

METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION & REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 25, 2026

The MetroParks of Butler County Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, June 25, 2026, at Timberman Ridge MetroPark, 1976 Timberman Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Larry Gersbach

I. Roll Call and Agenda

Members present: Larry Gersbach, Cynamon Trokhan

Staff present: Rhiana Barrero, Katie Brown, Jaime Kimbrough, Jamie Meyers-Eaton, Jackie O'Connell, Amy Pellman, Frank Robinson, Scott Wingate

III. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the May 21, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

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

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

VI. Finance

a. Schedule of Payables – May – Resolution

There was a question regarding the \$375,000 payment to the Monroe Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) for the Dick's Creek erosion control project. The work is being done by Stantec and contracted through the City of Monroe's Community Improvement Corporation.

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

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

Resolution 26.14

b. YTD Revenue & Expense Report

c. Advance of Property Tax – Resolution

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

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

Resolution 26.15

VII. Administrative Reports

Human Resources: Ms. Kimbrough shared the current quarterly initiative focuses on fireflies, with the goal of educating the public about habitat restoration and propagation efforts that support firefly populations. Ms. Kimbrough reported that extensive educational outreach has been conducted through blog posts and other communications. The initiative has received media attention, with a segment scheduled to air on Fox 19 this week and WLWT planning to attend the event at Meadow Ridge MetroPark. Two public programs are scheduled: one with Fairfield Parks & Recreation at Harbin Park and another at Meadow Ridge MetroPark.

Planning: Mr. Wingate provided an update on the Gilmore Ponds boardwalk project. He explained that the goal is to replace the existing structure with a concrete and steel boardwalk that will be ADA accessible. MetroParks was recently awarded a \$175,000 grant from the Hamilton Community Foundation to support the project. Construction is anticipated to occur in the fall when water levels are typically lower.

Ms. Trokhan noted that the Hamilton Community Foundation has a grant writer who may be able to assist MetroParks in identifying and pursuing additional grant opportunities.

IX. New Business

a. Approval of 2027 Tax Budget

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

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

Resolution 26.16

b. Approval of NatureWorks Accessibility Grant Application

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

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

Resolution 26.17

X. Commissioner Reports Mr. Gersbach inquired about access to Davidson Woods this fall, noting his interest in leading an Audubon hike there in September. Staff indicated that, as the date approaches and construction progress can be evaluated, they will advise Mr. Gersbach whether access to Davidson Woods can be accommodated or if the hike will need to be relocated to Ellis Lake.

XII. Adjournment

Mr. Gersbach moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 a.m., Ms. Trokhan seconded.

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

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