Highbanks Metro Park and a fiber optic cable project is currently out to bid; this project will provide fiber optic cable to facilities at Scioto Grove Metro Park.

### **Human Resources**

Ms. Telfer and her team are busy with spring recruitment initiatives. Human Resources has attended several career and job fairs and has been busy conducting interviews and

moving new hires through the onboarding process. HR is also working closely with local schools for the annual CSI internship program.

Mr. Alex asked how many positions Metro Parks was looking to fill for the 2023 summer season. Ms. Telfer stated that Metro Parks was looking to hire as many as 100 employees, including seasonals, part-time and full-time staff.

**Scioto Grove Fire Tower**

Mr. Dan Kaderly, Manager of Park Operations, presented the Board with more information about one of Scioto Grove's ongoing projects. Last year, the Board authorized Metro Parks to move a fire tower from Jackson County, Ohio and to rebuild it at Scioto Grove Metro Park. This fire tower, known as the Keystone Lookout Tower, dates from 1920-1941. In its previous location in Jackson County, the fire tower was not in use and had become an attractive nuisance in the area.

Metro Parks bid the fire tower relocation project and a contract was awarded to Jagger Construction. The tower was dismantled in Jackson County and transported to Central Ohio, where part of the structure was assembled in place at Scioto Grove and the rest taken to the shop for galvanization, painting and some restoration work. Once this project is finished and assembled, the fire tower will stand approximately 100 feet tall and will offer park visitors views of the Scioto River, downtown Columbus and the rest of the park. Metro Parks anticipates opening the fire tower in late spring or early summer, depending on the weather.

**Resolutions**

- #6069 AUTHORIZING THE REQUEST AND ACCEPTANCE OF DISCRETIONARY FUNDING FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – METRO PARKS ROAD IMPROVEMENT ALLOCATION FOR THE 2024-2025 BIENNIUM  
The Board authorized Metro Parks to accept funds from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Road Improvement program.
- #6070 AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL OF STRUCTURES AND DEBRIS FROM PARK PROPERTY  
The Board declared several structures surplus and authorized the structures to be removed.
- #6071 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FOR PAVING IMPROVEMENTS AT SHARON WOODS METRO PARK  
The Board authorized a contract with Strawser Paving Company for a paving improvement in the amount of \$660,000.
- #6072 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FOR MANUFACTURE AND PLACEMENT OF PRE-CAST RESTROOMS AT NUMEROUS METRO PARKS

The Board authorized a contract with Norwalk Concrete to purchase pre-cast restrooms in the amount of \$330,165.

- #6073 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FOR RESTROOM IMPROVEMENTS FOR BURNING LAKE AREA AT PICKERINGTON PONDS METRO PARK  
The Board authorized a contract with Tyeveco Inc. in the amount of \$115,188.
- #6074 AUTHORIZING THE DONATION/TRANSFER OF A TORO GROUNDSMASTER 7200 UTILITY VEHICLE TO PICKAWAY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT  
The Board authorized the donation of surplus equipment to Pickaway County Park.
- #6075 AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS TO CONSTRUCT PUBLIC USE FACILITIES AT GREAT SOUTHERN METRO PARK AND HOOVER Y PROPERTY  
The Board authorized Metro Parks to grant a temporary easement to the City of Columbus for grading improvements at the intersection of Dublin Granville and Ulry Road. Mr. Alex abstained from voting on this resolution.

**Other Business**

None.

**Executive Session**

Mr. Alex asked if there was a motion to enter into executive session for the purposes of discussing land acquisition. Mr. McCue made a motion, seconded by Mr. Alex, and the Board voted to enter into executive session at 3:25 pm.

**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 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by the Board of Park  
Commissioners:

  
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Tim Moloney, Executive Director

  
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Chair