

<b><i>Minutes</i></b>	<b>May 11, 2022</b>
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**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, VIA ZOOM

**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 April 13, 2022, meeting.

Second:           Commissioner Wisehart  
Action:           Motion carried unanimously with three affirmative votes.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

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

Members of the Park Commission had received copies of these reports.

(2) Resolution 2022-10: May Schedule of Payables

Ms. Price distributed copies of the Schedule of Payables via email. On page three, she noted the \$2,871.54 payment to Dick’s Sporting Goods for purchase of stand-up paddleboards from an Ohio Boating Education Grant from pre-covid that have just arrived. She noted on page six a purchase of a thermo monocular for approx. \$6,000 for use in deer counts, etc. She wanted to point out the \$112,763 payment to Columbia Gas for running a natural gas line from Hull Road to the site of the new nature center. She added that that payment came from the Capital Projects Fund and noted that the account numbers for the nature center project will all begin with an 8- as opposed to the General Fund which begins with 1-. Comm. Miears inquired as to why we had to pay up front for this service. Ms. Bowman-Moore explained we needed to pay ahead for the engineering and to get on their installation schedule. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Murray moved to approve Resolution 2022-10 Schedule of Payables as presented.

Second:           Commissioner Wisehart  
Action:           Motion carried unanimously with three affirmative votes.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Bowman-Moore referenced her report sent via the board packet. She added the following:

-The Request for Qualifications were received and reviewed by a panel of EMP staff and two architects. There were five submissions and the top three made it to the short list and will be interviewed/ present their proposal to a committee: R.J. Runge from Port Clinton, Regency Construction from Brook Park, and Turner Construction out of Cleveland. Josh Fox, the criteria architect explained the scoring and desired qualifications, and how the committee felt that the top three choices had the best qualifications and experience. Ms. Bowman-Moore added that they used the state selection rating form from the Ohio Facilities Commission as a guide.

(3) Commissioner Wisheart moved to approve the short list of the top three firms and to go forth with the Request for Proposal process.

Second: Commissioner Murray

Action: Motion carried unanimously with three affirmative votes.

-Ms. Bowman-Moore added that she attended the Huron Township Trustees meeting and that they were excited for the new nature center.

-Have been holding controlled burns.

-The Milan TowPath MetroPark bridge deck has been removed by staff in preparation for the structural repair work.

-The accounting clerk job has been posted.

-An update to the giving campaign for the new nature center. We have received \$40,000 in pledges, \$10,000 in donations and \$10,700 in grants thus far.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Pickleball- discussion on painting Court 1 (tennis court) for pickleball use

Ms. Bowman-Moore updated the Board with some pickleball cost figures. She stated that in 2020 Erie MetroParks spent \$18,000 to resurface and paint the tennis courts after the last time Firelands Area Pickleball Association painted pickleball lines, etc. on the tennis courts. So far, EMP has spent \$197,385 on pickleball and we have only received \$6,893 from fees and donations. Comm. Miars asked what was the status on the painting of the courts? Ms. Bowman-Moore stated that she had reached out to Mr. Eirons and explained that FAPA would be responsible for getting professional estimates and then presenting them to the board for consideration. At this time, he had not responded to Ms. Bowman-Moore with any estimates.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

2022 EMP Local Park Capital Improvement Grant Program Awards, authorize Ms. Bowman-Moore to complete the contracts.

Ms. Bowman-Moore asked the Board to approve her to complete the Local Park Capital Improvement Grants. She noted that we had \$40,000 to award and we had received grant requests totaling \$34,481. All grant requests were approved.

(4) Commissioner Murray moved to authorize Ms. Bowman-Moore, Executive Director, to complete the award contracts as presented.

Second: Commissioner Wisehart

Action: Motion carried unanimously with three affirmative votes.

Resolution 2022-11 Resolution of the Board of Park Commissioners of Erie MetroParks authorizing the Executive Director to act as an owner’s representative of the Board for the Nature Center project.

Ms. Bowman-Moore explained that this was a new resolution pertaining to the Nature Center project. It would authorize Ms. Bowman-Moore to complete agreements and contracts and authorize bill payments. Ms. Price explained after reviewing our by-laws and procedures from the Ohio Revised Code that this resolution was warranted and that it pertains to the Nature Center project only. The resolution had been reviewed by Mr. Peters, legal counsel.

(5) Commissioner Wisehart moved to approve Resolution 2022-11 as presented.

Second: Commissioner Murray

Action: Motion carried unanimously with three affirmative votes.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

Travel & Training Summary (acknowledge and file) NONE

Special Permit Summary (acknowledge and file)

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

(6) Commissioner Murray moved to acknowledge and file the Special Permit Summary provided.

Second: Commissioner Wisehart

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.

(7) Commissioner Murray moved to acknowledge and file the Credit Card Summary provided.

Second: Commissioner Wisehart

Action: Motion passed unanimously with three affirmative votes.

Other (Misc. items from Board or Administration) NONE

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Possible legal action, personnel matters.

Commissioner Wisehart moved to enter Executive Session to consider the following matters: personnel matters.

(8) Second: Commissioner Murray

Roll Call: Commissioner Miears: aye

Commissioner Murray: aye

Commissioner Wisehart: aye  
Action: Motion passed unanimously with three affirmative votes.

The Park Commissioners entered Executive Session at 1:36 PM and returned to Regular Session at 1:40 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

- (9) Commissioner Wisehart moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:41 PM.
  - Second: Commissioner Murray
  - Roll Call: Commissioner Miears: aye
  - Commissioner Murray: aye
  - Commissioner Wisehart: aye
  - Action: Motion passed unanimously with three affirmative votes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The foregoing is a true and accurate account of the May 11, 2022, 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:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date  
James L. "Don" Miears, Chairperson

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date  
Amy Bowman-Moore, Executive Director

***Minutes- Special Meeting***

**May 26, 2022**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Miears called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM in the Commission Room of the Maple Grove Center, Osborn MetroPark, Huron, Ohio, VIA ZOOM

**ROLL CALL**

Park Commissioners Present:           James “Don” Miears, Chairperson  
  Troy Wisehart, Vice Chairperson  
  Margaret Murray, Vice Chairperson

**NEW BUSINESS**

Tennis Court Vandalism

Several members of the Firelands Area Pickleball Association were in attendance in person and via Zoom for this meeting. Ms. Bowman-Moore wanted to provide some background information on what had transpired. She stated that Comm. Wisehart had made a motion at the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting to instruct Firelands Area Pickleball Association (FAPA) to get a professional estimate to paint the existing tennis court with pickleball lines and bring it to a Board meeting to then discuss the possibility of painting the lines at FAPA’S expense. On April 26<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Eirons emailed Ms. Bowman-Moore to ask the status of the Board regarding obtaining bids for the tennis court. She wrote to him, to get a professional bid to paint the lines, and the lines were not to be intrusive to tennis players.

Last Friday, May 20, 2022, she received a call about paint on the tennis court. Sheriff’s Deputies were called to do a report on the vandalism. She emailed Mr. Eirons and asked him if he knew who painted the court; he said he did; he had a professional paint it. Ms. Bowman-Moore then had staff close courts 1-4 which include the tennis court, to investigate. She asked Mr. Eirons for the name of gentleman who painted the courts and what type of paint he used. She will be consulting with Angela, formerly of Gerold Construction, and with whom she worked with last time the courts were resurfaced, about the necessary repairs and cost. FAPA members stated that they were looking into their insurance to cover the repainting of the court. Ms. Bowman-Moore apologized to FAPA members for closing the courts for so long- she wanted to conduct the investigation and was not getting any cooperation or answers to questions.

She had visited the courts and spoke with players and was bothered by the fact that some FAPA members believe that Erie MetroParks charges them to play. We do not, we only charge FAPA to reserve the courts, so FAPA has exclusive use of those courts during the reserved time periods. This is consistent with arrangements made for other groups, such as Bay Area Soccer League.

FAPA Board members introduced themselves and stated that they would like to work with Erie MetroParks and resolve any differences. Comm. Miears wanted it on the record that Erie MetroParks is not against any public person, and he wanted to make that clear. Mr. Kehres stated that FAPA also would like to resolve this in a timely manner. Comm. Wisheart added that he would like to make it clear that his motion was only to get a plan together and get an estimate – before making any decision regarding painting any lines. He stated that he was disappointed in the FAPA leadership that this happened and Comm. Miears agreed 100%. Comm. Miears also stated that he believed that there is a bit of confusion on the control of EMP property and that any group needs final authorization from the Board before making anything happen. He apologized if there was any miscommunication and wanted to resolve this amicably. He would like to move forward and Comm. Wisheart agreed and wanted no bad feelings between anyone that uses the courts.

Mr. Mericle and Mr. Wohl stated that there is an insurance claim from FAPA to correct the court. Mr. Wohl would like to meet with Erie MetroParks if needed to discuss the court in person. Ms. Bowman-Moore added that the taxpayers of Erie County have paid over \$200,000 for these courts and we need to remain equitable for all the residents. She would like to work with a FAPA committee going forward not just Mr. Eirons. Mr. Wohl asked how this can be rectified and they would like to work with EMP to reopen the courts and want to make it right.

Comm. Murray expressed that she had five main concerns that needed to be addressed. The spike holes in the surface, the over spraying of the lines, the color of the paint, the location of the lines, and the additional signage that they were asked to take down- as it misrepresents the courts as belonging to Mr. Eirons and/or FAPA. Comm. Wisheart and Miears agreed. FAPA was told that their signs, which were asked to be removed before the previous Friday, could be retrieved from the Frost Center and put up while they were using the courts only. Discussion ensued.

Comm. Miears asked how do we move forward, to come to a conclusion that would satisfy everyone? Ms. Bowman-Moore stated that she would meet with Angela about repainting the court, and Mr. Wohl, Mr. Mericle, Mr. Kehres and possibly another board member would meet with Ms. Bowman-Moore and Ms. Price to address Comm. Murray's concerns and to establish a clearer communication method with the group. Ms. Price added that she felt confident that we can reconcile and move forward, she looked forward to meeting with the FAPA Board and agreed with Comm. Murray's concerns.

Mr. Peter's, legal counsel, stated that he tried to look up FAPA on the Ohio Secretary of State site as a recognized business and could not find them. He asked that they provide the appropriate paperwork to show that they are an official non-profit group. Mr. Wohl stated he could give them that paperwork. Mr. Kehres stated that he would like to work to rectify the situation and reopen those courts. Ms. Bowman-Moore stated that she would have staff open tomorrow morning. Since the investigation questions were now answered.

Comm. Miears wanted to wrap up this meeting by stating what was agreed upon today to move forward. FAPA Board will meet with EMP's Ms. Bowman-Moore and Ms. Price to form a committee and all correspondence will go through the whole committee for transparency and that

they would work together to resolve the differences between FAPA, and EMP. Ms. Crisone stated that she agreed with Mr. Kehres that she would like to see the courts reopened as most members just want to play pickleball. She added that this all was a big misunderstanding and wanted the Board to know that those decisions are not reflective of all the FAPA members. They appreciate what the Park District has created for them.

Mr. Wohl stated that he would get that information to Ms. Bowman-Moore to set up a committee and meeting dates. Mr. Peters reiterated that all communication should go through this joint committee so that they present a united front and can resolve this amicably. All agreed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

NONE

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

(3) Commissioner Wisehart moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:50 PM.

Second: Commissioner Murray

Roll Call: Commissioner Miers: aye

Commissioner Murray: aye

Commissioner Wisehart aye

Action: Motion passed unanimously with three affirmative votes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The foregoing is a true and accurate account of the May 26, 2022, 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" Miers, Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Bowman-Moore, Executive Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date