

**Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Board of Park Commissioners  
Five Rivers MetroParks**

July 10, 2015

President Irv Bieser called to order the Board of Park Commissioners Board meeting on July 10, 2015 at 7:34 a.m.

**Present:** Five Rivers MetroParks Commission President Irvin G. Bieser, Jr., Vice President Alan F. Pippenger, Commissioner Karen L. Davis, Executive Director Rebecca A. Benná, Deputy Director Carrie Scarff, Director of Conservation Dave Nolin, Director of Business Services Bill Tschirhart, Chief of Rangers Mark Hess, Director of Park Services and Legislative Affairs Karen Hesser, Adventure Central Director Nate Arnett, Human Resource Manager Antoine Tweedie, Park Planning Manager Eric Sauer, Project Manager Joe Zimmerman, Horticulturalist Rich Pearson, Conservation Manager Mary Klunk, Conservation Supervisor Debby McKee, Conservation Technician Meredith Cobb, Program Manager Katrina Arnold, Finance Manager Jennifer Grusenmeyer, Marketing Manager Kristen Wicker, and Legal Counsel Robert Curry.

**Visitor Recognition:** Executive Director Benná asked Conservation Technician Meredith Cobb to introduce the Conservation volunteers Michael Shade, Patrick Kennedy, James Facette, Ellenmarie Wahlrab and Josiah Wahlrab.

**Minutes:** On a motion by Commissioner Pippenger, the BOPC approved the minutes of the June 12, 2015, regular meeting.

**Financial Reports:** Director of Business Services presented the BOPC with MetroParks' June 2015 financials and the approved List of Bills for June 1-30, 2015. On a motion by Commissioner Pippenger, the BOPC approved the June 2015 financials as presented. The approved list of bills were noted.

Commissioner Pippenger asked about the impact the recently approved State budget has on MetroParks. Director of Business Services Bill Tschirhart indicated that this would decrease the amount of tangible personal property tax MetroParks is budgeted to receive in 2015. Instead of receiving the budgeted amount of approximately \$525,000 from the state, funds received will be reduced by \$167,000 in 2015. MetroParks will only receive \$95,000 in 2016, and nothing in 2017.

**Staff Reports:**

**Cover Mapping Presentation:** Conservation Supervisor Debby McKee introduced Conservation Technician Meredith Cobb. Executive Director Benná noted the letter received from the Conservation Volunteers who helped with the cover mapping task and who are in attendance today. Ms. Cobb continued with a PowerPoint presentation providing information on cover mapping and a comparison of results between 2000 and 2015. Several volunteers assisted staff two to three times a week in

performing the data collection. Following a discussion the Commissioners thanked Ms. Cobb, staff and volunteers for their efforts.

Law Enforcement Activity: Chief of Rangers Mark Hess presented the BOPC the law activity report for June 2015.

**Lease Agreements-** Executive Director Benná requested authorization to enter into a lease agreement with Notre Dame Mission Volunteers to lease office space at Adventure Central for the amount of \$3,900. The lease will go into effect August 12, 2015. Adventure Central Director Nate Arnett explained how the relationship developed. On motion by Commissioner Davis, the BOPC approved the request.

Executive Director Benná requested authorization to enter into a lease agreement with Lamar Companies for three outdoor billboards on MetroParks' property located on Woodman Drive, Needmore Road and on the corner of Burkhart and Woodman Drives. MetroParks is already receiving monthly rent from Lamar in the amount of \$200 per board per month. In the lease Lamar is also proposing to convert one billboard to digital, which would increase the monthly rent of the board. Director of Business Services Bill Tschirhart gave a brief overview of the agreement. On motion by Commissioner Davis, the BOPC approved the request.

**Surplus Property:** Executive Director Benná requested authorization to declare the 11-year Border collie, Zipp, as surplus property. Zipp has been the goose management dog at Cox Arboretum MetroPark. A suitable home has been found to allow Zipp to live a comfortable and safe retirement. The Commissioners asked about future goose management at Cox Arboretum MetroPark. Director of Park Services and Legislative Affairs Karen Hesser explained that MetroParks is evaluating options of purchasing another animal or contracting with a company that specializes in goose management. On motion by Commissioner Pippenger, the BOPC approved the request.

**Capital Improvements Request:** Executive Director Benná requested authorization to work with a Commissioner to authorize the contract for the re-bid of the Barbara Cox Sustainable Horticulture Center. Ms. Benná also requested full board concurrence with Commissioner Davis' actions related the first bid, per the approval of the BOPC at the June meeting to allow MetroParks to work with a Commissioner to award the first bid. Park Planning Manager Eric Sauer explained that MetroParks requested approval of Commissioner Davis to reject all bids received and re-bid immediately. Mr. Sauer also explained that the reason the bids needed to be rejected was they were all 25% over the estimate. The main reason for this was the masonry work and bead board placement on the interior roof. Staff worked with the architect to determine alternatives. On motion by Commissioner Bieser the BOPC concurred with Commissioner Davis' actions, Commissioner Pippenger abstained from vote. Also on motion by Commissioner Bieser, the BOPC approved the request to work with a Commissioner for award of the re-bid and identified Commissioner Davis as the Commissioner to work with. Commissioner Pippenger also abstained from this vote.

Executive Director Benná requested authorization to work with a Commissioner to approve the bid award and contract for the MoMBA Site Improvement Project so work on the project can begin in early August; bids will open on July 27, 2015. On motion by

Commissioner Bieser, the BOPC approved the request and identified Commissioner Davis as the Commissioner to contact.

Executive Director Benná requested the authorization to solicit bids for the repair and replacement of the piping in the west and middle basins of the RiverScape MetroPark west reflecting fountain. The estimated cost is \$67,000. This project will be reimbursed through the RiverScape Replacement Reserve Fund. Project Manager Joe Zimmerman briefly explained details of the project. On motion by Commissioner Bieser, the BOPC approved the request.

**Budget Adjustment Resolutions:** Finance Manager Jennifer Grusenmeyer requested approval and adoption of the following Resolutions:

- Resolution No 15-026 for the transfer of funds in the General Fund. On a motion by Commissioner Davis, the BOPC adopted Resolution No. 15-026.
- Resolution No. 15-027 for the transfer of funds between the general fund and the RiverScape Replacement Reserve Fund. On motion by Commissioner Davis the BOPC adopted Resolution No. 15-027.

**Other Business:** Executive Director Benná updated the BOPC on the following:

- MetroParks' Comprehensive Master Plan process and shared a draft of the survey to be distributed to several thousand Montgomery County residents.
- A press conference is scheduled for July 20 to announce the Community Olympic Development Program.
- The ground breaking for RiverScape River Run Project was held July 8<sup>th</sup>
- Executive Management Assistant Cheronne Wilson is leaving to pursue her law career near Washington DC in contract management with the federal government
- Commissioner Bieser inquired about the Executive Director's involvement in the Together Dayton

**Visitor Comments:** Adventure Central Director Nate Arnett expressed his appreciation of the Conservation Department and volunteers for their assistance in the reforestation efforts and getting the youth at Adventure Central involved in this initiative.

**Next Board Meeting** - The BOPC agreed to hold the next regularly scheduled meeting on August 14, 2015, commencing at 7:30 a.m. at MetroParks' Main Office, 409 E. Monument Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Dayton, Ohio. The BOPC directed the Secretary of the Board to give notice of this meeting and all subsequent meetings pursuant to the rule adopted by the BOPC.

**Adjournment:** Following a motion by Commissioner Pippenger, the BOPC adjourned the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

Approved:

  
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President Irvin G. Bieser Jr.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

