

METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 15, 2023

The MetroParks of Butler County Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at the Voice of America MetroPark – Fireside Lounge 7850 VOA Park Drive, West Chester, Ohio 45069.

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, Cynamon Trokhan

Staff present: Joe Bruns, Tony Carpenter, Scott Gaviglia, Jackie O'Connell, Amy Pellman, Suzanne Roth, Chad Smith

II. Public Comment Regarding Agenda Items – none

III. Approval of Minutes

Approval of the May 18, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

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

IV. Consent Agenda

a. Donations – May

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

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

V. Special Presentations – None

VI. Finance

a. Schedule of Payables – May

There was a short discussion on the boat rental expense. The fees will be paid out of the Water Recreation Fund held at the Northern Cincinnati Foundation.

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

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

Resolution No. 12.23

b. Monthly Revenue & Expense Report

There was a short discussion regarding the report. The Board would like to see year-over-year comparison with a little more detail. Would also like to see a "cash" balance and a clearer view of what funds are allocated and not allocated. Possibly quarterly or bi-annual more detailed reporting.

VII. Administrative Reports

Operations: Mr. Tony Carpenter briefly talked about the intern through Lakota City Schools that has been working with operations this week. Staff have been busy preparing for the President's Cup soccer tournament that is this weekend.

Planning: Mr. Joe Bruns briefly discussed the repairs to the Kennedy bridge at Rentschler. Work should be completed within the next week. Asphalt work at the kayak launch is complete and the repairs on the drive at Rentschler Forest - Timberhill are also complete.

The bridge work and parking areas at Governor Bebb MetroPark are complete and the ADA Trail is finished to the turnaround. All that is left is for staff to do some more clearing. A short discussion followed about placing bollards at the entrances to the bridge to prevent vehicles/motorized bicycles from driving over the bridge. A question was posed on motorized bicycles on any trail. They are permitted but only on paved multi-use trails.

Police: Chief Gaviglia mentioned the June 24th Ride with a Cop program. The hope is to unveil the new uniform at the July Board meeting.

Programming & Education: Ms. Suzanne Roth discussed rebuilding the team and working on programming partnerships. A short discussion followed on the cancellation of Mud Mania. Although the program was highly attended and well-loved, there were high monetary and environmental costs. Looking at other entities that do similar events to see if there is another way to host the event and have less of an environmental impact. Working on planning for more winter programs and new engaging programs that fit with the seasons and the MetroParks mission. The "Meet the Goats" program was last evening. About 35 people attended. The area that the goats are in is a closed park area. That site was chosen from input from local residents. Once the goats are done, staff should be able to maintain the area with mowing.

Development: Mr. Chad Smith discussed the Hueston farm mitigation proposal from RES. They will draft a proposal that will include streambank stabilization. The mitigation can take 8 – 10 years to complete. RES and MetroParks will collaborate with Three Valley Trust.

Conversations continue with UC Health. They recently turned over the management of the trainer's room to MetroParks.

The FC Cincinnati event with 17 Strong had great attendance. FC Cincinnati is interested in bringing a mini-pitch into Hamilton. Through the partnership with 17 Strong, FC Cincinnati will host another event in the fall.

Discussions continue regarding the proposed Christmas light show at Voice of America MetroPark. The organizer, Rick Seitz, has his attorney reviewing the agreement and will send a draft soon. It is unlikely the event will occur this year due to supply chain issues.

Submarine Cincinnati has received funding for the engineering and design of the USS Cincinnati. West Chester Township will work with MetroParks to draft an MOU for ongoing management and maintenance of the Memorial that is slated to be in Voice of America Park, adjacent to the VOA Museum.

Administration: Ms. Jackie O'Connell briefly discussed working with the Hamilton CHIPS program for help with Marketing.

The Miami 2 Miami ribbon cutting was highly attended by local trail enthusiasts and county officials.

The Ellis Lake closing is June 22, 2023. We will wait for the new Director of Planning to begin any work on the project.

Ms. O'Connell commented that discussions have begun with Tracy Kocher from the Butler County Visitor's Bureau for a new agreement.

We have been approved to receive the ARPA funds from the County Commissioners. Our first step will be to host public input sessions for the project at Davidson Woods once a new Park Planner has been hired to move forward. MetroParks recently applied for an OKI grant for matching funds.

Chief of Police, Scott Gaviglia and Director of Visitor and Event Services, Rhiana Barrero are currently looking for another parking company. There is the potential to work with non-profit groups that could sell parking permits at the Athletic Complex as a fundraising opportunity.

Ms. O'Connell shared the new awareness campaign starting soon "Discover your parks, Find your story". From a recent photo shoot, a few half-page ads were created that will go into upcoming Sunday Journal Newspapers. There will also be a billboard ad through the Butler County Visitors Bureau.

Ms. O'Connell stated that the Park Planner and Director of Finance positions are currently posted.

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

a. 2024 Draft Tax Budget

There was a short discussion on the tax budget. Ms. O'Connell stated that budgeting will begin in September and that we would like to have it ready for Board approval in November. Prior to the August Board meeting, she would like to have a work session to plan with the Board.

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

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

X. Commissioner Reports – none

XI. Executive Session -

Ms. Trokhan moved for a roll call vote to enter Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Gersbach for the purpose of discussions involving:

- I. Personnel Matters
- II. Land Acquisition or Sale
- III. Confidential Matters

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

The Board entered into Executive Session at 9:10 a.m.

The Board returned to Regular Session at 9:58 a.m.


XII. – Adjournment

Mr. Nelson moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 a.m., Mr. Gersbach seconded.

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



Presiding Officer of the Board

Attest:



Jacqueline O'Connell,
Executive Director/Secretary

8/24/23

Date