

**METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
Thursday, November 30, 2023**

The MetroParks of Butler County Board of Park Commissioners met for a work session at 8:30 am on Thursday, November 30, 2023, at the Voice of America MetroPark – Fireside Lounge, The Lodge, 7850 VOA Park Drive, West Chester, Ohio 45069

Ms. O’Connell briefly discussed the recent creation of MetroParks’ Core Values, Vision, and Strategic Initiatives.

Values:

To be inclusive and involve all staff, a poll was sent out asking staff to choose from a list what MetroParks’ values should be. Subsequent meetings narrowed the list down to four core values.

They are:

We are Engaged: We have passion for our work and have fun while serving. We encourage connection and teamwork and empower others to do their best.

We are Collaborative: We thrive on working in our communities. We are curious and explore creative ways to strengthen relationships.

We are Welcoming: We aspire to provide positive, unique experiences. We believe that parks are for everyone.

We are Accountable: We understand the responsibility entrusted to us and are committed stewards of the public’s resources. We pursue excellence in service, integrity, and efficiency.

The values will be rolled out to all staff at the December All-Staff Meeting. MetroParks will train, reinforce and recognize these values throughout 2024. They will also be worked into the hiring, review and evaluation processes.

Vision:

To Awaken the Explorer in Everyone. How can we, as a county-wide park system awaken the explorer for those who don’t have direct access?

Strategic Initiatives 2024

Advancing Outdoor Experiences

Engaging with the Community

Strategically Protecting Public Land

Strengthening Awareness & Visibility

Goals

Ms. O’Connell gave a brief explanation of where MetroParks is in the process of becoming self-sufficient and our fiscal agent.

There was a question regarding hacking prevention and malware. Ms. O’Connell explained that we utilize NextStep Networking for our IT services and they have things in place to protect us.

Suggestion to have icons for the values to help tie them to tangibles. Ms. O’Connell commented that our team is working on that.