

Minutes of the 961st meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District, held at 3:05 pm on Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at the Northern Shelter at Highbanks Metro Park at 9466 U.S. 23 North, Lewis Center Ohio 43035.

Present

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

Staff: Mr. Domiano, Mr. Eutsey, Ms. Hoff, Mr. Hyer, Mr. D. Kaderly, Mr. M. Kaderly, Mr. Kaysnyik, Mr. Laughbaum, Mr. McGivern, Mr. Moloney, Mr. Murray, Mr. Peck, Mr. Plowman, Mr. Ramsey, Mr. Rosenbeck, Mr. Studenmund, Ms. Whillans, Ms. Willer

Legal Counsel: Mr. Franzmann

Guests: Ms. Dole

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 August Board Meeting

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

Public Comment

Ms. Dole requested that the parks look into an alternative to crushed gravel trails at Highbanks Metro Park. She was concerned with the safety of loose gravel on steep inclines, as well as the frequent washouts after rain and how that is affecting storm water management in the Olentangy River. Mr. Laughbaum, Manager of Park Operations of Highbanks Metro Park, took her contact information to continue the discussion further.

Disbursement Resolution No. 6274

Mr. Hadden moved for the approval of the Disbursement Resolution for the August 2025 invoices. Mr. Alex seconded the motion and the Board approved the resolution. A copy of Resolution No. 6274 is attached to these minutes as part hereof.

Staff Reports

Administration

Executive Director Tim Moloney spoke about the ongoing Darby Accord review. The latest meeting included the Ohio EPA voicing their comments and concerns has left Mr. Moloney cautiously optimistic about the outcome.

Mr. Moloney discussed working with the City of Columbus on The Big Walnut Trail, the last of the big north/south trails.

Operations

Larry Peck introduced Matt Kaderly, Manager of Highbanks. Mr. Kaderly thanked the Board for their continued support, including approving updated equipment in the Multi-Purpose Room, stone seating wall around the playground at Big Meadows, and an updated amphitheater/fire pit near the river. He is looking forward to doing programming there.

Mr. Peck updated the Board on paving projects throughout the district. Mr. Peck said we are working on a sublease at Great Southern from AEP and ODNR; taking on this land will allow us to get park visitors to the river.

Scioto Fest is this weekend. With the ongoing dry weather, there are some concerns about burn bans. Someone dumped sheep heads into the Big Darby Creek and not the fish kind. Working on issuing citations. We are working with ODOT on the Jewett Road roundabout. Tim Moloney thanked Mr. Peck and Steve Studenmund for proposing a solution that helps us save as many trees as we can during this project.

Finance

Rick McGivern provided updates from the Finance Department. Over two dozen budget hearings from departments across the district were held. The Golf Course has a good cash position, but we will need to update the fairway soon with Zoysia grass. It is a good investment as it is much more beneficial than updating the irrigation system; it is more drought tolerant. The Golf Course just won the 2025 Ohio Water Conservation Excellence Award from ODNR in large part to the incorporation of this grass in other parts of the course.

Human Resources

Human Resources Director, JJ Domiano, briefed the Board of the ongoing Human Resources projects. HR is recruiting again and hosted deferred compensation meetings. An All Employee Picnic is scheduled for October 1 and 2 at Eagleview.

Resolutions

#6275 ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVY AND CERTIFYING AS SUCH TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR
The Board approved this resolution.

#6276 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FOR SURFACE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE CENTRAL ACTIVITY AREA AT SCIOTO AUDUBON METRO PARK

The Board approved entering into a contract to make improvements to the central activity area at Scioto Audubon Metro Park at a cost not to exceed \$120,000.

#6277 AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR SITE IMPROVEMENTS AT BANK RUN METRO PARK

The Board approved entering into a contract utilizing a variety of purchasing programs and public bidding procedures at a cost not to exceed \$600,000.

#6278 AUTHORIZING THE GRANT OF A UTILITY EASEMENT TO THE CITY OF OBETZ FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT BANK RUN METRO PARK

The Board approved granting a Utility Easement to the City of Obetz for future utilities on approximately 2.14 acres.

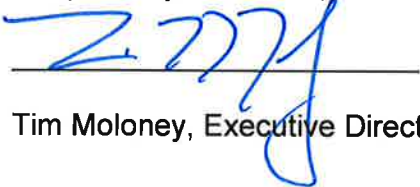
Other Business

None.

Adjournment


The Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Tim Moloney, Executive Director

Approved by the Board of Park Commissioners:


Chair
