

***Minutes***

**Wednesday, February 18, 2026**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Miears called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM in Margaret M. Murray Conference Room, Roger Johnson Nature Center, Osborn MetroPark, Huron, Ohio.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

(1) Commissioner Miears tabled the approval of the January 22 meeting minutes, since he was not present. Comm. Wisehart will have to vote to approve at the March meeting, as he was the acting chairman for the January meeting.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

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

Members of the Park Commission have received copies of these reports. Ms. Ferback explained that she was presenting an amended Schedule of Payables for January, due to both an additional check run on January 16 after the January 14<sup>th</sup> print and submission of the Schedule of Payables and the inclement snow conditions.

(A.) Resolution 2026-05: February 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. She noted that on page eight, the acronym listed SCBPF, was for an ad for the Sandusky Club of Black Business and Professional Women. Ms. Price noted on page six, there was a payment for Erie MetroParks share of the county’s GIS software. Comm. Murray inquired about the payment to the plumber for the adjustment of thermal expansion tank pressure near the large classroom. Ms. Price explained that it was, and for now, it seems to have fixed the problem. Staff will be watching it to see if that truly fixed it. Comm. Murray inquired about the ADP payments. Ms. Price explained there may be an additional charge for year-end report fees. Comm. Murray also inquired about the tv monitors purchased, if the sizes varied, and their location. Ms. Price mentioned they were different sizes. One was in the operations office and the other in the nature center. Comm. Miears asked about the yearly payment for Sage. Ms. Ferback explained it was the accounting software renewal.

(2) Commissioner Murray moved to approve Resolution 2026-05 Schedule of Payables as presented.

Second: Commissioner Miers

Action: Motion carried unanimously with two affirmative votes.

(B.) Amended January Schedule of Payables

Ms. Ferback explained earlier the need for the amended Schedule of Payables. Comm. Murray motioned to approve both Schedules together.

(3) Commissioner Murray moved to approve the amended January Schedule of Payables as presented.

Second: Commissioner Miers

Action: Motion carried unanimously with two affirmative votes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Mitch Luman addressed the Board reporting for Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee from Erie County Regional Planning. He reported that they had spoken with ODOT District 3 and ODOT will be writing an abbreviated safety grant application for 2028 funding for a rapidly flashing beacon for the crosswalk at Castalia Quarry MetroPark. He explained that Mr. Loughlin, our Digital Media and IT Coordinator, is the liaison for Erie MetroParks and he will be able to update us on the progress of the signs. Comm. Murray thanked Mr. Luman for his efforts.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

Ms. Price added the following:

-The Request for Proposals went out for the electrical upgrades at the Enchanted Cottage so that we can replace the furnace.

-The Winter Open House was held on Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, from 2-4pm. It was well attended, and she thanked Katie Burnsworth, Naturalist and Special Events Coordinator, for her coordination and efforts. They asked the public to write down what they love about MetroParks. The two most common answers were the trails and the staff.

-She and the Operations managers will be meeting with Franklin Monument to discuss the placement of the Westerhold eagle monument.

-She explained that we are planning the paving of the Osborn Perimeter Path, and she researched the ODNR Recreational Trails Grant that Doug Green had mentioned. If we were to apply this year, it is not awarded until October which would delay the project for a year. After a management team discussion, staff would like to proceed with the paving project this year and look at grants for future work along the Bay. Comm. Miers and Murray agreed that they would like to move forward with the Osborn Perimeter Path paving project this year.

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

Second: Commissioner Miers

Action: Motion carried unanimously with two affirmative votes.

**OLD BUSINESS**

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

Ms. Price explained that these resolutions to establish the funds have been researched through the Auditor’s office and reviewed and approved by our legal counsel for compliance. She felt good about the wording and presented it to the Board for approval. Ms. Price and Ferback explained that this would allow Erie MetroParks to move money from the General Fund into these funds earmarked for specific capital projects and potential land acquisition as the opportunity might present itself. Ms. Price added that the Board could authorize the transfer of money back into the General Fund if not all projects are funded and there is a surplus left over.

(5) Commissioner Murray moved to approve Resolution 2025-17 Resolution to establish a Capital Improvement fund as presented.

Second: Commissioner Miers

Action: Motion passed unanimously with two affirmative votes.

(B) Resolution 2025-18 Resolution to establish an Acquisition Fund

This was approved in one motion along with Resolution 2025-17.

(6) Commissioner Murray moved to approve Resolution 2025-18 Resolution to establish an Acquisition fund as presented.

Second: Commissioner Miers

Action: Motion passed unanimously with two affirmative votes.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A. Greater Sandusky Partnership- US Rt. 6 Economic Development Study

Ms. Price explained that the Greater Sandusky Partnership was attending to give a presentation on the RT 6 Corridor Study and ask the Board to commit \$25,000 towards the study, as Erie MetroParks is a 33% stakeholder in the corridor. Jeff Kerr, Director of Planning and Policy for the GSP and Michelle Johnson of The Smith Group gave the presentation. They explained the need for the study, the interviews with stakeholders, the scope of the entire project, the impact of ecotourism in the area, etc. They are trying to round out the seasons (from a seasonal destination) and improve the corridor for residents and tourists. They explained the benefit to Erie MetroParks and what the study will answer. They provided the commissioners and Ms. Price with a copy of the power point presentation. The commissioners thanked them for the presentation and their time.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

Travel & Training Summary NONE

Special Permit Summary (acknowledge and file) NONE

There were no new special permits to acknowledge and file this month.

Credit Card Summary (acknowledge and file)

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

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

Second: Commissioner Miers

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.

- (8) Second: Commissioner Miears
- Roll Call: Commissioner Miears: aye
- Commissioner Murray: aye
- Commissioner Wisehart: excused
- Action: Motion passed unanimously with two affirmative votes.

The Park Commissioners entered Executive Session at 1:42 PM and returned to Regular Session at 2:13 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

- (9) Commissioner Murray moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 PM.
- Second: Commissioner Miears
- Roll Call: Commissioner Miears: aye
- Commissioner Murray: aye
- Commissioner Wisehart: excused
- Action: Motion passed unanimously with two affirmative votes.

\*After the meeting was adjourned, Comm. Murray and Ms. Price presented Comm. Miears with a Certificate of Commendation and thanked him for his 15 years of service on the Board of Erie MetroParks.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The foregoing is a true and accurate account of the February 18, 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:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Margaret M. Murray, Vice Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

ATTEST:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date