

Minutes

March 10, 2021

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Wisheart called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM in the Commission Room of the Maple Grove Center, Osborn MetroPark, Huron, Ohio. (via Zoom)

ROLL CALL

Park Commissioners Present: James “Don” Miers, Chairperson (excused)
Troy Wisheart, Vice Chairperson
Margaret Murray, Vice Chairperson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- (1) Commissioner Wisheart moved to waive the reading and approve the draft minutes of the February 10, 2021 meeting.
Second: Commissioner Murray
Action: Motion carried unanimously with two affirmative votes.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

February 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 \$4,290,322 at the end of February.

(2) Resolution 2021-07: March Schedule of Payables

Ms. Price distributed copies of the Schedule of Payables via email. She stated that the payables are relatively small with standard expenses, as we were just getting into purchasing. She wanted to mention that the purchase for 6 radios from Forestry Suppliers for \$1,943 was purchased with grant funds. She also noted @\$2,000 was for the accounting software upgrades and technical support. Ms. Price asked if there were any questions.

Commissioner Murray moved to approve Resolution 2021-07 Schedule of Payables as presented.

- Second: Commissioner Wisheart
Action: Motion carried unanimously with two affirmative votes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Eirons, Firelands Area Pickleball Association addressed the Board. He stated that he has a problem. Their organization is growing too fast. In 2016, they asked for four courts and received them, in 2019 they asked for four additional courts, which Erie MetroParks built. Now in 2021,

they are up to 220 members and not enough courts, and his Board wants to close membership, which he stated he did not want to do. He asked the Board for input. He stated that the courts were a great gift from Erie MetroParks to the community, and he inquired to what would be the limit as to support from Erie MetroParks, 8 courts, 12 courts, 16 courts??? He stated that he was just looking for input and does not want to limit their membership.

Comm. Wisheart asked how many courts are there currently, Mr. Eirons stated eight. Comm. Murray added that there are eight courts at the Cedar Point Sports Center and six at Court 1. Mr. Eirons added that the courts at Cedar Point Sports Center are only open when the Erie MetroParks courts are closed for the season. Ms. Bowman-Moore stated that the obvious answer at this time would be to extend their playing hours, currently the courts are only being used by the group from 8:00 am-noon.

Mr. Eirons asked the general question- "Can we address this long-term growth or are we capped out right now?" Comm. Wisheart answered that we should take the summer to look at the court usage and reevaluate later, in September or October, to see if expanding is necessary in the future. Discussion ensued about repurposing the tennis courts. Comm. Murray is opposed to changing or striping the newly resurfaced tennis courts for pickleball.

Mr. Eirons concluded that they would adapt their schedule for this year, reevaluate in the fall and see how it goes. Comm. Wisheart suggested that they use pylons or cones to mark off the tennis courts, when not in use, and they could use those courts for beginners.

Brian Rospert, Milan Village Administrator, was present to discuss the Jenkins (Bickley) Warehouse in Milan. He stated that he, Mayor Pam Crosby, Amy Bowman-Moore, and Park Manager Mark Malone met to discuss the future of the warehouse. He stated that he knew that Erie MetroParks had some concerns about the failing structure of the facility. Mr. Rospert discussed the history of the building. It is the last remaining warehouse of the canal era in Milan. They would like to do whatever they can to preserve the history- and would like to start a grassroots effort to save the warehouse, which was built in 1840. They would like to form a committee and offered to pay for a historical structural engineer to assess the building and provide MetroParks with a cost for restoring the warehouse.

Ms. Bowman-Moore stated that was a great first step, Erie MetroParks does not want to just tear down. We would like to see what the structural engineer reports the cost is to fix the building. We do not want to destroy history, if the building would need to be torn down, maybe we could build a shelter and add historical, interpretive displays. She stated that the foundation was the worst part, and we will let the cost tell us how to proceed.

Comm. Wisheart stated that he liked the idea of preserving the building if we can, stating that it had significant historical value. We will need to see what the costs are, to determine our options. Comm. Murray agreed, she liked the idea of the grass roots effort to preserve it and it bears investigating further. She added that a project like this is more in alignment with our mission. The Board asked Mr. Rospert to have a cost estimate from the engineer by May 5th. He agreed and thanked the Board and Mrs. Bowman-Moore for their time and agreeing to work with them.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Ms. Bowman-Moore referenced her report which was included in the Board packet. She stated the following:

- We have received work order requests from BGSU and will begin maintenance work at the James H. McBride Arboretum in April.
- Had 13 virtual programs for 487 participants.
- 37,523 virtual views.
- She is receiving her first vaccine tomorrow.
- April 12th, she will be back in the office daily.
- Once the State goes to 50 cases per 100,000 for two weeks, we will open the Frost Center, reservations, and programs.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Travel & Training Summary (acknowledge and file) NONE

Special Permit Summary (acknowledge and file)

There were two new special permits to acknowledge and file this month.

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

Credit Card Summary (acknowledge and file)

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

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

Other (Misc. items from Board or Administration)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Land Acquisition

Commissioner Murray moved to enter Executive Session to consider the following matters: Land Acquisition.

- (7) Second: Commissioner Wisehart

Roll Call: Commissioner Miers: excused
Commissioner Murray: aye
Commissioner Wisehart: aye
Action: Motion passed unanimously with two affirmative votes.

The Park Commissioners entered Executive Session at 1:38 PM and returned to Regular Session at 1:54 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

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

(8) Commissioner Murray moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:56 PM.
Second: Commissioner Wisehart
Roll Call: Commissioner Miers: excused
Commissioner Murray: aye
Commissioner Wisehart: aye
Action: Motion passed unanimously with two affirmative votes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The foregoing is a true and accurate account of the March 10, 2021 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:

Troy Wisehart, Acting Chairperson

Date

ATTEST:

Amy Bowman-Moore, Executive Director

Date