

METROPARKS OF BUTLER COUNTY
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
Thursday, November 21, 2024

The MetroParks of Butler County Board of Park Commissioners met for a work session at 8:30 am on Thursday, November 21, 2024 at Timberman Ridge MetroPark, 1976 Timberman Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013.

Roll Call and Agenda

Members present: Cynamon Trokhan, Larry Gersbach, Daryl Nelson

Staff present: Katie Ely-Wood, Jaime Kimbrough, Jackie O'Connell, Amy Pellman

2025 Budget

There was a discussion about the cash carry-over, with the clarification that MetroParks received ARPA funds in 2024, but the projects tied to these funds are scheduled for 2025. The Board requested an analysis of the carry-over balance. The Board raised questions regarding the increase in 2024 anticipated payroll expenditures versus the 2025 budgeted amount. They requested a comparison of payroll and benefits expenditures for 2023 and 2024 and a detailed breakdown of the 2025 salary budget. Additionally, the Board sought clarification on the minimum cash requirement for the bond and requested a report on the current bond balance.

VOA Country Music Festival Proposal

The Board had a brief discussion regarding the proposal from Further Festivals and the impacts to moving the VOA Country Music Festival into the park. The Board expressed support for allowing the use of the Athletic Complex for parking and moving forward with the proposed expansion related to the event.

Transition from MOU to Special Event Permit for Cross Country Meets

Currently, other schools that utilize the cross-country course operate under a Special Event Permit. Lakota was previously granted an MOU to assist with trail maintenance at a time when such support was needed. To ensure fairness and consistency the Board agreed with moving all meets to a special event permit.