ERIE METROPARKS
Board of Park Commissioners

Minutes Wednesday, September 9, 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 Kresser moved to waive the reading of and approve the draft minutes of the August 12 and 24, 2026 meetings, with one amendment to page one of the August 12 meeting.
Second: Commissioner Murray
Action: Motion carried unanimously with three affirmative votes.

FINANCIAL REPORTS
August 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 2026-14: September 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 still wanted to see a Capital Projects fund and Budget & Year-to-Date Expenses report each month, since the project has been completed. The Commissioners all agreed that it was no longer necessary. Comm. Kresser inquired about the remaining funds, could they be moved into the Capital Improvements Fund. Ms. Ferback explained that per the State Auditor, those funds would have to first be moved back into the General Fund, then they could be reallocated to Capital Improvements Fund with Board approval.

Comm. Murray asked about the payment for plant sampling. Ms. Price explained that we had contracted a company to conduct plant sampling in East Sandusky Bay along our properties to see if there is a need for the vegetation to be treated. Staff are trying to stay ahead of the growth and complaints from the recreational boat users, and she confirmed that we did, in fact, have areas treated this summer. Comm. Murray also inquired about the new roof at MGC and asked where that was. Ms. Ferback explained that it was at the Maple Grove Center on Hull Rd.

Comm. Wisehart asked about the payment to Tuffman Equipment for several roller rentals. Ms. Ferback explained that is was for a roller rental to tamp down the stone that was being laid on the Castalia Quarry rim trail.

Comm. Murray inquired about the renaming of the carryover line in the Income Statement. Ms. Ferback explained that she was still researching what other park districts called it. Toledo Metroparks responded, and she was waiting on Lorain Metroparks to respond to determine what rename would work best. Discussion ensued as to whether or not Erie MetroParks could increase the funds in the Acquisition Fund. Ms. Price explained that if we move money with a vote, then another board vote would be required to move the money back. Ms. Price explained that she is currently working on a resolution with the Erie County Auditor regarding establishing minimum fund amounts to be retained in the fund accounts. The Board could then authorize moving money from the General Fund to other funds per the resolution. Comm. Wisehart asked Ms. Price to work with Mr. Peters, legal counsel, on that resolution to establish minimum reserves on funds to make sure we are legally compliant.

(2) Commissioner Murray moved to approve Resolution 2026-14 Schedule of Payables as presented.

Second: Commissioner Kresser
Action: Motion carried unanimously with three affirmative votes.

(B.) Budget Revision

Ms. Ferback explained that an interfund transfer requires Board approval. She is transferring $5,000 into the Capital Improvements Purchased Services fund for updated electric to finish the replacement of the Enchanted Cottage furnace.

(3) Commissioner Murray moved to approve the budget transfer as presented.

Second: Commissioner Kresser
Action: Motion carried unanimously with three affirmative votes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gary Toll was in attendance. Comm. Wisehart asked him about the turtles at East Sandusky Bay. He said that he left some turtle eggs there because he thought ODOT (Ohio Department of Transportation) was not supposed to start their work over there until 2027. Mr. Malone, Park Manager, explained that ODOT was already on site starting the roundabout at Perkins Avenue and Cleveland Road. ODOT'S fiscal year actually starts on July 1.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Price sent her report via email in the Board packet.
Ms. Price added the following:
-The soffits and vents were paid for, to ASTAR, for the Roger Johnson Nature Center roof. Turner Construction will send Greg, who was the site manager on the building job out to supervise the remediation work on the roof. Mr. Malone tried but wasn't able to obtain an estimate from Tusing Builders & Roofing Services before this meeting.

-Ms. Price presented a draft of the Special Permit Procedure that staff had been working on. She explained that it is more of a procedure than an actual policy. Discussion ensued and the Board liked the document. Comm. Murray would like to see the "commercial use" defined in the procedure.
-Birmingham School arch- EMP received three quotes, one was much larger and two were similar, coming in at around $2,500 to $3,000. Ms. Price and Ms. Ferback explained that we have the money to complete it this fall. Comm. Wisehart stated that we should get the work done this year and Comm. Murray and Kresser agreed.
-Ms. Price and Ms. Ferback met with Caleb Stidham, Erie County Treasurer. In his opinion, political subdivisions should not carry over more than a six-to-nine-month reserve.
-She added that the stone project has been completed on the Castalia Quarry Rim Trail and it looks great. Staff hauled and spread 1,101 tons of stone and added water bars to assist in drainage. They received a lot of positive feedback from users while working out there.
-The International MG Car Show at Osborn MetroPark had over 600 cars from 12 different states, 664 visits and the average stay was 1.5 hours based on information provided by the Greater Sandusky Partnership. There was great feedback on this event.
-7-L Construction is scheduled to pave the Osborn MetroPark Perimeter Path on Monday, September 14th. The Meadows at Oborn Park staff are excited that they will be able to bring the nursing home residents out on the paved path.

(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 Road restroom proposal

Mr. Malone explained that soil at Edison Woods is wetland soil, and that Erie County Health Department will not approve a septic system installation there. He explained that we would have to install a pit toilet similar to the one Vermilion Parks just installed at Showse Park. Ms. Price added that as of right now the restroom would cost approximately $120,000 to $150,000 with the cost of tearing down the current house and site work.

NEW BUSINESS

(A.) Resolution 2026-15 Clean Ohio Green Space funding for the Harris Property

Ms. Price explained that this resolution gives her permission to apply for, along with Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Clean Ohio Green Space funding for the Harris Property.

(5) Commissioner Murray moved to approve Resolution 2026-15 as presented.
Second: Commissioner Kresser
Action: Motion carried unanimously with three affirmative votes.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Travel & Training Summary

Approval of J. Yochem, S. Daniel, M. Malone, M. Hensley and K. Burnsworth to attend the Ohio Parks & Recreation Association's Leadership Summit in December in Columbus.

Ms. Price explained that any individual training over $500 or out of state needs to be approved by the Board. This training comes in just over $500 per person. She explained that it is very good training and networking for the five employees attending. Comm. Murray agreed and appreciated the fact that the staff was carpooling and sharing rooms.

(6) Commissioner Murray moved to approve the Travel & Training Summary as provided.
Second: Commissioner Kresser
Action: Motion passed unanimously with three affirmative votes.

Special Permit Summary (acknowledge and file) NONE

Credit Card Summary (acknowledge and file)
Ms. Price asked the board to acknowledge and file the Credit Card Summary as presented.
(7) Commissioner Kresser moved to acknowledge and file the Credit Card Summary provided.
Second: Commissioner Murray
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 1:34 PM and returned to Regular Session at 2:17 PM.

(9) Commissioner Murray moved to allocate $25,000 from the Acquisition Fund for the Harris Property project.
Second: Commissioner Kresser
Action: Motion passed unanimously with three affirmative votes.

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

(10) The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:18 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The foregoing is a true and accurate account of the September 9, 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