

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Miears 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: James “Don” Miears, Chairperson
 Troy Wisehart, Vice Chairperson
 Margaret Murray, Vice Chairperson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- (1) Commissioner Murray moved to waive the reading and approve the draft minutes of the March 18, 2020 meeting with one correction in the first section.
 Second: Commissioner Wisehart
 Action: Motion carried unanimously with three affirmative votes.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

March and April Fund Activity Summary, Citizens Bank Checking Account Reconciliation, Citizens Bank MMIA Reconciliation:

Members of the Park Commission had received copies of these reports. Ms. Price stated that we had a cash balance of \$4,364,730 at the end of April.

Resolution 2020-08 and 2020-09: March, April, and May Schedule of Payables

Ms. Price distributed copies of the Schedule of Payables via email. She reported that Erie MetroParks received the first half tax settlement of \$1,250,893. She added that we are very fortunate that we are levy tax based and not sales, bed, admission tax, etc., like other agencies. We have a very healthy budget. She referenced the 2020-08 Schedule of Payables that was tabled from the last meeting. She noted a few of the non-routine purchases; a John Deere Z Trak mower for \$11,948 and Firelands Electric for \$7,990 for new wiring and LED lights in the Frost Center Parking Lot. Ms. Price noted on the 2020-09 Schedule of Payables Net Play USA for \$23,966 for the hammocks, part of the Mindfulness Project that will be reimbursed from the Erie County Community Foundation Grant. She also noted there were several facility reservations refunds due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Comm. Miears inquired about the higher payable total of @\$129,000. Ms. Price explained this amount encompassed payments from mid-March to mid-May.

Comm. Murray inquired about the legal fees and why we were still getting fees, thought that the city project was off the table. Mr. Peters, legal counsel, answered that he thought that the city project would be wrapped up at the first of the year, but it has taken a little longer working with the City of Sandusky. He is also still working with Erie County on the easement renewal. Comm. Murray inquired about the line in the financials- full time law salaries-OPS. Ms. Price explained that it is payroll for Jay Yochem, he is still a Ranger and under the OPERS law enforcement retirement fund. She then asked about the payments for conferences. She did not see refunds for some of the payments and asked if conferences were postponed. Ms. Price explained that yes, some have been postponed, so we have not received refunds, and some were attended before the stay at home order.

(2) Commissioner Wisheart moved to approve Resolution 2020-08 and 2020-09 Schedule of Payables as presented.

Second: Commissioner Murray

Action: Motion carried unanimously with three affirmative votes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public in attendance at today's meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Bowman-Moore reported the following:

-The levy passed by 78%, and we carried every precinct in Erie County!

-Thank you banners and signs were posted.

-The engineered wood fiber mulch was spread on the playgrounds as bases of play structures using a rented mulch blower to expedite the process.

-The Mindfulness Project is ready to be installed.

-Community Garden Plots are prepared and ready for planting. They are about one half reserved.

-Program Department is going virtual- including Park Pals, Nature Camp, nature programs, wellness programs, etc.

-Ethan's photos have been featured in several OPRA publications and are well viewed on social media.

-Staff has been doing virtual classroom presentations for Erie County schools.

-Reaching out to the community via Facebook, Instagram, You Tube, etc.

-Working on a planning matrix for future programming and communications for different scenarios: virtual, less than 10 people, less than 50, 100, etc.

-Seasonal mow staff has been hired and now onboarded.

-The full-time, year-round operations staff person was not hired yet due to the pandemic and social distancing, unable to effectively on-board the new hire, but will be doing soon.

-Hired Aqua Doc to analyze invasive plant issue at Putnam Marsh.

-The barn roof was replaced; it was an insurance reimbursement.

-Information on Covid-19 and social distancing in parks posted on all bulletin boards.

-Bathrooms re-opened with restrictions, cleaned once a day.

-Comm. Murray inquired about the above-mentioned programs and how to find them on the website. Ms. Price explained that nature camp registrations and fitness programs were not yet released.

OLD BUSINESS

Climbing at Castalia Quarry MetroPark

Ms. Bowman-Moore wanted to report on the requested information that she obtained in researching the feasibility of allowing rock climbing at the Castalia Quarry MetroPark. She reached out to Sheriff Sigsworth who then contacted the Margareta Township Fire Chief. They discussed and neither agency is equipped with the training or equipment to handle any rescue situations that could result of the public rock climbing at the Quarry, and neither wanted to be a part of it. She then reached out to our liability insurance carrier who said no- they will not cover such activity. After some discussion, Comm. Mears asked Ms. Bowman-Moore to reach out to the climbing group and let them know that they Board will not allow rock climbing at the Castalia Quarry MetroPark, as it is not safely feasible. Comm. Wisheart agreed.

Comm. Mears asked about Ed Hartung and the deeds and if anything, ever become of that? Ms. Bowman-Moore answered that he had never finished or sent the final deeds, therefore we have not made the final payment. A discussion ensued and Comm. Wisheart asked Mr. Peters to reach out to Mr. Hartung. Comm. Mears asked Mr. Peters to please provide the Board with a summary of the contact with Mr. Hartung.

NEW BUSINESS

2020 EMP Local Park Capital Improvement Grant Awards, authorization for Ms. Bowman-Moore to complete the contracts.

There were eight applications for the grants this year. There was \$37,243 requested and \$30,000 to award as previously approved by the Board. All grants were fully funded but one, Milan Township agreed to a partial grant of \$5,547 after asking for \$12,790. All \$30,000 was then awarded for 2020.

- (3) Commissioner Murray moved to authorize Ms. Bowman-Moore to complete the contracts.
 - Second: Commissioner Wisheart
 - Action: Motion passed unanimously with three affirmative votes.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Travel & Training Summary (acknowledge and file) NONE

Special Permit Summary (acknowledge and file)

There were two new special permits added to the list. Ms. Bowman-Moore explained them and asked the board to acknowledge.

- (4) Commissioner Murray moved to acknowledge and file the Special Permit Summary provided.
 - Second: Commissioner Wisheart
 - Action: Motion passed unanimously with three affirmative votes.

Credit Card Summary (acknowledge and file)

Ms. Bowman-Moore asked the board to acknowledge and file the Credit Card Summary.

- (5) Commissioner Wisheart moved to acknowledge and file the Credit Card Summary provided.
Second: Commissioner Murray
Action: Motion passed unanimously with three affirmative votes.

Disposal of Surplus Personal Property & Remove from Inventory (acknowledge and file)

- (6) Commissioner Murray moved to acknowledge and file the list of surplus items to be disposed and removed from the inventory, as provided.
Second: Commissioner Wisheart
Action: Motion passed unanimously with three affirmative votes.

Other (Misc. items from Board or Administration)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Land Acquisition

The Park Commissioners entered Executive Session at 1:36 PM and returned to Regular Session at 1:56 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

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

- (7) Commissioner Wisheart moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:57 PM.
Second: Commissioner Murray
Roll Call: Commissioner Miears: aye
Commissioner Murray: aye
Commissioner Wisheart: aye
Action: Motion passed unanimously with three affirmative votes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The foregoing is a true and accurate account of the May 13, 2020 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:

James L. "Don" Miears, Chairperson

Date

ATTEST:

Amy Bowman-Moore, Executive Director

Date