

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Miears called the meeting to order at 1:02 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 June 14, 2023, meeting.

Second: Commissioner Wisehart

Action: Motion carried unanimously with three affirmative votes.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

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

(2) Resolution 2023-12: July Schedule of Payables

Ms. Ferback distributed copies of the Schedule of Payables via email. She noted two items. The first item was that Erie MetroParks received a \$15,875 donation from Leadership Erie County, which was more than expected. The second item was a \$13,492 NCRCPD reimbursement clerical error from the prior month was corrected with a general journal entry dated in June. She asked the Board if they had any additional questions. Comm. Miears inquired about the payment to BlueTarp Financial Inc., and Ms. Ferback explained the payments to BlueTarp Financial Inc. were payments to Walmart, per the W-9 they provided on file.

Commissioner Wisehart moved to approve Resolution 2023-12 Schedule of Payables as presented.

Second: Commissioner Murray

Action: Motion carried unanimously with three affirmative votes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gary Toll, Secretary of the West Huron Youth Club, addressed the Board and presented them and Ms. Bowman-Moore with a thank you card for Mike Hensley and Mike Wheeler’s assistance and

archery presentation at their A Day in the Outdoors event last month. He also asked if there had been any decisions made about the roundabout at Perkins Ave. Ms. Bowman-Moore stated that there had been many options presented and nothing was finalized yet. Ms. Price added that they hope to have an answer next month, she has been attending ODOT's virtual meetings, and will continue to report updates to the Board.

Rick Shiel, from the Erie County Heritage Society addressed the Board and Ms. Bowman-Moore and stated that he was happy with the result of the Jenkins Warehouse given to the Village of Milan and said that he was able to go into the warehouse and they have made a lot of progress on the inside to shore it up. He then inquired as to the status of the Heritage Society's equipment that is being stored in Erie MetroParks Bicentennial Barn. Ms. Bowman-Moore stated that she has sent notification to them that they have until November to remove their items from the barn as EMP needs the space to store their own equipment. She added that she has spoken to Larry Holkenborg and that he knows they must move by November. Mr. Shiel added that he supports Erie MetroParks in this matter and wants to ensure that the equipment gets preserved. Discussion ensued.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- The job shop trailer has moved in at the new nature center site, she is continuing to have meetings with Turner Construction and site work will be starting.
- There were 150 people in attendance Monday at Cheryl Kilmer's Bubble Boogie program.
- Programming and camps have been going extremely well. We are reaching a lot of people.
- We have received \$31,000 in donations in July

DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Price referred to her report sent via email. Ms. Price added the following to her Deputy Director's report:

-Ms. Price had originally reported that there have been no outside pickleball complaints and needed to modify her report. One complaint was logged from a gentleman who reported the pickleball courts are still being monopolized by FAPA, and that his solution would be open play for all courts. Ms. Price thanked him for voicing his concerns and told him this would be reported to both the FAPA Board and the park board. Open play in court 8 came about this summer because of similar complaints, and we will continue to evaluate and monitor court usage. Ms. Price did her research and spoke to several FAPA board members which stated that the open play on court #8 has been going well, if the public comes and wants to use the court, FAPA moves off, they invite the public to play with them, and some have even joined as FAPA members.

- (3) Commissioner Murray moved to approve both Director's Reports as presented.
Second: Commissioner Wischart
Action: Motion carried unanimously with three affirmative votes.

OLD BUSINESS

A. New Nature Center

Ms. Bowman-Moore explained her update during her Executive Director's Report.

B. BGSU Firelands Maintenance Agreement expiration

Ms. Bowman-Moore explained that Ms. Price had provided the Board with four options to consider and explained them. She added that EMP has been having issues keeping up with all the mowing and landscaping due to labor shortage and losing a seasonal to full-time work. She added that we completed a cost analysis and that we spend about \$8,400 on average to provide approximately 400 hours of labor a year, and that does not include fringes, fuel, etc. There has been a history of this agreement and five years ago there was a discussion regarding ending the agreement when BGSU sold the farm property to Mucci Farms, the income from which, was subsidizing EMP's labor use at the Arboretum. Ms. Price stated that she talked to our staff that work out at the Arboretum and they know that it does not look as good as it should, and they feel bad about not having enough time to commit there to properly maintain it.

Comm. Murray expressed that she would like to see EMP continue its support of the Arboretum and continue the contract. Comm. Wisheart agreed with her and added that he does not like the fact that our name is on the signage if we cannot keep up with the maintenance of the Arboretum. He also said that he and his wife enjoy walking out there and it is very popular among adults. Ms. Bowman-Moore stated that she and Ms. Price would reach out to the Interim Dean and the Arboretum Board president and see if they could help subsidize the mowing this year and discuss options for the Arboretum and the contract going forward. She added the agreement renews every three years, but there is a thirty day opt out clause for both parties.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Memorial Donation

Ms. Bowman-Moore introduced Mr. Westerhold and Mr. Hubans to the Board. Mr. Hubans is assisting Mr. Westerhold with some estate matters. Mr. Westerhold and his wife would like to make a memorial donation to the new nature center in the form of a memorial sculpture. She shared information and a draft letter of intent along with an artist rendering. They would like to leave the money in an account for the memorial. The sculpture would be shown outside of the new nature center. The Westerholds felt this would be something unique to the area and thought that EMP was a good place for it. They explained the rendering and possible size and scale along with the artist they chose. Comm. Murray inquired how tall this statue would be and Mr. Hubans explained that it would be built to scale with the building size. Mr. Westerhold stated that he and his wife had put \$200,000 into a trust to be given to a non-profit. Discussion ensued and Mr. Peters, legal counsel, explained that some of the wording on the letter of intent would need to be clarified and added that Erie MetroParks should be named as in charge of the aesthetics and scale.

(4) Commissioner Wisheart moved to proceed and authorize Ms. Bowman-Moore, with the assistance of Mr. Peters, to refine and execute the letter of intent for the memorial donation.

Second: Commissioner Murray

Action: Motion carried unanimously with three affirmative votes.

Mr. Hubans then thanked Ms. Bowman-Moore and Ms. Price for their hospitality, patience, and professionalism in dealing with them to make this donation happen. He and Mr. Westerhold sincerely appreciate it.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Travel & Training Summary (acknowledge and file) (None)

Special Permit Summary (acknowledge and file)

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

(5) 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 as presented.

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

Second: Commissioner Wisehart

Action: Motion passed unanimously with three affirmative votes.

Disposal of Surplus Personal Property & removal from inventory (None)

Other (Misc. items from Board or Administration) (None)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

(7) Second: Commissioner Wisehart

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 1:53 PM and returned to Regular Session at 2:13 PM.

(8) Commissioner Wisehart moved to continue retaining the services of the Reminger Law Firm with Jim Peters as the park legal representative.

Second: Commissioner Murray

Action: Motion passed unanimously with three affirmative votes.

(9) Commissioner Wisehart moved to officially name Melissa Price, Deputy Director, to the position of Executive Director, effective January 1, 2024.

Second: Commissioner Murray

Action: Motion passed unanimously with three affirmative votes.

ADJOURNMENT

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

(10) Commissioner Wisehart moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:14 PM.

Second: Commissioner Murray

Roll Call: Commissioner Mears: 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 July 12, 2023, 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" Mears, Chairperson

Date

ATTEST:

Amy Bowman-Moore, Executive Director

Date