

Minutes of the 946th meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District, held at 3:01pm on Tuesday, July 16, 2024 at Beech Maple Lodge, Blacklick Woods Metro Park, 6975 E. Livingston Ave. Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068.

Present

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

Staff: Mr. Berkebile, Ms. Boniface, Ms. Brierley, Mr. Bruch, Ms. Conway, Mr. Eutsey, Ms. Heist, Mr. Kaderly, Mr. Kaylor, Mr. Malone, Ms. McClintock, Mr. McGivern, Mr. Moloney, Mr. Peck, Mr. Studenmund, Ms. Telfer, Ms. Wesley-Sherman, 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 June 25, 2024 Board Meeting

Mr. Alex made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2024 Board Meeting. Mr. Hadden seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Public Comment

None.

Disbursement Resolution No. 6173

Mr. Alex moved for the approval of the Disbursement Resolution for the June 2024 invoices. Mr. Hadden seconded the motion and the Board approved the resolution. A copy of Resolution No. 6173 is attached to these minutes as part hereof.

Staff Reports

Administration

Mr. Moloney stated that Metro Parks has been working with the City of Columbus for about 18 months and the two have come to an agreement on doing development work within the city. Mr. Moloney thanked Squire Patton Boggs for helping with negotiations. There are currently three Metro Parks projects underway within city limits: Quarry Trails, Great Southern, and a new playground at Blendon Woods.

Mr. Moloney acknowledged and thanked the Blacklick Woods Metro Park staff in attendance, as Blacklick has become the busiest park within the district with 220,000 visitors in June. He also thanked the board for greenlighting the Canopy Walk.

A scrivener's error occurred in two resolutions last month. Resolution No. 6168 & No. 6169 had an incorrect cost per acre listed. The actual cost should have been \$20,000

per acre and not \$10,000 per acre. The total amount approved by both resolutions is correct at \$660,000.

Operations

Mr. Peck seconded Mr. Moloney's praise of the Blacklick Woods staff. The Canopy Walk continues to be busy, with a few issues. The elevator is still breaking down. A meeting will be held with the elevator contractor and manufacture this week to find a solution. Improper use of the fire pole continues to cause injuries, but better signage and a crash pad at the bottom of the pole have helped.

Red, White & Boom brought in 8,500 people with no incidents. Thunderstorms put a damper on attendance.

A new event called Bark Bash will be held to replace the abruptly cancelled Wag!Fest. Mr. Peck praised Ms. Boniface and the rest of the Special Events staff for working hard to move the event forward on such short notice. Ms. Boniface noted that 43 vendors have been confirmed so far.

A new accessible playground is being installed at Blendon Woods Metro Park. The cost for the playground is around \$1 million. Metro Parks received a \$15,000 grant for accessible changing tables. A meeting will be held with the public for input on what caretakers would like to see at the playground.

A Great Southern site meeting will be held with the City of Columbus, AEP, and Lowe's.

Ms. McClintock introduced the Blacklick Woods Metro Parks staff in attendance. She praised their work and mentioned that the Naturalist staff have seen a three times increase in attendance at their programs.

Finance

Mr. McGivern provided updates from the Finance Department. June was a very busy month for payroll. An ongoing audit will be finished on August 15, 2024.

Human Resources

Ms. Telfer stated that one Park Ranger from Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park who could not attend last month's swearing in session was sworn in and commissioned as a Park Ranger for the district.

The CSI program is going well. The students have been finishing projects in many different parks.

Ms. Telfer stated that she was working with Columbus City Schools on implementing Career Days that will be held late Autumn or early Winter.

Mr. Moloney asked how many people were currently employed by Metro Parks, to which Ms. Telfer responded 440. Mr. Moloney noted that this is the largest number of employees at one time and yet the budget is still in a good spot.

Resolutions

6174 AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF TWO APPLICATIONS TO THE CLEAN OHIO GREEN SPACE CONSERVATION FUND FOR PROPERTY IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

The Board approved the submission of two Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation grants to assist in funding the acquisition of two properties in Pleasant Township, Franklin County, Ohio.

#6175 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FOR CONCRETE IMPROVEMENTS AT BANK RUN METRO PARK

The Board approved contract with Pummell Construction Services, LLC for concrete improvements at Bank Run Metro Park.

#6176 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FOR SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS AT BANK RUN METRO PARK

The Board approved contract with Stevenson Utilities Construction, LLC for the renovation of several structures that require an upgraded sanitary sewer system.

#6177 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FOR WATERLINE IMPROVEMENTS AT BLENDON WOODS METRO PARK

The Board approved contract with Driven Excavating, LLC for the improvements of the current public water system at Blendon Woods Metro Park.

#6178 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CHANGE ORDER WITH SNIDER RECREATION INC TO COMPLETE THE PROPOSED ALL-INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND AT THE HICKORY GROVE RESERVED PICNIC AREA AT BLENDON WOODS METRO PARK

The Board approved additional funds for an all-inclusive playground at Blendon Woods Metro Park.

#6179 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FOR ELECTRIC SUPPLY SERVICE

The Board approved 57-month contract with Freepoint Energy Solutions.

Other Business

None.

Executive Session

Mr. McCue moved to adjourn into executive session at 3:28 for the purpose of union negotiations. Mr. Alex second the motion. The board approved the motion.

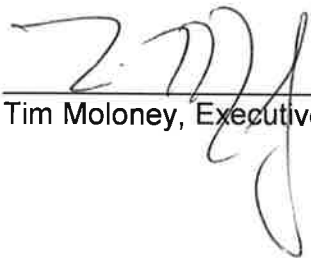
The Board returned from executive session at 3:32. Mr. Alex made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCue, to authorize the Executive Director to execute an MOU and agreement following ratification by the union bargaining unit. The Board approved the motion.

Adjournment

The Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by the Board of Park
Commissioners:



Tim Moloney, Executive Director



Chair