

Minutes of the 967th meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District, held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 3:00pm at The Grove Lodge at Scioto Grove, 5172 Jackson Pike Grove City, Ohio 43123.

### **Present**

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

Staff: Mr. Bozworth, Mr. Bruch, Mr. Domiano, Mr. Eplin, Mr. Eutsey, Ms. Flannery, Mr. Fortman, Ms. Hall, Mr. Kaderly, Mr. Laughbaum, Mr. McGivern, Mr. Moloney, Mr. Peck, Mr. Studenmund, Ms. Willer

Legal Counsel: Mr. Franzmann

Guests: None

Mr. McCue 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 January Board Meeting**

Mr. McCue made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 2026 Board Meeting. Mr. Alex seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Disbursement Resolution No. 6302**

Mr. McCue moved for the approval of the Disbursement Resolution for the January 2026 invoices. Mr. Alex seconded the motion and the Board approved the resolution. A copy of Resolution No. 6302 is attached to these minutes as part hereof.

### **Staff Reports**

#### **Administration**

Mr. Moloney provided an ongoing update on the Darby Accord; work is being done with the City of Columbus and local townships. He is very optimistic about the changes. Significant additional acreage would receive extra protections if the new Accord passes. Bank Run is now officially in the City of Obetz, with water and sewer coming soon to the

park. Bank Run will open to the public on May 16, 2026. Additionally, Great Southern Metro Park has an opening date of April 1, 2026.

### **Operations**

Larry Peck introduced Kurt Fortman, Park Manager of Scioto Grove, who in turn introduced his staff. Mr. Fortman provided updates from Scioto Grove, including the park's "record breaking" Winter Hike, which brought out two adventurous hikers during a Level 3 Snow Emergency.

Phase One of construction at Homestead Metro Park started yesterday. This phase will focus on the parking lot and roadway leading into the park.

Metro Parks staff did an incredible job with the Level 3 Snow Emergency last month.

### **Finance**

Rick McGivern provided updates from the finance department. Many purchase orders have been placed and 1099 forms have been filed with the IRS. The IT department is working on more cell phone and internet service throughout the district.

### **Human Resources**

Human Resources Director, JJ Domiano, updated the Board on the busy hiring season. 30/40 seasonal jobs have been posted, with 110 more to fill. The HR Team is attending a lot of job fairs. Mr. Domiano announced that Finance Director Rick McGivern will be retiring in May.

"Rick will be hard to replace," said Commissioner McCue.

### **Resolutions**

- #6303 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 \$966,465 from ODNR for wetland restoration projects at Prairie Oaks Metro Park and Glacier Ridge Metro Park.
- #6304 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF PLAY FEATURES AT SHARON WOODS METRO PARK  
The Board approved the estimated cost of \$199,750 for playground equipment from Snider Recreation.
- #6305 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF PLAY FEATURES AT HIGHBANKS METRO PARK

The Board approved the estimated cost of \$149,482 for playground equipment from Snider Recreation.

**Other Business**

Mr. Moloney was pleased to announce that the district won two top awards at the OPRA Conference earlier this month. The Inclusive Playground at Blendon Woods won first place in its category. Steve Studenmund received the 2025 Jack Hanna Resource Conservation Award for the incredible work he has done for the Metro Parks in his 27 year career.

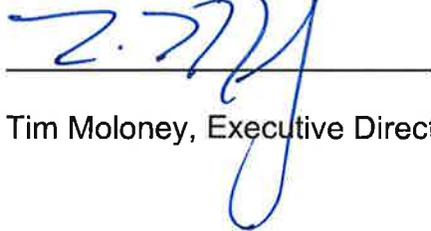
March's Board Meeting has been moved to Wednesday March 11, 2026 at 3pm at the Blendon Woods Nature Center.

A public meeting to discuss the records retention schedule will be held before the March Board Meeting at 2:45pm at the Blendon Woods Nature Center.

**Adjournment**

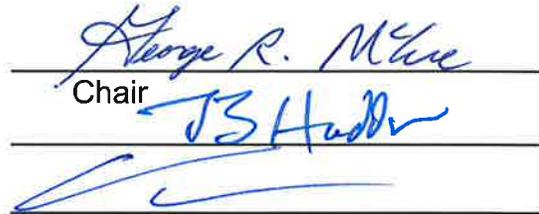
The Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Tim Moloney, Executive Director

Approved by the Board of Park Commissioners:



Chair



