

Minutes of the 951st meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District, Budget Meeting held on Monday, December 2, 2024 at 8:01 a.m. at Spring Hollow Lodge, Sharon Woods Metro Park. 1069 West Main Street, Westerville, OH 43081.

Present

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

Staff: Mr. Eutsey, Mr. Kaderly, Mr. Laughbaum, Mr. Moloney, Mr. McGivern, Mr. Peck, Ms. Telfer, Mr. Studenmund, Ms. Willer

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.

2025 Budget Discussion

Mr. Moloney presented the 2025 Budget and Annual Report. The budget was discussed in detail.

Mr. Moloney noted that our mission has always been clean, safe parks, something that sets us apart from other agencies. Additionally, he praised our agency for always letting voters know what we do with their money.

Mr. Moloney reviewed accomplishments of 2024, with many levy promises delivered, including work towards opening new parks Great Southern and Bank Run, the completion of miles of new trails, technology updates like fiber optic lines, and maintained staffing at levels higher than our peers. The addition of the Canopy Walk at Blacklick Woods Metro Parks has been wildly successful, bringing in new visitors from all over the region.

Mr. McGivern provided a summary on the highlights for the 2025 budget. He mentioned \$40 million in expenditures between personnel, park operations, capital improvement projects, and land acquisition, which coincides with our five-year plan. Approximately 76% of revenue is derived from our operating levy.

The Board thanked and commended staff for their leadership in 2024. They also asked several questions relating to long-term maintenance and responsibility of park signage and the role that the recently passed LinkUs levy will play in the budget. LinkUs will provide possible funding to help build trails, but is not directly related to Metro Parks.

Public Comment

None.

Executive Session

Mr. Hadden moved to enter into executive session at 8:21 a.m. for the purpose of establishing the salaries of the Directors. Mr. McCue seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Alex	Yes
Mr. Hadden	Yes
Mr. McCue	Yes

The Board returned from executive session at 8:55 a.m.

Resolution

The Board considered the following resolutions:

#6206 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO CHANGE ORDERS WITH MILLER BROS. CONSTRUCTION FOR THE PARK ROAD SHARED-USE TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS NEAR SHARON WOODS METRO PARK

The Board approved the change order.

#6207 RELATIVE TO THE ADOPTION OF THE 2025 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR 2025

The Board approved Resolution #6207 to adopt the 2024 Budget and appropriate funds for 2024.

#6208 ESTABLISHING SALARIES OF DIRECTORS

The Board set the annualized salaries for the Directors, effective January 1, 2025.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by the Board of Park Commissioners:



Tim Moloney
Executive Director



Chair