

Minutes of the 932nd meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District, held at 3:02 pm on June 20, 2023 at Walnut Woods Metro Park, 6176 Lithopolis Road, Groveport, OH 43215.

Present

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

Staff: Mr. Bergunzi, Ms. Boniface, Mr. Eutsey, Mr. Hamilton, Ms. Huffman, Ms. Ingram, Mr. Kaderly, Mr. Kasnyik, Ms. Korlagundi, Ms. Lackey, Mr. Mader, Mr. Malone, Ms. McConnell, Mr. McGivern, Mr. Moloney, Mr. Paulmore, Ms. Pepper, Mr. Saul, Ms. Snyder, Ms. Watkins, Mr. White

Legal Counsel: Mr. Franzmann

Guests: Guests of Park Rangers

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 May 16, 2023 Board Meeting

Mr. McCue made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2023 Board Meeting. Mr. Hadden seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Public Comment: None.

Disbursement Resolution #6086

Mr. McCue moved for the approval of the Disbursement Resolution for the May 2023 invoices. Mr. Hadden seconded the motion and the Board approved the resolution. A copy of Resolution No. 6087 is attached to these minutes as part hereof.

Staff Reports

Administration

Mr. Moloney updated the Board on the Administration staff's ongoing projects. The park district is actively engaged in several potential land acquisition projects. Many landowners Central Ohio are motivated to sell land and are interested in preserving their land as greenspace.

Metro Parks and the City of Hilliard celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of the Heritage Rail Trail, which was Metro Parks' first joint trail project. Metro Parks and the City of Hilliard are looking to expand this trail both south into Columbus and north into Plain City.

Metro Parks has also participated in discussions with the Zimmer Development Company regarding their project adjacent to Scioto Audubon Metro Park. Talks continue to be productive.

Finally, Metro Parks is planning to partner with Columbus State Community College (CSCC) next year to expand their earn-and-learn program, which matches students with employers and pairs education with paid work experience.

Operations

Mr. Dan Kaderly, filling in for Mr. Peck, updated the Board on Operations. Parks experienced record attendance in May due to some very nice weather. Parks are busy hosting programs and

special events. The Operations team is preparing for the annual Red, White and Boom (RWB) celebration at Scioto Audubon. Seasonal employees have finished training and reported to their parks and work units. Both the Columbus Schools Internship (CSI) and Metro Parks Summer Camp programs are underway.

Footers have been engineered at poured at Scioto Grove Metro Park. Once these footers have cured, the contractor can install the refurbished fire tower at the park. Work on the Canopy Walk at Blacklick Woods Metro Park is also underway, and over thirty of the 140 telephone poles that will make up the base of the walkway have been installed. Quarry Trails opened its dog park in early June. A lakeside shelter is being installed at Quarry Trails later this summer, and the Via Ferrata will open for public programming in July.

Mr. Kaderly also introduced the Board to Ms. Mindi McConnell, the Park Manager at Walnut Woods.

Finance

The Finance department is preparing for the first steps of the 2024 budget process, bringing a resolution to submit a preliminary budget to the county to the Board today. The fiber optic cable project at Scioto Grove Metro Park, which is part of a levy promise to increase connectivity in the parks, was successfully bid and will be awarded.

Mr. McGivern also shared some information about Metro Parks' investing policy. Due to changes in the policy that have allowed Metro Parks' Finance team greater freedom in investing, Metro Parks has received approximately \$500,000 from investments this year. These investments supplement Metro Parks' budget.

Human Resources

The Human Resources team has finished seasonal hiring and is now focused on hiring two managers (one for Great Southern Metro Park and one for Hoover Y). HR has also hosted several educational sessions with the CSI interns this summer, aimed at teaching life, financial and job skills. Four more park rangers completed the Ohio Peace Officers training academy and will be sworn in during this meeting. Eleven full-time park rangers (six of whom were hired following Metro Parks' ranger job fair) have started with the district.

Resolutions

#6087 APPOINTMENT OF PARK RANGERS

The Board authorized Metro Parks appoint Mr. David Bergunzi, Ms. Amber Huffman, Mr. Casey Malone and Ms. Naomi Pepper as Park Rangers, following their completion of the Ohio Peace Officers academy and commission through said academy. Mr. Bergunzi, Ms. Huffman, Mr. Malone and Ms. Pepper were sworn in as rangers.

#6088 AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND DIRECTING ITS SUBMISSION TO THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BUDGET COMMISSION

The Board authorized Metro Parks' Finance department to submit a preliminary

budget for FY2024 to the Franklin County Budget Commission, which will officially start the FY2024 budget process.

- #6089 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FOR FIBER OPTIC CONDUIT INSTALLATION AT SCIOTO GROVE METRO PARK
The Board authorized Metro Parks to enter into a contract with Harries and Heavener Excavating, Inc. for conduit installation.
- #6090 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FOR ROADWAY AND PARKING LOT PAVING IMPROVEMENTS AT QUARRY TRAILS METRO PARK UTILIZING THE STATE OF OHIO COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
The Board authorized Metro Parks to utilize the ODOT Cooperative Purchasing/101G program to enter into a contract with Decker Construction Company for roadway and parking lot paving work at Quarry Trails Metro Park.
- #6091 AUTHORIZING THE GRANT OF AN EASEMENT TO OHIO POWER COMPANY FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT QUARRY TRAILS METRO PARK
The Board authorized Metro Parks to grant an easement to the Ohio Power Company for power lines in order to get power for the office and maintenance complex at Quarry Trails.
- #6092 AUTHORIZING THE GRANT OF EASEMENTS FOR HIGHWAY, DRAINAGE AND UTILITY PURPOSES TO THE CITY OF COLUMBUS FOR PROPERTY ALONG BRICE ROAD
The Board authorized Metro Parks to grant an easement to the City for various utility and roadway improvements along the Blacklick Greenway Trail and Brice Road.

Other Business

None.

Executive Session

Mr. Alex asked if there was a motion to enter into executive session. Mr. McCue made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hadden, and the Board voted to enter into executive session at 3:22 pm for the purpose of discussing land acquisition.

Adjournment:

Mr. Alex asked if there was a motion to return from executive session. Mr. McCue made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hadden, and the Board voted to end executive session, and then voted to adjourn the meeting, at 3:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by the Board of Park
Commissioners:



Tim Moloney, Executive Director



Chair