

METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION & REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, April 16, 2026

The MetroParks of Butler County Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at Timberman Ridge MetroPark, 1976 Timberman Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:25 a.m. by Mr. Nelson

I. Roll Call and Agenda

Members present: Daryl Nelson, Larry Gersbach

Staff present: Katie Brown, Jaime Kimbrough, Jackie O’Connell, Amy Pellman, Frank Robinson, Suzanne Roth, Shelly Schultz

III. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the March 19, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

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

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

IV. Consent Agenda

a. Donations – March

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

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

VI. Finance

a. Schedule of Payables – March – Resolution

There was a discussion regarding the \$39,000 structural repairs to the Bebb Covered Bridge. Ms. O’Connell noted that a future conversation will be needed regarding the bridge’s long-term future and additional repairs, the most recent repairs will only slow the damage.

Mr. Gersbach inquired about the \$26,000 expense related to synthetic field repairs. This cost reflects the final payment from UC Health for removal of the logo.

There was also a brief discussion about establishing a repair and replacement (R&R) fund to support future maintenance needs.

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

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

Resolution 26.9

b. YTD Revenue & Expense Report

c. Quarterly Stander Report the plan is to utilize these funds for a bridge at Indian Creek. It was reported last week that the Gilmore Ponds grant was not awarded. Ms. O’Connell shared that MetroParks has submitted a request to the Hamilton Community Foundation for funding. Staff are also seeking matching funds for the boardwalk project and have applied for State Capital funding.

d. Amend Appropriations for Grants Received – Resolutions

- i. Grit Chairs-\$15,000 grant received for chairs
- ii. NR Grant-\$5000 grant for reforestation

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

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

Resolution 26.10 & 26.11

VII. Administrative Reports

Operations: Ms. Katie Brown was introduced to the Board. She shared that staff were participating today in an internal Pearnageddon event at Rentschler Forest MetroPark. She briefly reviewed how quarterly initiatives help bring MetroParks values and mission to life. The community Pearnageddon program generated over 800,000 views on social media. Ms. Brown also noted that approximately 50 participants picked up native replacement trees or shrubs. She added that the second quarter initiative will focus on fireflies.

There was a comment regarding pear trees along Butler-Warren Road. Ms. O’Connell noted that the area is owned by West Chester Township.

Administration: Ms. O’Connell shared that \$73,950 of salary savings was transferred to the general fund to assist with the purchase of a new (used) police vehicle, waterline repairs at Rentschler and replacement of a truck that was totaled in a recent accident.

The deadline to RSVP for the USS Cincinnati grand opening reception is April 17. West Chester Township has taken the lead on signage for the opening and has spent considerable time and consideration coordinating interpretive and wayfinding signage that the board initially asked SubCincy to make sure was in place. Staff are currently working on the three-way maintenance agreement for the site.

Ms. O’Connell added that the endowment account is not yet fully funded. MetroParks and West Chester Township will both pick up responsibilities that are currently under their purview. Anything that will need to be contracted out will be the responsibility of SubCincy. Ms. O’Connell requested Board approval of a stipulation to be shared with SubCincy stating that no additional amenities may be added until the endowment fund is fully funded.

Ms. O’Connell distributed the first draft of the Strategic Plan developed by Human Nature. She noted that the plan incorporates extensive public input including a statistically valid survey. The Board was asked to review the draft and provide feedback prior to releasing it to the public for comment before finalizing. The plan is strongly mission-focused.

X. Commissioner Reports

XII. Adjournment

Mr. Gersbach moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 a.m., Mr. Nelson seconded.
Motion Passed. Vote: Aye: 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:

Presiding Officer of the Board

Jacqueline O’Connell,
Executive Director/Secretary

Date