

Minutes of the 949th meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District, held at 3:04 pm on Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at the Cedar Ridge Lodge in Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park, 1775 Darby Creek Drive Galloway, Ohio 43119

Present

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

Staff: Mr. Auricchio, Mr. Blunt, Ms. Christian, Ms. Engram, Mr. Eutsey, Ms. Hall, Ms. Huffman, Mr. Laughbaum, Mr. Kaysnik, Mr. Malone, Ms. McClintock, Mr. McGivern, Mr. Moloney, Ms. Niese, Ms. Phillips, Ms. Pigulski, Ms. Ruppensburg, Mr. Saul, Ms. Snyder, Ms. Stiles, Mr. Studenmund, Ms. Telfer, Ms. Vagedes, Ms. Willer

Legal Counsel: None

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 September 17, 2024 Board Meeting

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

Public Comment

None.

Disbursement Resolution No. 6194

Mr. Alex moved for the approval of the Disbursement Resolution for the September 2024 invoices. Mr. Hadden seconded the motion and the Board approved the resolution. A copy of Resolution No. 6194 is attached to these minutes as part hereof.

Staff Reports

Administration

Mr. Moloney recently conducted a site visit on a piece of property located on the Little Darby Creek. Metro Parks has applied for a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant in order to purchase it.

Metro Parks will help in a limited capacity with the upkeep of the public trail from I-71 to Mock Road along Hudson Street.

Mr. Moloney met with the Director of Columbus Recreation and Parks to discuss a joint park opportunity on a land holding east of Darby Creek near the end of LinkUs Connection on west side.

The Friends of Metro Parks Gala at the Blacklick Woods Canopy Walk was a great success, despite the weather. The rain held off for the most part during the actual event. 100 tickets were sold.

Operations

Mr. Peck introduced Sam Auricchio, Assistant Manager of Battelle Darby Creek. Mr. Auricchio introduced the Battelle Darby Creek staff in attendance and provided a few updates on the park, including the newest additions to the bison herd: three males and one female, all healthy.

Cart path paving at the Blacklick Woods Golf Course will be completed next week. The Breezeway project punch list has been completed.

Blendon Woods Metro Park water pipe project is finished. It will tap into the city water line soon. The inclusive playground is nearing completion.

The Pleasant Prairie Solar Farm avian mortality plan has been approved.

The recently installed security cameras have already been a tremendous help. Rangers were able to identify vehicle break-in suspects easier and helped put a time-stamp on suicide at Blendon Woods.

Finance

Mr. McGivern provided updates on the Finance Department. September was all about 2025 budget planning. IT is installing Electronic Detection Repair to help with cyber security.

Human Resources

Ms. Telfer announced that HR is conducting interviews for Ranger positions this week. With that, transfer and promotion opportunities might become available to existing Rangers.

HR continues to attend high school outreach programs and college job fairs.

The search for a new Santa for the Breakfast with Santa event is over. The Elf job, however, is still available.

Resolutions

#6195 HONORING WILLIAM A. BUESCHER

Mr. Buescher has retired as Metro Park's Landscape Architect after 33 years.

#6196 APPOINTMENT OF PARK RANGERS

Mr. Blunt, Ms. Niese, & Ms. Pigulski successfully completed Ohio Peace Officers Training and have hereby been sworn in as Metro Parks Park Rangers.

- #6197 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF DIGITAL MARKETING SERVICES FROM THE MARKETING BARN, LLC
The Board approved the purchase of services from the Marketing Barn in the amount of \$190,000.
- #6198 DECLARATION OF AND AUTHORIZATION TO DISPOSE OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT
The Board approved the disposal of surplus equipment and scrap metal through GovDeals.
- #6199 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE PARK ROAD SHARED-USE PATH NEAR SHARON WOODS METRO PARK
The Board approved the contract with Miller Bros Construction for \$928,700. Metro Parks will operate a 1,200' section of the shared-use path connecting Alum Creek Greenway Trail to the Olentangy Greenway Trail.

Other Business

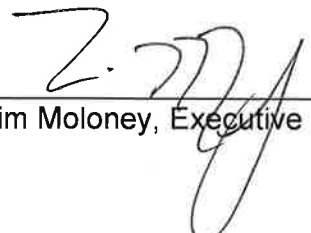
None.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by the Board of Park
Commissioners:



Tim Moloney, Executive Director



Chair