

Minutes of the 956th meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District, held at 3:08 pm on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at the Maintenance Shop at Three Creeks Metro Park, 3860 Bixby Road Groveport, Ohio 43125.

### **Present**

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

Staff: Mr. Domiano, Mr. Eutsey, Mr. Laughbaum, Mr. McGivern, Mr. Moloney, Mr. Peck, Mr. Reese, Mr. Schnieders, Mr. Studenmund, Ms. Willer

Legal Counsel: Mr. Franzmann

Guests: Mr. Miller, Ms. Miller

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.

### **Minutes of the March Board Meeting**

Mr. Alex made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2025 Board Meeting. Mr. McCue seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Disbursement Resolution No. 6238**

Mr. Alex moved for the approval of the Disbursement Resolution for the March 2025 invoices. Mr. McCue seconded the motion and the Board approved the resolution. A copy of Resolution No. 6238 is attached to these minutes as part hereof.

### **Staff Reports**

#### **Administration**

Tim Moloney updated the board on current administrative projects. He is working with Impact Group to work on a community engagement initiative with a goal of meeting with communities to see what we can do better. In the upcoming month they will be meeting with staff and community leadership.

He announced a collaboration with the Stream and Wetlands Foundation on a property transfer of over 200 acres of restored wetlands in the Darby Watershed close to Battelle Darby Creek. It has the possibility of anchoring a new park. Mr. Moloney said we are

working well with the City of Columbus on what Darby will look like and he is optimistic about the future of the watershed.

Mr. Moloney thanked the Board for attending the dedication of the new Inclusive Playground at Blendon Woods on April 10. It has been wildly successful thus far and we are honored to provide such a diverse space for the community.

## **Operations**

Larry Peck introduced Marshall Reese, Park Manager of Three Creeks Metro Park, who in turn introduced Tom Schnieders, Assistant Park Manager. Mr. Reese thanked the board for approving a new playground for the park, stating that it has been at least 15 years since the last playground was installed. The playground should be ready to go by Memorial Day. Three Creeks Metro Park experienced major storm damage a couple weeks ago, as the park was the site of the front side of an F0 tornado. Two new docks have been installed and have proven to be popular. Another popular activity is the Tram, with programs starting next week at Blacklick Woods Senior Camp.

Mr. Moloney asked, "Mr. Alex, no questions?" And Mr. Alex laughed and said, "No, I talk to them enough." To which Mr. Reese concurred, "Yes. Yes he does."

Mr. Moloney explained to the Board that Three Creeks is an interesting park with a linear component- it is encompassed by city owned and managed property, city owned property that Metro Parks manages, Metro Parks owned property that we manage, etc. There are a lot of moving parts. We do not own Sycamore Fields, which has been an area of contention for a lot of people.

"It's wild," remarked Mr. Alex. "There are armed private guards on city managed property. Lots of trash and bad behavior from the people using the fields over the weekend."

Mr. Schnieders agreed stating that the Three Creeks staff used to spend five plus hours on a Monday cleaning up the chaos. Now the city of Columbus is in charge of cleaning up their property after having a conversation with them. The state of Sycamore Fields is still concerning to us because the public is not aware that it is not our property and could easily become a PR nightmare.

## **Finance**

Rick McGivern provided the Board with updates within the Finance department. A replacement has been hired for Kay French, Accounting Manager for 15 years. Her last day is April 30. Financials have been filed with the auditor a month ahead of schedule.

## **Human Resources**

JJ Domiano announced that the HR department is back to three people. Interviews started this week for CSI high schoolers. There is an audit with Franklin County Co-Op on dependents.

## **Resolutions**

### **#6239 AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF METRO PARKS INSURANCE COVERAGE TO ACRISURE**

The Board approved liability insurance coverages for Metro Parks through Acrisure in the premium amount of \$271,882.

### **#6240 HONORING ANDREW T. MILLER**

Mr. Moloney introduced the Board to Andy Miller, who is retiring as Chestnut Ridge's Assistant Manager after 33 years with Metro Parks. Mr. Miller said, "It's been an honor. I've seen a lot of neat things in my 33 years and I am sure that I've hauled more deer during deer management than anyone in the district."

### **#6241 AUTHORIZING THE GRANT OF AN EASEMENT FOR HIGHWAY PURPOSES TO THE FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR PARK PROPERTY AT BANK RUN METRO PARK**

The Board approved the easements for a standard highway easement of .982 acres on Bank Run Metro Park property.

### **#6242 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF PLAY FEATURES AT QUARRY TRAILS METRO PARK**

The Board approved the purchase of play features for an estimated cost of \$150,000, taken from the Capital Improvement Budget for Quarry Trails.

### **#6243 DECLARATION AND AUTHORIZING TO DISPOSE OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT**

The Board approved used equipment and scrap metal to be disposed of in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code.

### **#6244 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT WITH KOKOSING CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR PAVING IMPROVEMENTS AT MULTIPLE METRO PARKS**

The Board approved a contract for Kokosing Construction Company for paving improvements in Blacklick Woods, Blendon Woods, and Prairie Oaks.

### **#6245 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO CHANGE ORDERS THE RIGHTER COMPANY FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TRUSS BRIDGE AT QUARRY TRAILS METRO PARK**

The Board approved a new contract value for \$945,706.41 with funds available in the 2025 Capital Improvement Budget.

**Other Business**

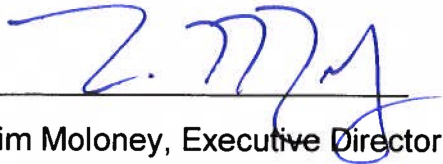
None.

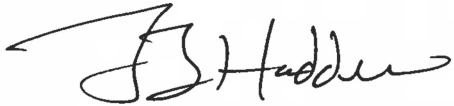
**Adjournment**

The Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by the Board of Park  
Commissioners:

  
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Tim Moloney, Executive Director

  
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Chair

  
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