

Minutes of the 953rd meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District, held at 3:03 pm on Tuesday, January 21 2025 at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center at Scioto Audubon Metro Park, 505 West Whittier Street Columbus Ohio, 43125.

### **Present**

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

Staff: Mr. Anderson, Ms. Boniface, Mr. Brewer, Mr. Burgh, Mr. Clark, Mr. Claussen, Mr. Domiano, Mr. Eutsey, Ms. Hall, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Jones, Mr. Laughbaum, Mr. Kaderly, Mr. Kaysnik, Ms. Kronk, Mr. McGivern, Mr. Moloney, Mr. Peck, Mr. Saul, Mr. Studenmund, Ms. Telfer, Mr. Tschantz, Ms. Wagner, Mr. White, Ms. Willer, Mr. Young

Legal Counsel: Mr. Franzmann

Guests: Mr. Bishop, Ms. Ekanayke

Mr. Hadden 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.

Mr. Alex nominated Mr. Hadden as the Metro Parks Board of Commissioners Chair. Mr. McCue seconded it.

### **Minutes of the December 17, 2024 Board Meeting**

Mr. Hadden made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 2024 Board Meeting. Mr. Alex seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Disbursement Resolution No. 6215**

Mr. Hadden moved for the approval of the Disbursement Resolution for the December 2024 invoices. Mr. Hadden seconded the motion and the Board approved the resolution. A copy of Resolution No. 6215 is attached to these minutes as part hereof.

### **Staff Reports**

#### **Administration**

Tim Moloney announced that this would be Renee Telfer's last board meeting, as she is retiring at the end of the month. He expressed that he had never had a better relationship, partnership, and friend and he felt fortunate to work with her for ten years. Ms. Telfer is friendly professionalism to its core. It will be different without Ms. Telfer but she took JJ Domiano under her wing and taught him well. Mr. Moloney thanked her for

her commitment and said if she ever got bored in retirement, we are always looking for part time Rangers.

Ms. Telfer thanked the staff. "This is a family. Leaving the people is the hardest part."

Mr. Alex said, "It is clear that you loved the district and the district loved you."

### **Operations**

Larry Peck introduced DJ White, Park Manager of Scioto Audubon and Greenway Trails, who in turn thanked Ms. Telfer for her service and introduced his staff. He reiterated that clean, safe parks are the goal and spoke on the many service they provide to achieve that. Mr. White mentioned their work and compassionate engagement with houseless individuals, which is something he is very proud of. The Rangers traveled more than 3,900 miles on bike patrol in 2024. Dispatch for the whole district also operates out of Scioto Audubon. Mr. White also pointed out the many partnerships of Scioto Audubon, including the City of Columbus on the Whittier Street Bridge project, ODOT with the I-71/I-70 interchange construction, and Columbus Recreation and Parks on their overlapping jurisdictions. Mr. White then introduced Caroline Wagner of Outdoor Adventures. Ms. Wagner discussed some of the many programs that Outdoor Adventure provides, including climbing and kayaking at Scioto Audubon. Mr. White also introduced Dan Saul, and Stefan Bruch second shift supervisors who also work out of Scioto Audubon. Finally, Mr. White introduced Kevin Tschantz, Park Manager of Great Southern, a new Metro Park opening later this year.

Mr. Peck spoke about the Greenway Trails and the challenges we face with all the different trails and jurisdictions that operate them. The Greenway Trails are expanding into Hilliard as well as projects on Hudson Street and Park Road. Mr. Peck observed that it is cold, but the Winter Hikes Series is going well despite the polar vortex. Mr. Peck noted that Camp Wyandotte will be meeting with their members to discuss next steps after the illegal removal of over 200 trees. He updated the Board on the Zimmer Construction, which is no update.

He finished his report by thanking Renee Telfer for her 15 years of service and announced that she has promised to make the trip from North Carolina to Ohio every third Tuesday of the month in hopes of being pardoned for this year's Santa fiasco.

### **Finance**

Rick McGivern updated the Board on the finance department. They were busy with the End of Year close. Government funding is trailing.

### **Human Resources**

Renee Telfer announced that she is leaving the HR Department in good hands. JJ Domiano, current HR Manager, will be stepping into the HR Director role after her retirement. He already runs the seasonal programs like CSI and job fairs, so the transition will be seamless from the outside perspective.

## **Resolutions**

**#6216 AUTHORIZING THE DESIGNATION OF SQUIRE PATTON BOGGS (US) LLP  
AS METRO PARKS' ATTORNEYS**

The Board approved this resolution allowing Christopher Franzmann to continue to be the lead attorney representing Metro Parks.

**#6217 VENDORS EXCEEDING \$75,000 FOR 2024**

The board approved this resolution.

**#6218 VENDORS EXCEEDING \$75,000 FOR 2025**

The board approved this resolution.

**#6219 APPOINTING AND ESTABLISHING THE SALARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES  
DIRECTOR**

Tim Moloney noted that this position was advertised extensively, but JJ Domiano was the clear standout. There were excellent candidates all around, which speaks to Mr. Domiano's talent.

**#6220 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE OWNED BY LAURIE  
HAMILTON FOR PARK LAND AT BATTELLE DARBY CREEK METRO PARK**

The board approved the purchase of approximately 53 acres in Pleasant Township, necessary for the preservation of park lands in the Darby Watershed

**#6221 AUTHORIZING AMENDING A CONTRACT FOR DESIGN BUILD SERVICES  
AT BLACKLICK WOODS AND BLENDON WOODS NATURE CENTERS**

The board approved amending the contract for the interpretive signage at the Blacklick Woods and Blendon Woods Nature Centers.

**#6222 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF VEHICLES FROM BYERS FORD**

The board approved the purchase of equipment.

**#6223 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FROM DEERE AND  
COMPANY**

The board approved the purchase of equipment.

**#6224 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A DESIGN/BUILD CONTRACT FOR WETLAND  
RESTORATION SERVICES AT PRAIRIE OAKS METRO PARK**

The board approved entering into a contract with Burgess and Niple.

**#6225 AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES FOR WETLAND RESTORATION UNDER THE H2OHIO  
GRANT PROGRAM**

The board approved the acceptance of funding.

## **Other Business**

None.

**Adjournment**

The Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by the Board of Park  
Commissioners:

  
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Tim Moloney, Executive Director  
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Chair