

METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, September 15, 2022

The MetroParks of Butler County Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, August 18, 2022, at the Ronald Reagan Lodge at Voice of America MetroPark, 7850 VOA Park Drive, West Chester Township, Ohio 45069-2938.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Ms. Trokhan.

I. Roll Call and Agenda

Members present: Ms. Cynamon Trokhan, Mr. Daryl Nelson, Mr. Larry Gersbach

Staff present: Rhiana Barrero, Matt Latham, Jackie O'Connell, Amy Pellman, Chad Smith, David VanArsdale, Scott Reeve

II. Public Comment Regarding Agenda Items - none

III. Approval of Minutes

Approval of the August 18, 2022 Regular Meeting minutes.

Ms. Trokhan moved to approve; Mr. Nelson seconded.

Motion Passed. Vote: Aye: Ms. Trokhan, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Gersbach

IV. Consent Agenda

a. Donations – August

Ms. Trokhan moved to approve; Mr. Nelson seconded.

Motion Passed. Vote: Aye: Ms. Trokhan, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Gersbach

V. Special Presentations - none

VI. Finance

a. Schedule of Payables

There was a short discussion on the report.

Mr. Gersbach moved for approval. Mr. Nelson seconded.

Motion Passed. Vote: Aye: Ms. Trokhan, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Gersbach

Resolution No. 27.22

b. Cash Summary Report

c. Year to Date Revenue and Expenditures

Short discussion on the format of the new report. Ms. O'Connell stated that we are trending lower on payroll due to vacancies.

VII. Administrative Reports

Planning - Mr. Latham distributed pictures from current capital projects and an article on the streambank stabilization project at Governor Bebb.

Angst Barn work stabilization should be complete by the end of October. This is the last season for the farming lease. There was a short discussion on the metal barn that is on site.

There were no bids received for the Timberman Ridge project, and there is difficulty finding a contractor. The plan is to have the playground installed this fall and hold off on the restroom until next spring.

Bebb Dry Fork bridge construction should start mid-October with the abutments complete by mid-November. The bridge won't be delivered until February.

Miami 2 Miami paving has begun on the western half. Box culvert needs to be installed on the east side. The trail should be done by end of October.

Due to easement issues that dramatically increased the project cost of the Mill Race access improvements, the project is being cancelled and the small construction grant we received from the Oxford Community Foundation will be returned.

Rentschler kayak ramp construction is slated to begin today. Guy wire has not been moved yet; process is lengthy with Duke. The grant deadline is the end of this year, so Mr. Latham will monitor to determine if an extension is needed.

The Dry Fork stabilization project is moving forward. Mr. Latham to be criteria advisor. RFQ is posted now, deadline for qualifications is October 7, 2022.

The Elk Creek access improvements were recommended for funding through the Clean Ohio grant.

Visitor Services Report - Rhiana Barrero discussed the open Visitor Services Coordinator position. First round of interviews has occurred.

The Wheelhouse is closed for season. Ms. Barrero and Mr. Smith will be meeting with a company that manages self-service lockers for kayak rentals.

The Mid-West President's Cup will be coming to VOA in 2023. Travel Butler County brought in organizers for the DPL tournament to tour VOA this week. Organizers were impressed with facility and the nearby amenities. Decision should be made within the next few weeks.

The Athletic Complex is fully booked for tournaments in spring of 2023.

Administration – Mr. Smith stated Park Connections recently held their 2023 planning meeting. They are looking into new programming and partnerships and expanding programs from a cost recovery perspective.

Mr. Smith commented that Operations' busy season is winding down.

There was a short discussion on the potential agreement for Lodge management by an outside source.

Ms. O'Connell stated organizational Strategic Planning for 2023 has begun. The Stakeholder surveys should be complete within the next month or so.

Ms. O'Connell shared that Chief VanArsdale is retiring next month.

VIII. Old Business - None

IX. New Business

a. Mutual Police Aid Resolution and Agreement

Chief VanArsdale explained that this Countywide agreement gives authority to officers to arrest and intervene as the need arises regardless of jurisdiction.

Mr. Nelson moved to approve; Mr. Gersbach seconded.

Motion Passed. Vote: Aye: Ms. Trokhan, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Gersbach

Resolution No. 28.22

b. Proposed MVP Model Change

Mr. Smith stated that we are looking to cease the current MVP program and move to an event parking model to take effect January 1, 2023. Moving to an event-based model provides recreational park access to Butler County residents without the need for a parking pass. Per vehicle parking fees will be charged for large external events that have extra wear and tear on the parking lots. Day-to-day park entry will be free regardless of county residency.

There was a question on how it would be determined which events to charge for. Ms. O’Connell stated it’s currently defined as external events with an expected attendance over 2,000 and that it would be further defined prior to implementation, but we were not intending to charge for internal events at this time.

Mr. Smith stated this new method would be more efficient and customer friendly. The Rules and Regulations need to be revised and will be done so per ORC. The Board will vote on the changes in October or November. Community and Public Relations will draft press releases and share the news with the community once the Rules and Regulations are revised.

Mr. Nelson moved to approve; Mr. Gersbach seconded.

Motion Passed. Vote: Aye: Ms. Trokhan, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Gersbach

c. Approve Title Change of Park Rangers

Chief VanArsdale discussed the perception that Rangers aren’t Police Officers; the title change will make that clearer to park visitors. Uniforms and vehicles will be updated. This doesn’t change anything about the responsibilities other than the title.

Mr. Nelson moved to approve; Mr. Gersbach seconded.

Motion Passed. Vote: Aye: Ms. Trokhan, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Gersbach

X. Commissioner Reports

None

XI. Executive Session

Mr. Nelson moved for a roll call vote to enter Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Gersbach

Vote: Aye: Ms. Trokhan, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Gersbach. The Board entered into Executive Session at 9:47 a.m. The Board returned to Regular Session at 10:07 a.m.

XII. – Adjournment

Mr. Nelson moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 a.m., Mr. Gersbach seconded.

Motion passed. Vote: Aye: Ms. Trokhan, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Gersbach.

Adoption: The above minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting as adopted by the Board of Park Commissioners, MetroParks of Butler County.

Approved:

Attest:

Cynamon Trokhan,
Presiding Officer of the Board

Jacqueline O’Connell,
Executive Director/Secretary

Date