ERIE METROPARKS
Board of Park Commissioners

Minutes Wednesday, July 15, 2026

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER
Commissioner Wisehart 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: Troy Wisehart, Chairperson
Margaret Murray, Vice Chairperson
Kurt Kresser, Vice Chairperson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
(1) Commissioner Murray moved to waive the reading of and approve the draft minutes of the June 10, 2026, meeting.
Second: Commissioner Kresser
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.

(A.) Resolution 2026-11: July 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 the Board if they had any questions at this time. She invited the Board to attend an Erie County Budget Commission meeting on 2027 budgets on Friday, August 7, at 9am. She noted on the Schedule of Payables, on page 9, that there was a minor update, a small clerical correction. It did not affect the bottom line.

(2) Commissioner Murray moved to approve Resolution 2026-11 Schedule of Payables as presented.
Second: Commissioner Kresser
Action: Motion carried unanimously with three affirmative votes.

Mitch Lumen of the Erie County Regional Planning Commission's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee asked to speak at the meeting and speak earlier in the meeting due to another commitment. He wanted to address the Board and thanked Erie MetroParks for doing their due diligence to try to get the crosswalk upgraded through ODOT for safety reasons. He was happy to

report that they had received an ODOT grant during the 2028 Fiscal Year for a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon. The Board and Ms. Price thanked Mr. Lumen for his efforts. He said that Erie MetroParks may have some costs for electrification of the signs, if they are not solar.

(B.) 2027 Preliminary Tax Budget

Ms. Ferback stated that the preliminary budget must be approved today, according to the ORC 5705.28. She explained that we are projecting a General Fund $1.6 million balance, which is approximately a 37-38% carryover of expenditures, which follows the guidelines as advised by the budget commission. In the Capital Projects Fund, there is an estimated $300,000 remaining balance, which is in addition to the General Fund. This can only be moved back into the General Fund with Board approval. We have monies set aside in the Acquisition Fund, on an ongoing basis, since we are consistently being approached for land acquisition.

(3) Commissioner Kresser moved to approve the 2027 Preliminary Tax Budget as presented.
Second: Commissioner Murray
Action: Motion carried unanimously with three affirmative votes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gary Toll reported that he had been approached by two people about arrow fishing in East Sandusky Bay and they had bright lights and playing loud music, etc. He said he checked with ODNR and they said there was nothing they could do, they weren't breaking any laws. Comm. Wisehart agreed they are in navigable waterways and not on our property. There were no complaints at the park. Comm. Murray asked about the turtle head start he proposed. Mr. Malone explained that they did have a meeting with Mr. Toll and that our programmers wanted to go see how Cleveland Metroparks run theirs and do some more research before committing anything. Ms. Price added that the programmers are currently very busy with nature camps and summer programs and have not had any chance to further look into it at this time.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Price sent her report via email in the Board packet.
Ms. Price added the following:
-She reported on what a great ribbon cutting we had at Wakefield MetroPark. She thanked Comm. Kresser for attending and stated she was touched by the Wakefield Family. When Melissa asked the staff to gather for a group photo, the Wakefield's clapped for the staff and thanked them for all of their work out there. She added that the City of Vermilion is also happy with how the park turned out. Comm. Murray stated that there was nice media coverage of the Wakefield opening.
-She reported that the next Erie County Budget Commission meeting was on Friday, August 7th, at 9 am, and asked the commissioners to join her and Ms. Ferback if they were available.
-Tomorrow, Thursday, they were having a pre-construction meeting with 7-L Construction and Doug Green about the OPK walking path project and hopefully will have an idea on the construction schedule.
-She and staff met with Doug Green and discussed several options for The Coupling MetroPark launch site. She presented the Board with two of the options. Option #1 would reinforce the bank with armor stone and add articulating concrete blocks, so that the staff would be able to clean off as needed. She added that this would be the quickest, easiest, and most budget friendly. Anything

else would require a floating dock, require more permits, etc. With option #1, we could always add onto later if the launch becomes more utilized. The staff would like to start with Option #1. Ms. Price asked Mr. Green for cost estimates for Option #1 and #3 which would include a floating dock.

(4) Commissioner Murray moved to approve the Director's Report as presented.
Second: Commissioner Kresser
Action: Motion carried unanimously with three affirmative votes.

OLD BUSINESS

(A.) Mark Malone- Edison Woods MetroPark, Smokey Rd. House renovation- new restroom proposal

Mr. Malone explained that he had checked with the Erie County Health Department and the septic system at the Smokey Rd. house is so old that it was not registered with the health department, so they will not approve that septic as a semi-public restroom. We would need to have a soil study done to see if we are permitted by the health department to put in a new system at that location. Discussion ensued and Comm. Murray asked Mr. Malone to have the soil study completed and let the Board know the outcome. Comm. Kresser agreed, stating that we have to start somewhere.

NEW BUSINESS

(A.) Resolution 2026-12 NatureWorks Grant Osborn MetroPark Shelter #2 replacement

Ms. Price explained that she would like permission to apply for the NatureWorks Grant in Erie County. She is applying for funds to replace Shelter #2. It is a 75% reimbursement grant. She added that we have it in our five-year strategic plan to replace Shelter #2, then Shelter #3.

(5) Commissioner Murray moved to approve Resolution 2026-12 as presented.
Second: Commissioner Kresser
Action: Motion carried unanimously with three affirmative votes.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Travel & Training Summary (NONE)

Special Permit Summary (acknowledge and file)

There were two special permits to acknowledge and file this month.

(6) Commissioner Murray moved to acknowledge and file the Special Permit Summary as provided.
Second: Commissioner Kresser
Action: Motion passed unanimously with three affirmative votes.

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 Kresser
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: The purchase of property for public purposes.

(8) Second: Commissioner Kresser
Roll Call: Commissioner Wisehart: aye
Commissioner Murray: aye
Commissioner Kresser: aye
Action: Motion passed unanimously with three affirmative votes.

The Park Commissioners entered Executive Session at 1:40 PM and returned to Regular Session at 2:15 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

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

(9) Comm. Murray moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:16 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The foregoing is a true and accurate account of the July 15, 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 Wisehart, Chairperson Date

ATTEST:

_____ _____
Melissa Price, Executive Director Date