

Minutes

April 10, 2024

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 EXCUSED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(1) Commissioner Wisehart moved to waive the reading of and approve the draft minutes of the March 13, 2024, meeting with the one correction on page two that Comm. Miears caught.

Second: Commissioner Miears

Action: Motion carried unanimously with two affirmative votes.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

March 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 2024-07: April Schedule of Payables

Ms. Ferback distributed copies of the Schedule of Payables and a new sheet for the Capital Projects Fund Budget & Expense Year to Date Report via email. Ms. Ferback asked the Board if they had and questions. They did not.

Commissioner Wisehart moved to approve Resolution 2024-07 Schedule of Payables as presented.

Second: Commissioner Miears

Action: Motion carried unanimously with two affirmative votes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

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

-Ms. Price stated representatives from ODOT would be attending this meeting.

-The parks were packed for the eclipse, people loved the parks, said they were beautiful, and many gave donations.

-She sent out an executive summary on the four parcels on Cleveland Rd. that are part of the ODOT project, and referenced the permissions needed from OPWC and in some cases, ODNR, before right-of-way acquisitions could move forward.

-Comm. Miers referred to the copy of the 4(f) explanation, he asked if all of the alternatives had been researched. He stated that he thought that an alternative to the roundabout at Cleveland Road and Perkins Avenue would be to close Perkins Avenue at Osborn MetroPark. He wants to ask ODOT when they show up if that was even considered.

*At this time three ODOT representatives, Don Rostofer, Brad Corder, and Kenny Knapp arrived to discuss the Cleveland Road project with the Board of Park Commissioners.

-Mr. Rostofer, ODOT District Environmental Coordinator, explained the Corridor Study, conducted from 2017-2019, through the Erie County Regional Planning Commission. Traffic patterns were studied, including alternative options such as roundabouts, signals, vacating roads, etc. ODOT held stakeholder meetings throughout 2018 for people to voice their opinions, etc. There were no other alternatives that worked better for Perkins Avenue as a feasible option than the roundabout.

-Ms. Bowman-Moore, former park director, stated that safety should be paramount in these decisions and based on the angle and the incline/change in elevation, that closing Perkins Avenue would be the best option. She referenced her position on that issue back to 2018.

-Mr. Rostofer explained that all options were considered, the decision was made to move forward with a roundabout. Afterwards, a new feasibility study was published in 2023, a more refined version of the 2017-2019 corridor study. In reference to the Perkins Ave. roundabout, ODOT provided more separation between Route 6 and the Perkins Ave. connection to prevent the backup of traffic.

- Comm. Miers explained that EMP will need to get permission from the many entities that provided funding to purchase those four parcels of land before EMP can approve the Jurisdiction Concurrence with ODOT. He asked the ODOT representatives what the cost was for the roundabout. They replied that the Perkins Ave. roundabout is approximately \$2 million dollars, and the average is between \$2-3 million. Comm. Miers stated that ODOT needed to look at cost benefits, public opinion, safety, etc. Mr. Rostofer explained that those studies have been completed and published in the 2023 feasibility study.

-Additionally, Mr. Rostofer explained that roundabouts take away the conflicts in your mind while travelling, reduce crashes, and have a higher cost-benefit ratio. He added that at high volume roundabouts, there is a 95% reduction in fatalities and a 60% reduction in accidents with injuries, versus without roundabouts.

-Mr. Rostofer stated that they are currently in the environmental engineering process and need to clear the NEPA document. (NEPA- National Environmental Policy Act) Ms. Price stated that she would like to reach out to the stakeholders before we do an Official with Jurisdiction Concurrence. Mr. Peters added that we are bound by some restrictions and concurred that we need to reach out to those stakeholders. Mr. Rostofer explained that by EMP holding up the NEPA document, that also holds up other projects such as the Sandusky Bay Pathway that is running along there as well. He explained that NEPA coordinates with all the government agencies and federal requirements.

-Mr. Corder, ODOT Real Estate Administrator, asked for copies of the real estate documents for the impacted parks and he could help facilitate the approvals with the appropriate entities. Ms. Price and Mr. Peters stated that they would certainly send them to him.

(3) Commissioner Wisheart moved to authorize Ms. Price and Mr. Peters to look at the bullet points listed and work towards accepting the Official With Jurisdiction Concurrence.

Second: Commissioner Miers

Action: Motion carried unanimously with two affirmative votes.

The Board and Ms. Price thanked the gentlemen for their time, and then wrapped up Ms. Price's Director's Report.

(4) Commissioner Wisheart moved to approve the Director's Report as presented.

Second: Commissioner Miers

Action: Motion carried unanimously with two affirmative votes.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Building Site Review- Amy Bowman-Moore

-Ms. Bowman-Moore reported that the muralists have been in to see their work site and will start in approximately three weeks.

-Painting is continuing, the ceilings have been installed, outside work is continuing, the HVAC is hooked up, Jay Yochem is working on scheduling the asphalt work for the front of the building.

-She stated that this was her last board meeting per her contract.

B. Hart Billboard Update

-Mr. Peters stated that he finally received a response from the new owner, who lacked knowledge on this particular billboard. Mr. Peters told him that he would like to see a lease, who it's with, and who is receiving the income from it, etc. The owner stated that he would have a summary to Mr. Peters by the end of April.

-Comm. Miers wanted to discuss the Erie MetroParks Capital Improvement Grant. He would like to increase our local grant limit. Discussion ensued and Ms. Price stated that she and Sue Daniel, grant administrator, were planning to seek an increase for 2025. Ms. Price thanked the Board and stated she will revisit this increase during 2025 budget discussions.

NEW BUSINESS

A. ODOT Official With Jurisdiction Concurrence

This was discussed during the Director’s Report when the ODOT Representatives arrived.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Travel & Training Summary NONE

Special Permit Summary (acknowledge and file)

There was one new special permit to acknowledge and file this month.

(5) Commissioner Wisheart moved to acknowledge and file the Special Permit Summary provided.

Second: Commissioner Mears

Action: Motion passed unanimously with two affirmative votes.

Credit Card Summary (acknowledge and file)

Ms. Price asked the board to acknowledge and file the Credit Card Summary as presented.

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

Second: Commissioner Mears

Action: Motion passed unanimously with two affirmative votes.

Disposal of Surplus Personal Property & removal from inventory

Ms. Price asked the Board to acknowledge and file the Inventory Surplus list as presented, so those items could be removed from inventory and disposed of. This is a result of our year-end inventory completion.

(7) Commissioner Wisheart moved to acknowledge and file the inventory surplus list as provided.

Second: Commissioner Mears

Action: Motion passed unanimously with three affirmative votes.

Other (Misc. items from Board or Administration)

Comm. Wisheart wanted to bring up to the Board and staff the Cedar Point Causeway will be widened to five lanes along with the bike path. He wanted EMP to be aware that might cause a potential problem for the back bay and could inhibit the flow of water back there and that it might affect the EMP properties along there.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

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

(10) Commissioner Wisheart moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 PM.

Second: Commissioner Mears

Roll Call: Commissioner Mears: aye

Commissioner Murray: excused

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The foregoing is a true and accurate account of the April 10, 2024, 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:

Melissa Price, Executive Director

Date