

METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION & REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 21, 2026

The MetroParks of Butler County Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at Timberman Ridge MetroPark, 1976 Timberman Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:28 a.m. by Mr. Nelson

I. Roll Call and Agenda

Members present: Daryl Nelson, Larry Gersbach, Cynamon Trokhan

Staff present: Rhiana Barrero, Katie Brown, Joe Bruns, Jeremiah Cunningham, Joe Dumyahn, Jamie Meyers-Eaton, Jackie O'Connell, Amy Pellman, Frank Robinson, Shelly Schultz

III. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the April 16, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

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

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

VI. Finance

a. Schedule of Payables – April – Resolution

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

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

Resolution 26.12

b. YTD Revenue & Expense Report

c. Amend Appropriations for Pioneer Church Window Project – Resolution

Funds for this project were donated by the Friends of MetroParks and the Indian Creek Pioneer Church Restoration Committee to the MetroParks Legacy Foundation. The amendment receipts the funds that have been held by the Hamilton Community Foundation. The Board would like to formally recognize the contributions by Friends and the Restoration Committee.

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

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

Resolution 26.13

VII. Administrative Reports

Communications: Ms. Katie Ely-Wood shared that goats will remain at Miami Woods through May 27. Approximately 110 people attended the “Meet the Goats” event. TV Hamilton played a significant role in promoting the project, which generated an estimated audience reach of 872,225 and a publicity value of \$26,570 through all media outlets.

MetroParks received a grant to purchase three GRIT chairs (all-terrain wheelchairs). Programming will maintain one youth chair for programs, while one adult and one youth chair will be available for the public to reserve at no cost. The chairs will be stored at VOA MetroPark. Communications will support the rollout through a press release, website updates, and social media announcements.

Visitor & Event Services: Ms. Rhiana Barrero introduced Jeremiah Cunningham as the new Manager of Sports. His primary responsibilities will be managing the overall logistics of athletic tournaments. This position was created, with the goal of making the tournament experience more seamless for all involved.

Administration: Ms. O'Connell shared that at last week's Salute to Pioneers event at the Indian Creek Pioneer Church, MetroParks planted an America 250 Heritage Tree. Approximately 170 people attended.

The USS Cincinnati grand opening events were well attended and included donors, VIPs, general public and former sailors and crew members. The weekend generated significant media coverage. The next phase of the

project will be the installation of solar panels. MetroParks is currently finalizing details of the maintenance agreement. The endowment fund currently holds approximately \$700,000, with a recommended target of \$1 million to support projected annual costs. The sub-group expressed interest in adding kiosks, artifact exhibits, and other features; MetroParks will not approve additional features until the endowment is fully funded.

MetroParks staff accepted an award from the National Association of County Parks and Recreation Organization for the crisis communication signage at the parks.

Natural Resources: There was a brief discussion regarding poison hemlock; Mr. Dumyahn noted that the most effective treatment is to spray the plant prior to flowering. All zones assisted with treatment efforts, which helped combat the issue.

Police: Chief Robinson reported that a part-time officer began last week, one full-time candidate is currently in the pre-employment process, and an additional offer will be extended soon. He noted challenges in attracting younger candidates, as many agencies now sponsor recruits through the academy. He also noted that scheduling will align with MetroPark’s needs, with a focus on ensuring weekend shifts are adequately covered.

IX. New Business

a. Approval of Voices of America Country Music Concert Contract

Ms. Barrero explained that the current agreement is a one-year addendum and is largely consistent with the original contract approved three years ago. West Chester and the Museum are under four-year agreements. The only substantive change is the removal of the renewal option and minor adjustments to fees.

Ms. O’Connell further reported that last year’s second payment from the promoter of approximately \$20,000 bounced, but cleared when the check was reissued. She noted that Further Festivals has been consistently late with payments. In response, MetroParks—along with West Chester and the Museum—has requested full payment in advance for this year’s event. Staff indicated that if payment is not received at least 10 days prior to the event, invoices and related correspondence will be forwarded to the Prosecutor’s Office for assistance.

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

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

b. Award Contract for the Davidson Woods Access Improvements

Mr. Joe Bruns stated that this is for construction of a double-lane entrance drive and parking area at Davidson Woods. The parking area will be located approximately 600 feet from Hogue Road and will include three ADA-accessible parking spaces. A primary challenge of the project is managing stormwater runoff. He shared that most bids received exceeded the engineer’s estimate by approximately \$80,000.

In response to a question regarding the silo and barns on the property, Mr. Bruns stated that while some structures are structurally sound, they will not be accessible to the public. A brief discussion followed regarding the potential removal of these structures prior to the park opening. Mr. Bruns indicated that the current plan is to restrict access to those facilities.

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

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

X. Commissioner Reports

XII. Adjournment

Mr. Gersbach moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 a.m., Mr. Nelson seconded.

Motion Passed. Vote: Aye: Mr. Nelson, 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