

Minutes of the 966th meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District, held at 3:06pm at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center at Scioto Audubon Metro Park, 400 W. Whittier Street, Columbus Ohio 43215.

**Present**

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

Staff: Mr. Anderson, Mr. Brewer, Mr. Bruch, Mr. Bugh, Mr. Domiano, Mr. Eutsey, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Jones, Mr. Kaderly, Mr. Laughbaum, Mr. McGivern, Mr. Moloney, Mr. Peck, Ms. Pepper, Mr. Saul, Mr. Studenmund, Mr. Tschantz, Mr. White, Ms. Willer, Mr. Young

Legal Counsel: Mr. Franzmann

Guests: None

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. Hadden nominated Mr. McCue as the 2026 Board of Commissioners Chair, seconded by Mr. Alex. Mr. McCue accepted.

**Minutes of the December Board Meeting**

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

**Public Comment**

None.

**Disbursement Resolution No. 6295**

Mr. McCue moved for the approval of the Disbursement Resolution for the December 2025 invoices. Mr. Alex seconded the motion and the Board approved the resolution. A copy of Resolution No. 6295 is attached to these minutes as part hereof.

**Staff Reports**

**Administration**

Tim Moloney provided administrative updates. He is excited to announce that we are working with Columbus Parks & Recreation on the Walnut Greenway Trail, which will connect Three Creeks almost to Blendon Woods when completed.

He is working with the EPA and City of Obetz to get the water line finished at Bank Run Metro Park; the contractor is waiting on approval by the OEPA.

The merger of rail lines Norfolk Southern and Union Pacific has slowed down the acquisition of the rail line connecting the City of Hilliard to downtown Columbus.

## **Operations**

Larry Peck introduced DJ White, Park Manager of Scioto Audubon, who in turn introduced his staff. Scioto Audubon was once an old industrial brown field and has now turned into a bustling urban park, filled with native plants and pollinators. The park hosted 18 special events last year, mainly 5ks and other races. The staff at Scioto Audubon also manage the Greenway Trails, including the new Hudson Street Connector. The staff do bike patrol on the trails, with one ranger logging 13,200 miles on his bike last year. Mr. White is particularly proud of the outreach work his team does with unhoused individuals who live along the trails downtown. Additionally, Scioto Audubon is home to the radio dispatch center for the entire district. The team is also helping with the opening of a new park, Great Southern Metro Park, which is set to open April 1, 2026. Kevin Tschantz, Park Manager of Great Southern provided updates on the newest park. The area has needed extensive work, with many scheduled trash removals and invasive species clean ups. Visitors have already been utilizing the trails and work out equipment installed in the park. "There is a lot of excitement from the public for what is to come." said Mr. Tschantz.

Mr. Peck noted that the Winter Hike Series is going very well. Phase I meetings for Homestead Metro Park renovations have begun. Metro Parks staff helped with arsons started along Route 315. Mr. Peck noted that our staff is always willing to help, even when off duty. Marshall Reese, Park Manager at Three Creeks just assisted with a car accident on his way to work. The Pleasant Prairie Solar Farm built near Battelle Darby Creek has impacted the hydrology of the park negatively with lots of flooding. The solar farm is required to fix these issues.

## **Finance**

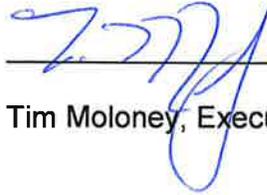
Rick McGivern provided updates from the Finance Department. The 2025 books have been closed and 2026 are now open. Audit has started and the busiest payroll cycle of the year has been completed. Holiday pay, vacation time, and annual bonuses are all common during this cycle.

## **Human Resources**

JJ Domiano spoke on behalf of the Human Resources team. HR is actively recruiting, with open positions for Park Tech I and many part time jobs. Mr. Domiano is pleased to

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

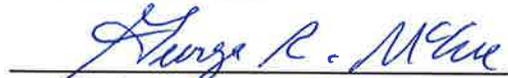
Respectfully submitted,



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Tim Moloney, Executive Director

Approved by the Board of Park  
Commissioners:

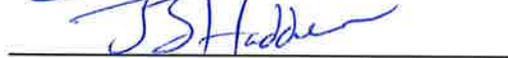


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Chair



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report that Nick Brewer, Assistant Manager of Scioto Audubon, has accepted the position of Park Manager at Sharon Woods.

### **Resolutions**

**#6296 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FROM SPECIFIC VENDORS IN AN AMOUNT EXCEEDING \$75,000 FOR 2025**

The Board approved this resolution.

**#6297 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF SUPPLIES AND SERVICES EXCEEDING \$75,000 FROM SPECIFIC VENDORS OUTSIDE OF STATUTORY COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCEDURES, DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2026**

The Board approved this resolution.

**#6298 AUTHORIZING THE GRANT OF AN EASEMENT TO AEP OHIO TRANSMISSION COMPANY, INC. FOR PROPERTY LOCATED IN FRANKLIN COUNTY AT ROCKY FORK METRO PARK**

The Board approved an easement for electric transmission purposes consisting of a seventy-foot-wide strip of land owned by the Board in Plain Township.

**#6299 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE OWNED BY JD/AC FAMILY ACRES LLC. FOR PARK LAND AT WALNUT WOODS METRO PARK**

The Board approved the purchase of approximately 40 acres adjacent to Walnut Woods Metro Park for a total estimated price of \$750,000.

**#6300 OUTLINING A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND ARRANGEMENT WITH DRIVEN EXCAVATING COMPANY**

The Board approved the resolution designating Driven Excavating as a preferred provider in order to meet the terms of the settlement agreement.

**#6301 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A DUMP TRUCK FROM OHIO PETERBILT**

The Board approved the purchase of a dump truck for approximately \$179,723.

### **Other Business**

None.

### **Adjournment**