

Minutes of the 950<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District, held at 3pm on Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at the Banquet Room at Blacklick Woods Golf Course, 7309 East Livingston Avenue, Reynoldsburg Ohio 43068.

### **Present**

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

Staff: Mr. Eutsey, Ms. Flannery, Mr. Laughbaum, Mr. Kaderly, Mr. Kaysnik, Mr. Malone, Mr. McGivern, Mr. Moloney, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Samulski, Ms. Snyder, Mr. Studenmund, Ms. Telfer, Mr. Whitt, Ms. Willer

Legal Counsel: None

Guests: Mr. Buescher, Ms. Buescher

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 October 16, 2024 Board Meeting**

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

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Disbursement Resolution No. 6200**

Mr. Alex moved for the approval of the Disbursement Resolution for the October 2024 invoices. Mr. Hadden seconded the motion and the Board approved the resolution. A copy of Resolution No. 6200 is attached to these minutes as part hereof.

### **Staff Reports**

#### **Administration**

Tim Moloney noted that the parks are still very busy despite the cooling temperatures.

He met with the Columbus City Auditor to discuss finance options for the Heritage Trail project.

We have received a proposal for EV charging stations located within some parks from Donovan Energy.

Hosted a meeting with representatives from Joyce Beatty's office to discuss projects and opportunities within her district.

Mr. Moloney noted a lack of progress on the Darby Accord. Metro Parks is not a signer of the Accord, but heavily involved.

Mr. Moloney then introduced Bill Buescher, who recently retired from Metro Parks after 33 years as a Landscape Architect. Mr. Buescher was very accomplished during his time with the district, including leading the creating of Rocky Fork and his dedication and knowledge for making the parks more accessible for all. An oak tree will be planted at Rocky Fork in his honor. Mr. Buescher joked that that park in particular needed more trees.

### **Operations**

Larry Peck introduced Erin Flannery, assistant manager of Blacklick Woods Golf Course, who introduced the staff in attendance. She thanked them for their work in keeping the golf course looking great, despite the recent drought conditions. Ms. Flannery noted that the newly paved cart paths are well received and revenue is up 12%.

The inclusive playground at Blendon Woods is nearing completion; just working on a fence and restroom updates now. A few groups have field tested the playground with positive feedback received.

Bank Run is looking to open mid-2025.

The Park Road Trail project is underway. We are working with the contractor to keep the I-71 overpass bridge open more than anticipated. The project will cost more in doing so, but will be well worth it.

As of last check, over 900,000 people have visited the Canopy Walk.

### **Finance**

Rick McGivern announced that the 2025 Budget draft was available for review, with a formal copy coming soon. He thanked every one for their questions about vacation conversions.

### **Human Resources**

Renee Telfer provided updates on recruitment tactics.

The all-employee picnic and first employee golf outing in October was a huge success.

Breakfast with the new Santa is set for December 7 at Highbanks.

### **Resolutions**

#6201 AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION INCREASE AND TRANSFER FROM THE GENERAL FUND (FUND 27) AND APPROPRIATION INCREASES FOR THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND (FUND 29) TO ACCOMMODATE LAND ACQUISITION AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT EXPENSES

The Board approved an increase of appropriation authority in the General Fund and Capital Improvements Fund.

**#6202 AUTHORIZING THE GRANT OF AN EASEMENT FOR HIGHWAY PURPOSES TO THE FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR PARK PROPERTY AT BATTELLE DARBY CREEK METRO PARK**

The Board approved a standard highway easement on park property.

**#6203 AUTHORIZING THE GRANT OF AN EASEMENT FOR STORMWATER PURPOSES TO THE CITY OF COLUMBUS FOR PARK PROPERTY AT PICKERINGTON PONDS METRO PARK**

The Board tabled this Resolution.

**#6204 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT WITH INTERACTIVE GROUP LLC FOR INTERPRETIVE DISPLAYS AT BLACKLICK WOODS AND BLENDON WOODS NATURE CENTERS**

The Board approved a total project budget of \$400,000.

**#6205 DECLARATION OF AND AUTHORIZATION TO DISPOSE OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT**

The Board approved the liquidation of surplus equipment and scrap metal.

**Other Business**

None.

**Adjournment**

The Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by the Board of Park Commissioners:

  
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Tim Moloney, Executive Director

  
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Chair