

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS**

June 10, 2021

A meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners (BOPC) was held at Cox Arboretum MetroPark, Edible Landscape Garden, 6733 Springboro Pike, Dayton Ohio, on June 10, 2021, and convened at 8:19 a.m. on a roll call vote by the Board of Park Commissioners.

**Present:**

Five Rivers MetroParks Commission President Karen L. Davis, Vice President Jessica Saunders, Commissioner Bear Monita, Executive Director Rebecca Benná, Chief of Public Safety Mark Hess, Chief of Operations Karen Hesser, Chief of Philanthropy Beth Redden, Chief of Planning & Projects Carrie Scarff, Chief of Administration Bill Tschirhart, Director of Adventure Central Nate Arnett, Director of Information Technology Tim Clark, Director of Outdoor Connections Amy Dingle, Director of Marketing and Public Engagement Shelli DiFranco, Director of Human Resources Antoine Tweedie, Regional Park Manager Joe Morrison, Research & Analysis Manager Amy Forsthoefel, Finance Manager Jennifer Grusenmeyer, Project Manager Joe Zimmerman, Marketing Generalist Lauren Lemons, Education Coordinator Joshua York, Legal Counsel Bob Curry, Executive Assistant Christianna Romer, and Administrative Assistant Rebecca Rowley.

**Visitors Present:** Woody Woodward, Ohio Parks & Recreation Association (OPRA) Executive Director; Greg Schell, Children's Content Producer, ThinkTV, PBS SW Ohio

**Cox Arboretum staff recognition:** Executive Director Rebecca Benná recognized the team at Cox Arboretum for their hard work and dedication to MetroParks. The team members were also recognized individually for their work. The Cox Arboretum staff include: Regional Park Manager Joe Morrison, Park Site Leader Brandon Thompson, Park Technician Ramon Watson, Park Technician Tom Leatherman, 2<sup>nd</sup> shift Park Technician Derik Sloan (not in attendance), Horticulturist Kelly Wood, Horticulture Technician Amy Sellers, Horticulture Technician Amy Galloway-Roma, Horticulture Technician Katherine Stonehill, Seasonal Horticulture Technician Avery DeCamp, Seasonal Horticulture Technician Jacklyn Manker, and Seasonal Horticulture Technician Brooklyn Shackelford.

**Minutes:** The BOPC was presented with the minutes of the regular meeting for May 14, 2021. On a motion by Commissioner Saunders, the minutes were approved.

**Financial Reports:**

- The BOPC was presented with the May 2021 financial information and approved list of bills for May 1 – May 31, 2021. On a motion by Commissioner Saunders, the BOPC accepted the financials as presented.
- The BOPC was presented with a "Then and Now" certification for payment in the amount of \$3,250 to Public Entities Pool of Ohio. On a motion by Commissioner Saunders, the BOPC certified the "Then and Now" request.

**OPRA Award Presentations:** OPRA Executive Director, Woody Woodward, presented Five Rivers MetroParks with two (2) First Place Awards of Excellence. The 1<sup>st</sup> Place Award in the category of Marketing Innovation for the FRMP Mobile App, powered by Outer Spacial, was accepted by Research &

Analysis Manager Amy Forsthoefel. The 1<sup>st</sup> place Award of Excellence in the category of Environmental & Interpretive Programs and Events for the Explore the Outdoors Virtual Summer Camp, was accepted by Director of Outdoor Connections Amy Dingle, Education Coordinator Joshua York, and Think TV Children's Content Producer, Greg Schell. The Explore the Outdoors virtual summer camp was presented in partnership with the producers of PBS's *Nature Cat* and Five Rivers MetroParks.

**Law Enforcement Activity:** The BOPC was presented with the Law Enforcement Activity Report for May 2021.

**Deeds Point Bridge Project Update:** Chief of Planning & Projects Carrie Scarff and Project Manager Joe Zimmerman updated the BOPC on the Deeds Point Bridge Project.

**COVID-19 Update:** Executive Director Rebecca Benná updated the BOPC on how the COVID-19 Pandemic has affected FRMP and its response to continuing to provide services to the community.

**Budget Adjustment Resolution(s):** Chief of Administration Bill Tschirhart requested approval and adoption of Resolution No. 21-016, authorizing budget appropriation adjustments. On a motion by Commissioner Saunders, the BOPC adopted Resolution No. 21-016.

**Professional Service Contract(s):** Executive Director Rebecca Benná requested authorization to enter into a five-year agreement with the Ohio State University Extension to manage and implement Adventure Central programming for 2022- 2026. On a motion by Commissioner Saunders, the BOPC authorized the request as presented.

**Other Business:**

- MetroParks' Commission on Accreditation for Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) virtual accreditation visit will be July 12 – July 15.
- Human Resource Director Antoine Tweedie will give an overview on MetroParks Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Council at the July meeting.

**Visitor Comments:** None

**Next Board Meeting:** The BOPC agreed to hold the next regularly scheduled meeting on Friday, July 16, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. at Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office. The BOPC directed the Secretary of the Board to give notice of this meeting and all subsequent meetings to the rule adopted by the BOPC.

**Adjournment:** On a motion by Commissioner Saunders, the BOPC adjourned the meeting at 9:18 a.m.