

METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 20, 2024

The MetroParks of Butler County Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, June 20, 2024, at the Chrisholm MetroPark, 2070 Woodsdale Road, Trenton Ohio 45067

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Ms. Trokhan

I. Roll Call and Agenda

Members present: Cynamon Trokhan, Larry Gersbach, Daryl Nelson

Staff present: Zeb Acuff, Rhiana Barrero, Scott Gaviglia, Jaime Kimbrough, Jackie O’Connell, Amy Pellman, Suzanne Roth, Shelly Schultz, Chad Smith

III. Approval of Minutes

Approval of the Revised April 18, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes as corrected.

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

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

Approval of the May 16, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes as corrected.

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

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

IV. Consent Agenda

a. Donations – May

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

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

VI. Finance

a. Schedule of Payables – May 2024

Brief discussion on the work at Timberman Ridge and the associated expenses.

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

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

Resolution No. 14.24

b. Budget Amendment for Lodge Repairs

Resolution to accept and certify funds.

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

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

Resolution No. 15.24

c. Payment of Then and Now

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

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

Resolution No. 16.24

d. May YTD Revenue & Expense Report

Brief discussion on what makes up “Commission Income”. Ms. Shelly Schultz commented that it includes fines, restitution, insurance, sales tax reimbursement, recycling, food truck & vending commissions.

VII. Administrative Reports

Programming & Education: Ms. Suzanne Roth introduced the new Program & Events Outdoor Educator, Nick Lavoie.

Development: Mr. Chad Smith gave an update on the MetroParks Community Grant which closed May 31, 2024. MetroParks received seven (7) applications which are being reviewed by Parks & Recreation professionals outside of the county. The winners will be invited to a future Board meeting to officially present them with the funds.

The Gilmore Capital Campaign has raised almost \$23,000.

Planning: Mr. Zeb Acuff updated that the Elk Creek Connector project starts next week. The Tylersville trail kickoff meeting is scheduled for after July 4th, with construction to start in August.

Planning is currently soliciting consultants for environmental and design services for the GMRT.

MetroParks is moving forward with ADA transition plans with a community outreach event planned for the end of July. The hope is to also form a community advisory council for accessibility. There was a suggestion to include Luke 5 Adventures for their input.

MetroParks received a National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (NACPRO) award for Class 3 Trails and Corridors for the work on the new trail and bridge at Governor Bebb. Three staff members will be recognized and presented with awards at the All Staff meeting next week for their contribution to the project.

Visitor & Event Services: Ms. Rhiana Barrero commented that the spring tournament season has concluded. Hometown ticketing has been very efficient, and Organizers are very happy with the new process. Traffic flow has been addressed and the kinks seem to have been worked out. Ms. Barrero thanked Operations and the Division of Police for their help with the successful new exiting process.

Year-to-date the Butler County Visitor's Bureau reported a local economic impact of over \$16 million from visitors at the Voice of America Athletic Complex. The fall season scheduling is ramping up with the return of regional and local groups. Daily use will begin in the middle of August with the first fall tournament in September.

Administration: Ms. Jackie O'Connell briefly reviewed that Senate Bill 292 State Capital Improvement Fund – the Elk Creek Connector/Sebald MetroPark Emergency Access is being recommended for \$275,000 and the VOA Tylersville entrance/USS Cincinnati parking infrastructure is being recommended for \$1,000,000 by Senator Lang. Statewide Clean Ohio funding was also recommended.

USS Cincinnati groundbreaking is scheduled for July 31st. The group has secured funding to start the project.

Recently, staff visited the Angst property and have the following recommendations:

- Cinderblock barn - evaluate renovating into a shelter.
- Metal pole barn - remove via public sale or demolish if sale is unsuccessful.
- Corn crib - use as a trailhead/interpretive area by removing the lean-to and create a walkthrough with benches overlooking the prairie.
- House - no action now. Currently, MetroParks does not have a use for it. There was a brief conversation about offering its use to a non-profit. A short discussion followed on how that would work with access/availability to the house and parking with the current driveway and gate. The exterior of the house will continue to be maintained.

The barn has been repaired, but serves no purpose at this time. The repairs were part of the sale agreement.

Staff will contact the family before any future work begins.

Antenen Preserve MetroPark – Asbestos evaluator is taking samples inside the house, so MetroParks knows how to proceed with demolition.

There was a brief conversation on Ford's Island – still waiting on the City of Hamilton who is evaluating the property for their utility needs/easements.

VIII. Old Business

a. SOPEC Agreement and Resolution

At last month’s meeting, the Board approved MetroParks joining SOPEC. As part of the agreement, SOPEC requires a Resolution.

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

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

Resolution No. 17.24

IX. New Business

a. H2Ohio Grant Application

This application is for wetland improvements at the Hueston Farm Area of Four Mile Creek MetroPark. If awarded, the grant would be used to restore the eroding streambank and provide in-stream grade control structures.

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

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

Resolution No. 18.24

b. 2025 Tax Budget

Approval of the Tax Budget is a State requirement and is due to the county by July 15th every year.

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

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

Resolution No. 19.24

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:

- I. Personnel Matters
- II. Land Acquisitions or Sale

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

The Board entered into Executive Session at 9:24 a.m.

The Board returned to Regular Session at 9:46 a.m.

XII. – Adjournment

Mr. Gersbach moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 a.m., Mr. Nelson seconded.

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

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