

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

September 15, 2023

A meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners (BOPC) was held at Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office, 409 E. Monument Avenue, 3rd Floor, Dayton, Ohio on September 15, 2023, and convened at 8:00 a.m. on a roll call vote by the Board of Park Commissioners.

Present:

Five Rivers MetroParks Commission President Karen L. Davis, Commissioner Jessica Salem, Commissioner Bear Monita, CEO Karen L. Hesser, Chief of Philanthropy Alexis Larsen, Chief of Planning & Projects Carrie Scarff, Chief of Administration Bill Tschirhart, Director of Business Operations Nick Borders, Director of Outdoor Connections Amy Dingle, Director of Information Technology Todd Lampley, Lt. Adrian Sargent, Regional Manager Steve Sherman, Philanthropy Manager Brenda Cox, Business Operations Analyst Jon Bermick, Executive Assistant Christianna Romer and Legal Counsel Bob Curry.

Visitors Present: Paul Lamberger, Richard Baumer

Minutes: The BOPC was presented with the minutes of the regular meeting on August 11, 2023. On a motion by Commissioner Salem, the minutes were approved.

Financial Reports:

- The BOPC was presented with the August 2023 financial information and list of bills for August 1 – August 31, 2023. On a motion by Commissioner Salem, the financials were accepted as presented.
- Chief of Administration Bill Tschirhart requested approval of a then and now certification in the amount of \$4,200 to Moody's of Dayton for motor maintenance service on the RiverScape MetroPark Fountain of Lights Well #7 motor. On a motion by commissioner Salem, the BOPC approved the request as presented.

Law Enforcement Activity: Chief of Public Safety, Mark Hess, presented the Law Enforcement Activity Report for August 2023.

Cost Recovery Plan Implementation Update: Chief of Administration Bill Tschirhart, Director of Business Operation Nick Borders, and Business Operations Analyst Jon Bermick presented the BOPC with a cost recovery plan update for the first two quarters of 2023.

Budget Adjustment Resolution(s): Chief of Administration Bill Tschirhart requested approval and adoption of Resolution No. 23-024, authorizing budget adjustments. On a motion by Commissioner Salem, the BOPC adopted Resolution No. 23-024.

Grant(s): Lt. Adrian Sargent requested authorization to enter into a grant agreement and accept the First Responder Retention Incentive Awards Grant, in an amount of \$112,000, from the American Rescue Plan Act being administered by the State of Ohio Emergency Management Agency; and to authorize the CEO to enter into any agreements, and to encumber and spend funds as necessary. On a motion by Commissioner Salem the BOPC approved the request as presented.

Capital Improvement Request(S): Chief of Outdoor Connections Amy Dingle requested approval to award a contract in the amount of \$59,800 to River Rangers International, Inc. for channel clearing and bank stabilization within Sugarcreek MetroPark. On a motion by Commissioner Salem the BOPC approved the request as presented.

Other Resolutions and Request(s):

Other Business:

- CEO Karen Hesser relayed thanks to Chief of Philanthropy Alexis Larsen and the Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation for the work they did to make last night's Garden Party a success.
- CEO Karen Hesser informed the BOPC that the issue with the RiverScape Fountain of Lights Well #7 failure was due to an O-Ring failure. The part is under warranty and staff are working with Moody's of Dayton on replacement.
- CEO Karen Hesser informed the BOPC that MetroParks has been awarded an Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Urban and Community Forestry Grant, in the amount of \$1,450,450. This is a five-year grant beginning in 2024 with no local match required from MetroParks. The grant will fund work at two underserved community sites within MetroParks: Spring Run Conservation Area and Possum Creek MetroPark. Project activities will include assessment of plant community and forest inventories, removal of invasive plant species, protection of approximately 15 Ash trees against non-native insect pests, planting of native trees and shrubs in areas that were cleared of invasive species, and assessment of project outcomes through monitoring select terrestrial wildlife populations beginning in year two of the grant and throughout the remainder of the project.

- CEO Karen Hesser informed the BOPC that Chief of Philanthropy Alexis Larsen is in the final selection stage and has an interview next week with the National Association of Park Foundations Board of Directors to serve on their board.
- CEO Karen Hesser informed the BOPC that she has been appointed as a Commissioner to the National Park and Recreation Association’s Commission for Accreditation for Park and Recreation Administration (CAPRA). Ms. Hesser will serve a three-year term on the board and volunteered to be on the Standards Committee.
- Upcoming Events
 - September
 - 2nd Street Market: Every Saturday in September from 9am – 3pm: Hunger Action Month
 - RiverScape MetroPark:
 - September 16, 11am – 11pm: Hispanic Heritage Festival
 - September 16, 4 – 5:30pm: 20th Annual United Rehabilitation Services Rubber Duck Regatta
 - October
 - RiverScape MetroPark
 - October 1, 8:30am – 5:30pm: Tour de Gem
 - 2nd Street Market
 - October 1, 11am – 3pm: Native Plant Sale
 - Eastwood MetroPark
 - October 7, 11am – 10pm and October 8, 11am – 5pm: Wagner Subaru Outdoor Experience

Visitor Comments: Mr. Richard Baumer, as a long-time user of the paved trail at Taylorsville MetroPark, shared his concerns about two issues he encounters when using the trail. The first issue he shared is that it is difficult to see what is coming toward him when our vehicles are on the paved trail, driving with their lights on. He demonstrated with a flashlight how a light shining in the eyes makes it hard to see. He would like staff to have the lights off when driving on the paved trail. The second issue Mr. Baumer shared is regarding how bikers announce that they are behind and passing slower traffic. He says that someone yelling, “on your left”, when they are right behind slower traffic is startling. He’d like bikers to be instructed to yell much sooner. Mr. Baumer demonstrated that by getting right behind Lt. Adrian Sargent and yelling, “on your left”. He would also like to see a speed limit and enforcement of the speed limit on the paved trail and improvements on some of the trails that are no longer in use.

Next Board Meeting: The BOPC agreed to hold the next regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, October 23, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. at Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office. A Budget Work Session will follow the regular meeting. 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: On a motion by Commissioner Salem, the BOPC adjourned the meeting at 8:48 a.m.