

Minutes of the 938th meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District, Budget Meeting held on Monday, December 4, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. at Spring Hollow Lodge, Sharon Woods Metro Park. 1069 West Main Street, Westerville, OH 43081.

Present

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

Staff: Mr. Moloney, Mr. Peck, Mr. McGivern, Ms. Telfer, Mr. Eutsey, Mr. Kaderly, Mr. Kasnyik, Mr. Laughbaum, Mr. Studenmund

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.

2024 Budget Discussion

Mr. Moloney presented the 2024 Budget and Annual Report. The budget was discussed in detail.

Mr. Moloney reviewed accomplishments of 2023, including the ground breaking on a new canopy walk at Blacklick Woods and construction at two new parks; Great Southern and Bank Run. He thanked staff for their dedication in the many achievements in 2023, which included expanded visitor experiences, creative projects improved water quality. Over twelve million people have visited a Metro Park in 2023.

Mr. Moloney stated that a focus for 2024 will be working to accomplish several levy initiatives with a focus on additional trail connections, staffing improvements, improvements to existing park facilities and land acquisition.

Mr. McGivern provided a summary on the highlights for the 2024 budget. He mentioned the five-year forecast for revenue and expenditures will be positive through 2029, 5% annual growth in visitation and taking steps to reduce costs while increasing revenues. He also stated the value of Metro Parks in relationship to other park agencies and Franklin County agencies.

The Board thanked and commended staff for their leadership in 2023. They also asked several question relating to trail development and long-term maintenance, programs for diversity populations with continued growth in Central Ohio, land acquisition during the levy period and staffing levels.

- #6123 AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE CAPITAL BUDGET FOR FY2025-26 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDS
The Board authorized Metro Parks to submit an application through the Columbus Partnership for FY2025-26 State Capital Improvement Funds in order to support further development of Great Southern Metro Park and the Scioto Greenway Trail in southern Columbus.
- #6124 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO CHANGE ORDERS WITH BRECKS PAVING FOR TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS AT BLENDON WOODS METRO PARK
The Board authorized Metro Parks to enter into change orders with Brecks Paving for additional work on the Cherrybottom Road trail connection project at Blendon Woods Metro Park.
- #6125 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FOR PAVING IMPROVEMENTS AT BANK RUN METRO PARK UTILIZING THE STATE OF OHIO COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
The Board authorized Metro Parks to contract with Kokosing Construction Company for paving improvements at Bank Run Metro Park using the State 101G Contract.

Other Business

Staff will be hosting a preview tour of Bank Run Metro Park to Friends of Metro Parks members at 10:00am on Friday, November 26. Mr. Moloney invited the Board to attend this program.

Adjournment:

Mr. Alex asked if there was a motion to end the meeting. Mr. McCue made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hadden, and the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Tim Moloney, Executive Director

Approved by the Board of Park
Commissioners:



Chair