

Minutes of the 933<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District, held at 3:00 pm on July 18, 2023 at Glacier Ridge Metro Park, 9801 Hyland-Croy Road, Plain City, OH 43064.

### **Present**

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

Staff: Ms. Babcock, Ms. Bunner, Ms. Christian, Mr. Domiano, Ms. Ingram, Mr. Kaderly, Mr. Laughbaum, Mr. McGivern, Mr. Moloney, Mr. Peck, Mr. Reed, Ms. Sheridan, Mr. Strosnider, Mr. Studenmund, Ms. Snyder

Legal Counsel: Mr. Kibbey

Guests: Ms. Terrie TerMeer, Vice President of the City of Columbus Recreation and Parks Commission

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 June 20, 2023 Board Meeting**

Mr. McCue made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2023 Board Meeting. Mr. Hadden seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

**Public Comment:** None.

### **Disbursement Resolution #6093**

Mr. McCue moved for the approval of the Disbursement Resolution for the June 2023 invoices. Mr. Hadden seconded the motion and the Board approved the resolution. A copy of Resolution No. 6093 is attached to these minutes as part hereof.

### **Staff Reports**

#### **Administration**

Mr. Moloney introduced the Board to Ms. Terrie TerMeer, the Vice President of the City of Columbus Recreation and Parks Commission and Metro Parks' appointed representative to the commission.

Ms. TerMeer has a long history of public service in the Central Ohio region. During different points of her career, she has served as the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Gahanna, Special Assistant to Columbus Mayor Gregory Lashutka, Chief of the Division of Materials & Waste Management with the Ohio EPA and numerous other positions across state and local-level governance. As Metro Parks' representative to the Columbus Recreation and Parks Commission, Ms. TerMeer has been a tireless advocate for the people of Central Ohio, working to foster connectivity between different park systems.

Ms. TerMeer thanked Mr. Moloney for the introduction and spoke briefly about her work with the Commission. Ms. TerMeer believes that the Commission's role is to help Central Ohio residents understand and engage with the excellent park and recreation resources available to them. Ms. TerMeer has also helped Metro Parks and the City of Columbus collaborate on several projects,

including the early development of Quarry Trails Metro Park and on connectivity through the Central Ohio Greenways system.

### **Operations**

Mr. Peck introduced the Board to Mr. Jerry Strosnider, the Manager of Glacier Ridge and Homestead Metro Parks. Mr. Strosnider introduced the members of his staff who were in attendance and outlined some of their current projects: work is starting on a new project at the Honda Wetland Area which will connect that part of Glacier Ridge to the city water system, replacing a failed well system. Glacier Ridge staff has also been working closely with several nearby neighborhoods, most of which are new developments, in order to build connectivity between the park and its neighbors. Homestead Metro Park has also been busy this year and is anticipating several projects to update playgrounds, roadways and other park amenities.

Mr. Peck elaborated on the Glacier Ridge waterline project. The failed well system had caused problems for several months, resulting in closures of visitor amenities in the Honda Wetland area, and connecting the park to city water will mitigate these issues.

Mr. Alex asked how the ticks (a perennial issue at Glacier Ridge, especially in the summer) were this season. Mr. Strosnider answered that the park had, after consulting in best practices with ecologists from OSU, implemented several new management strategies, including strategic mowing, to keep ticks and visitors apart. So far, complaints of ticks at Glacier Ridge are down over previous years.

Mr. Peck added that all of the parks had a busy start to the summer. A Juneteenth celebration was hosted at Scioto Audubon by the Grange Insurance Audubon Center and Red, White and Boom celebrations were held at Scioto Audubon as well. Approximately 11,000 visitors enjoyed RWB from the park.

At Quarry Trails, significant progress has been made on several projects. The dog park is open to visitors, with a paved road and parking lot planned there later this summer. The cold storage building is in use and the park office is nearing completion. A public shelter is being installed this month at the large quarry lake and the Via Ferrata is open, with staff leading several well-attended programs.

Mr. Alex asked if some of the permitting issues at Quarry Trails, which have stalled development in parts of the park, had been resolved. Mr. Peck stated that they had not.

The fire tower at Scioto Grove Metro Park is slated to be rebuilt later this month. Metro Parks is planning a ribbon-cutting event with local officials to highlight both the fire tower and the park. Other projects, including the Canopy Walk at Blacklick Woods, initial development activities at Hoover Y, paving projects and more are also underway across the park district. Metro Parks' internal ranger academy has also been completed.

### **Finance**

The Finance department has also had a busy month, as the numerous projects underway across the district have correlated with numerous purchase orders and other items. Metro Parks has purchased several new vehicles for 2024 and is preparing for the 2024 budget process with park managers.

## **Human Resources**

This month, Human Resources finished the hiring process for two new park managers. Kevin Tschantz, Assistant Manager at Scioto Audubon/Greenways, has been promoted to Park Manager at Great Southern Metro Park. He will also continue as Assistant Manager at Scioto Audubon while Great Southern is under development.

Melissa Turpening, Outdoor Adventure Supervisor, has been promoted to Park Manager at Hoover Y, where she will also continue to manage outdoor adventure activities. Caroline Wagner has been promoted to Outdoor Adventure Supervisor from Outdoor Adventure Programmer.

Mr. Domiano, filling in for Ms. Telfer, also thanked the Education and Outreach team for their assistance with recruitment using social media. Posting job vacancies on Facebook and Instagram has helped HR fill multiple vacancies.

## **Resolutions**

- #6094** AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF METRO PARKS 2023 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN  
The Board authorized Metro Parks adopt an updated Municipal Separate Storm Sewers System (MS4) permit that staff developed to keep in compliance with Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) regulations. The adopted plan will be submitted to OEPA in order to comply with the MS4 general permit.
- #6095** AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF ONE APPLICATION TO THE OHIO RIVER BASIN H2OHIO WETLAND GRANT PROGRAM  
The Board authorized Metro Parks to submit one application for a wetland creation project at Prairie Oaks Metro Park to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) as part of the H2Ohio Scioto River Basin Wetland Grant Program. This is Metro Parks' third application to the program overall.
- #6096** AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FOR ROADWAY CULVERT WORK AT HOOVER Y PARK  
The Board authorized Metro Parks to enter into a contract with Boss Excavating and Grading, Inc. for roadway culvert repairs at Hoover Y Park.
- #6097** AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A SHELTER FOR HOOVER Y PARK  
The Board authorized Metro Parks to purchase a large (80'x80') shelter and event space from Gametime, DWA Recreation Inc. through the Omnia Partners purchasing program.
- #6098** AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO CHANGE ORDERS WITH MILES McCLELLAN CONSTRUCTION FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT QUARRY TRAILS METRO PARK  
The Board authorized Metro Parks to enter into change orders with Miles McClellan Construction, which is under contract to construct a maintenance and office building

at Quarry Trails Metro Park. These change orders will allow work to continue at that site.

- #6099 AUTHORIZING THE GRANT OF AN EASEMENT TO OHIO POWER COMPANY FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT BLACKLICK WOODS METRO PARK  
The Board authorized Metro Parks to grant an easement to Ohio Power Company for electrical service to the new Canopy Walk area of Blacklick Woods Metro Park. This easement will allow for the operation of an elevator tower and lights to make the Canopy Walk accessible.
- #6100 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE OWNED BY DA-ANN ACRES LLC AT WALNUT WOODS METRO PARK  
The Board authorized Metro Parks to purchase an approximately 3.5-acre parcel at Walnut Woods Metro Park. This parcel connects the Tall Pines Area of Walnut Woods to the recently-acquired Crawford property and H2Ohio restoration site.
- #6101 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE OWNED BY LLOYD KURTZ ALONG HERITAGE TRAIL  
The Board authorized Metro Parks to purchase an approximately fifty-two (52) acre parcel of land along the Heritage Rail Trail, a Greenway operated by Metro Parks.

**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 3:29 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 4:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by the Board of Park  
Commissioners:

  
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Tim Moloney, Executive Director

  
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Chair