

<b><i>Minutes</i></b>	<b>Thursday, January 22, 2026</b>
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**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Wisheart called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM in Classroom 109, Roger Johnson Nature Center, Osborn MetroPark, Huron, Ohio.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

(1) Commissioner Murray moved to waive the reading of and approve the draft minutes of the December 10 and 16, 2025 meetings.

Second:           Commissioner Wisheart

Action:           Motion carried unanimously with two affirmative votes.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

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

Members of the Park Commission have received copies of these reports. She reported that the state audit had been completed, and she sent the report to the Board. Ms. Ferback explained that there was one finding for an overpayment to a retired employee. It was corrected; the funds were returned and reflected in the Cash Receipts Journal. She then explained a few other recommendations the Auditor had.

(A.) Resolution 2026-01: January Schedule of Payables

Ms. Ferback distributed copies of the Schedule of Payables and the Capital Projects Fund Budget & Year-to-Date Expenses Report via email. Ms. Ferback asked if there were any questions about the Schedule of Payables. Comm. Wisheart inquired about the payment on page one for the repair of hydraulic element for Massey Ferguson mower. He asked if it was one of our lawn mowers. Ms. Daniel explained it was for a large tractor with a side arm mower, which is used to cut back trails, mow ditches, etc. Ms. Ferback said the payment also included an indicator light. Ms. Ferback noted that we did make the second payment to Contractor Design Services for the work on the Osborn Perimeter Path project.

(2) Commissioner Murray moved to approve Resolution 2026-01 Schedule of Payables as presented.

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one that was in attendance wished to address the Board.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Price sent her report via email in the board packet.

Ms. Price added the following:

-She met with the managers on January 12<sup>th</sup> and reviewed the Strategic Plan to make sure we were on track and laid out goals for 2026, including finishing the pickleball courts.

-She met with Joyce Deering and discussed their goals for 2026 including replacing the nature center toys and working with staff to implement some interactive displays.

-She showed the Board the mock-up of the informational wrap that is scheduled to be applied to the burn trailer in February.

-Comm. Wisehart asked who the Smith Group was. Ms. Price explained that she had sent out a request for qualifications for design groups. She explained that if the scope of the work were under \$50,000, there was no need to make a request for proposal, but if the scope were getting close, she would definitely request those. Staff were working with Smith Group because they had the most experience with water projects. Mr. Malone and Mr. Hensley met with them in hopes of finding a solution to the launch problems at The Coupling MetroPark. She is hoping to get a proposal to submit to the Board for this project. Mr. Hensley added that the Coupling launch is not currently conducive for public programs, and we need a permanent solution. He added that we are out of our element on this project. Mr. Peters, legal counsel, suggested that EMP look at the one installed on the Vermilion River, it was ADA accessible. Mr. Hensley stated that he believed it was made by E Z Dock and that is who EMP was looking to use.

-She mentioned the Westerhold statue donation and explained that since it was coming from a Charitable Remainder Trust that it is needed to go to a 501 c(3) non-profit group. That is why Ms. Berger was here to sign the form, representing the Friends of Erie MetroParks and Comm. Wisehart signing on behalf of Erie MetroParks.

(3) Commissioner Murray moved to approve the Director's Report as presented.

Second: Commissioner Wisehart

Action: Motion carried unanimously with two affirmative votes.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

(A) Resolution 2025-17 Resolution to establish a Capital Fund

(4) Ms. Price asked that this resolution continue to be tabled as she and Ms. Ferback continue to research and work on creating this fund as it needs to be specific, compliant with state statutes, etc. and Mr. Peters added that it needed to be more particular, the better, one account with funds earmarked for specific projects.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Price explained that Resolutions 2025-02 through 2025-04 are standard resolutions that we propose at the beginning of the year, to conduct park business. Ms. Price responded that they

were. Comm. Murray suggested that the Board make one motion to approve the three resolutions, 2025-02 to 2025-04, with one vote. Comm. Murray made the motion to approve and adopt the three resolutions that were seconded by Comm. Wisehart and carried by two affirmative votes. They are recorded below.

A. Resolution 2026-02 Dispose of Surplus Personal Property

(5) Commissioner Murray moved to approve Resolution 2026-02 Dispose of Surplus Personal Property as presented.

Second: Commissioner Wisehart

Action: Motion passed unanimously with two affirmative votes.

B. Resolution 2026-03 Authorize Payments between Meetings

(6) Commissioner Murray moved to approve Resolution 2026-03 Authorize Payments between Meetings as presented.

Second: Commissioner Wisehart

Action: Motion passed unanimously with two affirmative votes.

C. Resolution 2026-04 Setting Regular & Special Meetings and establishing rules for Board mtgs.

(7) Commissioner Murray moved to approve Resolution 2026-04 Setting Regular & Special Meetings and establishing rules for Board mtgs. as presented.

Second: Commissioner Wisehart

Action: Motion passed unanimously with two affirmative votes.

D. Roger Johnson Nature Center Bird Strike Film Proposal

Mr. Hensley, EMP naturalist, proposed three film options for the windows of the Roger Johnson Nature Center to prevent window bird strikes that unfortunately lead to bird deaths. These have been mostly happening at the atrium and Window on Wildlife windows at the back of the nature center. Staff have recorded the deaths which occur during peak migration, from April to November. Mr. Hensley explained the quotes and options from three different vendors and expressed his recommendation. Discussion ensued and the Board agreed to approve \$9,000 for the back windows of the atrium and Window on Wildlife windows, with the product suggested by Mr. Hensley.

(8) Commissioner Murray moved to approve the lowest visible obstruction product for bird strikes for the rear Atrium and Window on Wildlife windows.

Second: Commissioner Wisehart

Action: Motion passed unanimously with two affirmative votes.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

Travel & Training Summary

Ms. Price explained that staff needed Board approval for travel & training that is either out of state or exceeds \$500 per person. In the packet is a request for Ms. Ferback and Ms. Boyer to attend the 2026 Local Government Officials Conference, which is required for their positions.

(9) Commissioner Murray moved to approve the Travel & Training Summary as provided for Ms. Ferback and Ms. Boyer to attend the mandatory accounting training.

Second: Commissioner Wisehart

Action: Motion passed unanimously with two affirmative votes.

Special Permit Summary (acknowledge and file)

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

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

Second: Commissioner Wisehart

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.

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

Second: Commissioner Wisehart

Action: Motion passed unanimously with two affirmative votes.

Other (Misc. items from Board or Administration) NONE

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Murray moved to enter Executive Session to consider the following matters: The purchase of property for public purposes, employee compensation.

(12) Second: Commissioner Wisehart

Roll Call: Commissioner Miears: excused

Commissioner Murray: aye

Commissioner Wisehart: aye

Action: Motion passed unanimously with two affirmative votes.

The Park Commissioners entered Executive Session at 1:30 PM and returned to Regular Session at 2:08 PM.

(13) Commissioner Murray moved to approve a 7.5% raise for Ms. Price, Executive Director, retroactive to the first pay of 2026. Comm. Wisehart will sign the raise letter within the next 30 days.

Second: Commissioner Wisehart

Action: Motion passed with two affirmative votes.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

(14) Commissioner Murray moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:09 PM.

Second: Commissioner Wisehart

Roll Call: Commissioner Miears: 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 January 22, 2026, 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 L. Wisehart, Acting Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Melissa Price, Executive Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date