

**ERIE METROPARKS
Board of Park Commissioners**

Minutes

April 11, 2012

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Landefeld called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM in the Commission Room of the Maple Grove Center, Osborn MetroPark, Huron, Ohio.

ROLL CALL

Park Commissioners Present: Kurt Landefeld, Chairman
 James “Don” Miers, Vice Chairman
 Randy Glovinsky, Vice Chairman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Members of the Park Commission had previously received draft copies of the minutes of the March 14, 2012 meeting. With no changes the draft of minutes for March 14, 2012 were approved:

- (1) Commissioner Miers moved to waive the reading and approve the draft Minutes of the March 14, 2012 meeting.
Second: Commissioner Glovinsky
Action: Motion carried unanimously with three affirmative votes.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

March Fund Activity Summary, Citizens Bank Checking Account Reconciliation, Citizens Bank MMIA Reconciliation: Members of the Park Commission had previously received copies of these reports. Financial Administrator, Melissa Loera, noted that she had a discussion with our representative from Citizens Bank and our Annual Financial Statement to the State of Ohio will suffice as the third party audit that is called for in our agreement with the bank. She stated we had budgeted approximately \$11,000 per year for that expense, which will now be saved. With no further discussion,

- (2) Commissioner Miers moved to accept the above Reports as presented.
Second: Commissioner Glovinsky
Action: Motion carried unanimously with three affirmative votes.

Resolution 2012-17: April Schedules of Payables

A copy of the final draft of Schedule of Payables to the financial reports was distributed to the Park Commission members present at the beginning of today’s meeting. Commissioner Miers expressed concerns for possible confusion to have the payables go up between the Board Packets being delivered for review and the version to be signed at the meeting and asked only the later be presented. Ms. Loera agreed. After brief discussion,

(3) Commissioner Miers moved that the final Schedule of Payables, Resolution No. 2012-17 authorizing total payment of \$120,861.09, be approved as presented.

Second: Commissioner Landefeld

Roll Call: Commissioner Landefeld aye
Commissioner Miers: aye
Commissioner Glovinsky aye

Action: Motions carried unanimously for Resolution No. 2012-17 with three affirmative votes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pit Bulls in the Dog Park

Cindy Lentz discussed pit bull rescue, breed stereotypes and would like Erie MetroParks to make an educated decision on what to do with pit bulls. She advocated getting to know the breed and base decisions on facts and not hype.

JoAnn Gongos, member of the original committee for Dog Park & FEMP volunteer, said that the dog park was built for all breeds to socialize.

Beki Catri submitted a copy of an email from a person who wanted to give their opinion, but could not attend the meeting.

Bob Stockdale said that he will not bring his dog to the Dog Park if pit bulls are allowed because people cannot distinguish whether or not they will encounter a good or a bad pit bull. Kim Price fosters and works with rescue dogs from the Erie County Dog Pound, has new baby and pit bull that get along great. She stressed that violence is not in their blood; it is how they are raised.

Chris Hughes, founder of Thera-Pits based in Cleveland, works with a pit bull therapy group in Cleveland. He said that people never hear all the good stuff; only the bad. Their pit bulls are accepted as therapy dogs in children’s hospitals and cancer treatment centers. Chris also mentioned that pit bulls actually have a better score on the temperament test than other dog breeds.

Chuck Stella, K9 trainer from Elite Canine Training expanded on the heritage and lineage of the pit bull breed. Chuck said that our park needs to be very clear on banning a specific breed. He doesn’t think that it needs to be “breed” specific because responsible dog owners are the key to a dog’s behavior.

Tiffany, runner at Osborn MetroPark, enjoys the park, lives near park, and did research on pit bulls. She found pro pit bull websites that say this breed is not good for dog parks. Tiffany would like the Board to consider that the Children’s Forest and trails for walkers and runners are nearby; dogs can escape and chase them and perhaps be attacked.

Kay Holbrook of Milan has owned dogs all her life and remembers when Dobermans were labeled vicious dogs. Her small dog is more aggressive than her daughter's pit bull. Kay would bring her daughter's pit bull to the dog park since it is sociable, but would not bring her own dog.

Artie Gerold expressed concern about the bite pressure and locking jaws of a pit bull.

Chuck explained that the locked jaw is a myth. He further explained that in general, he is not an advocate of dog parks since dogs are pack animals. In a dog park setting, dogs (by nature) will want to establish a hierarchy.

Norma Weible, dog park member, said that people should be free to have their dogs in the park until the dog shows a temperament problem. Norma's dog doesn't socialize well with one other dog in our dog park, and she worked out a compromise with the other dog's owner.

Dick Schenk asked if any dogs have been banned from the dog park for behavioral problems.

Amy Bowman-Moore, Executive Director, explained there have been two instances. She named the breeds, and explained the parks procedures for tracking and banning vicious dogs.

Beki Catri, Volunteer Coordinator, is increasing volunteers for dog park monitoring.

Commissioner Landefeld asked Amy to bring final reviews and regulations for the dog park to the May meeting.

Commissioner Glovinsky said the Board will come up with a conclusion that is best for the taxpayer's of the county.

Huron River Greenway Lease

Ruben Kent from the Huron River Valley Campground would like to keep the current agreement in effect. His attorney recommends that he does not renegotiate. Ms. Bowman-Moore indicated that she will talk with Mr. Kent and meet with lawyers if needed.

Erie Metro Live Steamers

Rodger Butler represented the Erie Metro Live Steamers. Mr. Butler indicated that the group wants to comply with all state issues. Commissioner Miears asked that Erie Metro Live Steamers put forth a letter to Erie MetroParks stating that they will commit/comply with whatever the state regulates them to do. Ms. Bowman-Moore stated that State inspections will cost less once the Steamers receive their 501c3 non-profit status. Mr. Butler indicated that they really hope to be up and running by late fall.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Amy Bowman-Moore reported the following:

- Had a very successful Peter Cottontail Program. Programming expected 40-50 participants, approx. 150 showed.
- Fun Coast has picked up the Earth Day Extravaganza which will be April 22, 2012 from noon to 5 at Osborn MetroPark.
- Dog Registrations are up for the year. There are 244 registered for 2012 as compared to 150 registered for the same time period in 2011.
- Julie Ladd conducted a Project Wild seminar for teachers.
- Programming conducted 46 programs to 1,951 attendees.
- The Rotary has proposed plans for the new kick wall which should be going up shortly.

- Ms. Bowman-Moore received the appraisal from Tom Young so the outstanding \$5,200 invoice may be paid.
- Volunteer groups from New York and Pennsylvania arrived. They painted picnic tables and scraped the office on Smokey Rd. to be painted later this year.
- Ms. Bowman-Moore discussed how the current Edison Birthplace Lease agreement reads and is going to have a meeting with the Director of the Birthplace next week.

OLD BUSINESS

Incllement Weather Policy, was presented earlier to the commissioners.

- (4) Commissioner Miears motioned to accept the policy as written.
Second: Commissioner Landefeld
Action: Motions carried unanimously for with three affirmative votes.
Resolution No. 2012-18

Rentals

Ms. Bowman-Moore presented a proposal to increase the rental property located on East Sandusky Bay MetroPark from \$300 to \$400 and to now ask the renter to pay utilities. After brief discussion:

- (5) Commissioner Miears motioned to allow the increases
Second: Commissioner Landefeld.
Action: Motion carried unanimously with three affirmative votes.
Resolution No. 2012-19

NEW BUSINESS

PEP Insurance Renewal

Ms. Bowman-Moore discussed that the 2012 PEP (liability) insurance premium is due. There is an increase of 6%. This is due to building values being increased 2%, 3 new vehicles (trailers) and 2 new properties (Wakefield & Thomas Williams MetroParks) were added in 2012. The premium is \$46,290 with a rebate of \$5,289.82. After brief discussion:

- (6) Commissioner Miears motioned to pay premium.
Second: Commissioner Landefeld.
Action: Motion carried unanimously with three affirmative votes.
Resolution No. 2012-20

Programming Rate Increases

Ms. Bowman Moore asked for a rate increase of \$5 per program for this season. After brief discussion:

- (7) Commissioner Miears motioned to increase program fees \$5.
Second: Commissioner Landefeld.
Action: Motion carried unanimously with three affirmative votes.
Resolution No. 2012-21

Surplus Items for Gov Deals Online Auction

(8) Commissioner Miers agreed to surplus items presented to board for surplus, see attached listing.

Second: Commissioner Glovinsky

Action: Motion carried unanimously with three affirmative votes.

Resolution No. 2012-22

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Special Permit Summary (acknowledge and file)

Members of the Park Commission had previously received draft copies of the Special Permit Summary.

(9) Commissioner Miers moved to acknowledge and file the Special Permit Summary as presented.

Second: Commissioner Landefeld

Action: Motion carried with three affirmative votes.

Travel & Training Summary (acknowledge and file)

Members of the Park Commission had previously received draft copies of the Travel & Training Summary.

(10) Commissioner Miers moved to acknowledge and file the Travel and Training Summary as presented.

Second: Commissioner Landefeld

Action: Motion carried with three affirmative votes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Miers moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters – Compensation.

(11) Second: Commissioner Landefeld

Roll Call: Commissioner Landefeld: aye

Commissioner Miers: aye

Commissioner Glovinsky aye

Action: Motion passed unanimously with three affirmative votes.

The Park Commissioners entered into Executive Session at 2:44 PM and returned to Regular Session at 3:30 PM.

Land Acquisition

(12) The Commissioners discussed whether to acquire more land at this time.

Commissioner Miers moved that no land be acquired at this time.

Second: Commissioner Landefeld

Action: Motion carried with three affirmative votes.

Resolution No. 2012-23

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business brought before the Park Commission,

- (13) Commissioner Mears moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:36 PM.
 - Second: Commissioner Glovinsky
 - Roll Call: Commissioner Landefeld: aye
Commissioner Mears: aye
Commissioner Glovinsky aye
 - Action: Motion passed unanimously with three affirmative votes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The foregoing is a true and accurate account of the April 11, 2012, meeting of the Park Commission, and has been formally adopted by the Commissioners as such, and shall be placed in and become part of the official Proceedings of the Board of Park Commissioners.

APPROVED:

Kurt O. Landefeld, Chairman

Date

ATTEST:

Amy Bowman-Moore, Executive Director

Date