

METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, March 16, 2023

The MetroParks of Butler County Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, March 16, 2023, at the Butler County Historical Society 327 N. Second Street, Hamilton OH 45011

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m. by Mr. Nelson

I. Roll Call and Agenda

Members present: Daryl Nelson, Larry Gersbach

Staff present: Tony Carpenter, Katie Ely-Wood, Scott Gaviglia, Matt Latham, Jackie O'Connell, Chris Otto, Amy Pellman, Chad Smith

II. Public Comment Regarding Agenda Items – None

III. Approval of Minutes

Approval of the February 16, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

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

IV. Consent Agenda

a. Donations – February

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

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

V. Special Presentations - none

VI. Finance

a. Schedule of Payables

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

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

Resolution No. 06.23

b. Monthly Revenue & Expense Report

VII. Administrative Reports

Planning: Matt Latham reviewed the bimonthly capital projects report. Tree clearing will occur before the end of the month due to the endangered Indiana bat. The Miami 2 Miami project has wrapped up. The playground at Timberman Ridge is scheduled to open by April 1, 2023 after on some finishing touches and a safety inspection. The repairs to the stone bridge at Rentschler should begin the end of March. MetroParks recently received a Clean Ohio grant to extend the trail at Voice of America (south side) from Butler-Warren towards Tylersville. MetroParks is in the beginning stages of the design for the connector road between the Sebald and Meadow Ridge areas at Elk Creek MetroPark.

Operations: Tony Carpenter reviewed the Christmas tree & light recycling programs. Both were very successful. This was the first year for the tree recycling program. The trees will be mulched and used by the Natural Resources department. Cohen reported that 1,677 lbs of lights were collected.

MetroParks recently received a Duke Energy grant from their Climate Resiliency Program. This \$20,000 grant will go towards reforestation at Meadow Ridge, Timberman Ridge, and Angst Preserve.

Chad Smith reported he is expecting a response on the Antenen house by the April Board meeting.

Reily Good Neighbors reached out to MetroParks about an \$80,000 grant they received and their interest in some improvements at Indian Creek. Mr. Smith and Mr. Latham will work with them on the possibility of helping contribute to the park's bridge replacement.

Rick Seitz of Parksperiences LLC. (and Artisan Estate Homes, LLC.) would like to install a drive-thru holiday light show at VOA. Mr. Seitz would make site improvements to accommodate the event, and a percentage of gate charges would come back to MetroParks. A concern was brought up regarding traffic. Mr. Seitz will be invited to the April meeting to present to the Board. There is the potential for sponsorship/co-sponsorship opportunities. There was some concern regarding similar programs in Middletown and Pyramid Hill. There was a suggestion to have a conversation with Pyramid Hill regarding the proximity to them.

Jackie O'Connell reported that the Human Resources "Great Place to Work Survey" through UKG – provided lots of valuable information on MetroParks' culture, and staff is already working on some of the points from the results.

House Bill 1, which recommends a flat income tax rate, is in hearings now. The initial proposal would eliminate property tax rollbacks and subsidies which could result in an 8-10% loss in tax revenue for MetroParks.

Chief Scott Gaviglia reported the removal of the homeless encampment near the GMRT. The camp was on Miami Conservancy District property. The site clean-up and services provided to those at the camp was a cooperative effort with MCD and the Middletown Police Department.

VIII. Old Business – none

IX. New Business

a. Resolution for the Approval of a Then and Now Payment

Mr. Otto explained the invoice was for tree cleanup not covered by insurance during the June 2022 storm.

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

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

Resolution No. 07.23

b. ODOT US Bicycle Route Agreement

Mr. Latham explained that this is a signage program for the GMRT - ODOT will provide signage, MetroParks will maintain the signage on our trail segments.

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

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

c. Recreational Trails Program Grant Application – Gilmore Boardwalk

Mr. Latham reported that the floating boardwalk at Gilmore needs to be replaced. The annual grant program requires a resolution to apply.

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

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

Resolution No. 08.23

X. Commissioner Reports – none

XI. Executive Session

Mr. Gersbach moved for a roll call vote to enter Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Nelson for the purpose of discussions involving Land Acquisition/Purchase.

Vote: Aye: Mr. Nelson, Mr. Gersbach

The Board entered into Executive Session at 9:11 a.m.

The Board returned to Regular Session at 9:59 a.m.

XII. Adjournment

Mr. Nelson moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 a.m., Mr. Gersbach 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