

Regular Board Meeting – February 24, 2021

Resolution Summary

Resolution	Description	Byers	Dalton	Doneghy	Luetke	Savage	
RES 09-21	Approval of Supplement and Amendment to the 2021 Certificate of Estimated Resources and Appropriations Measure	Motioned			2 nd		Approved
RES 10-21	Ratification of Schedule of Payables		Motioned	2 nd			Approved
RES 11-21	Authorization to Request Funding Through the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities	Motioned		2 nd			Approved
RES 12-21	Authorization to Request Funding Through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of State Parks and Watercraft			2 nd	Motioned		Approved
RES 13-21	Authorization to Apply to the Ohio Public Work Commission (“OPWC”) for Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program Funds	2 nd			Motioned		Approved
RES 14-21	Approval to Request Funding from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation		2 nd	Motioned			Approved
RES 15-21	Contract Approval, Wetland Restoration for Metroparks Toledo, Oak Openings Preserve Expansion, Village of Swanton, Lucas County, Ohio	2 nd			Motioned		Approved
RES 16-21	Contract Approval, Professional Surveying Services, Glass City Riverwalk	Motioned		2 nd			Approved
RES 17-21	Contract Approval, 815 Front Street at Glass City Metropark, Construction Manager At-Risk Services	Motioned		2 nd			Approved
RES 18-21	Approval of Land Purchase: 1456 Summit Street, 0 Water Street			Motioned	2 nd		Approved
RES 19-21	Approval of Updated 2021 – 2023 Strategic Plan	Motioned	2 nd				Approved

The mission of Metroparks of the Toledo Area is to conserve the region's natural resources by creating, developing, improving, protecting, and promoting clean, safe, and natural parks and open spaces for the benefit, enjoyment, education, and general welfare of the public.



Board Minutes

METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF THE TOLEDO AREA
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021, 8:30 A.M.
LIVESTREAM

Commissioners Present:

Scott Savage, President
Fritz Byers, Vice President
Lera Doneghy, Vice President
Molly Luetke, Officer
Kevin Dalton, Officer

Dave Zenk, Executive Director

Staff Present: Matt Cleland, Jill Molnar, Carrie Alexander, Emily Ziegler, Matt Killam, Scott Carpenter, Joe Fausnaugh, Jon Zvanovec, Tim Schetter, Allen Gallant, Bethany Sattler

Others present and appearing before the Board: David Smigelski

1. NON-RESOLUTION BOARD ITEMS

President Scott Savage called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Mr. Savage did a role call for all Board of Park Commissioners.

Mr. Savage led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Fritz Byers made a motion to approve the consent agenda and for the disposition of the minutes for the regular Board meeting held on January 20, 2021 and the special Board meeting held on January 29, 2021. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Lera Doneghy and approved.

3. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS FROM DIRECTOR AND EMPLOYEES OF THE PARK DISTRICT FOR REVIEW

A. Vision Statement Update and Adoption - Fritz Byers, Vice-President

Mr. Savage recognized the work completed by Metroparks' staff and Mr. Byers in updating the Metroparks Toledo vision statement. Mr. Byers echoed this thanks for the Board of Commissioners and Metroparks' staff in the process. Mr. Byers indicated the process of updating the vision statement is nearing its end. He stated that the significance and grandeur of the vision statement for the organization has increased in recent years. Two statements stand at the top of the list in informing others about all that Metroparks does: the mission statement and vision statement. The mission statement reflects the fundamental reason for existence; the vision statement reflects a shared belief and promise for the organization and community. Collectively, the Board determined the current mission statement adopted about five (5) years ago still accurately reflects the purpose of Metroparks Toledo and is not in need of revision.

It was noted that Mr. Savage has expressed several times that Metroparks essentially accomplished its current vision as of November 2020, thus initiating the process of defining a new vision. The current vision statement was revised and adopted in November 2016. When the vision statement was adopted, the concept contained two parts: being known nationally as one of the premier park systems in the country; and being a centerpiece of the region. This showed a commitment outwardly and inwardly. With the awarding of the National Gold Medal Award, along with the partnerships and connections made within the community, Metroparks has been able to prove its accomplishment of this vision. Many years of work and accomplishment have allowed this vision to be realized.

The process for revising the vision statement involved gathering feedback and suggestions from leadership across Metroparks. The new vision statement does not have any timeline tied to accomplishing its aspirations.

The new proposed vision statement reads:

Metroparks Toledo will be, in its culture and community engagements, the beacon for conservation of natural resources; diversity, equity, and inclusion; and the activation and promotion of spaces that enhance physical and mental health. The communal pursuit of these aspirations will elevate our region and transform its identity.

Mr. Byers observed that the overall thought was that there should be a harmonic unity between the mission and vision statements. The overall theme from the mission statement is to conserve resources; the first aspiration of the vision statement addresses conservation, which is the central focus of Metroparks. These aspirations should be applied internally and externally. The new vision statement also reflects that the organization should not just achieve great things, but also demonstrate best practices for how a governmental organization can and should operate and create partnerships both publically and privately, leading to the use of the word "beacon," however grandiose that may appear. The second aspiration, regarding diversity, equity, inclusion, was unanimously expressed in all conversations and is meant to stand alone with no qualifiers, as it is fundamental to the organization's existence. The third aspiration acknowledges the role of Metroparks in promoting physical and mental health through access and programming. With these aspirations, Metroparks' accomplishments will ultimately aide in elevating and transforming the region, when done in partnership and collaboration with the entire community.

Mr. Savage again expressed his appreciation for the work completed to draft the new vision statement.

Mrs. Doneghy thanked Mr. Byers for compiling all of the ideas shared into one statement; she indicated that the vision statement truly exemplifies what she wants the organization and Board to strive for and accomplish, and believes it is realistic to achieve as a true beacon for the community.

Ms. Molly Luetke expressed that over the last year Metroparks had been a space for respite and relaxation; the new vision statement encompasses that sentiment and sums up the ways in which Metroparks can work to bring together the community and elevate the region.

Mr. Kevin Dalton indicated that the vision brings together the conversational momentum of the community

and is a natural evolution of the work already completed with Metroparks and the community.

Mr. Savage expressed his appreciation for the vision statement’s focus on both internal and external pieces, and noted the internal focus will be critical in achieving the aspirational vision.

Mr. Byers indicated that the most meaningful next step would be for the Board to adopt the vision statement formally.

Mrs. Lera Doneghy moved to adopt the vision statement for Metroparks Toledo as presented. This motion was seconded by Ms. Luetke and approved by unanimous vote.

B. Treasurer’s Report – Matt Cleland, Deputy Director & Treasurer

Mr. Matt Cleland shared that this early in the year there are no major deviations expected or seen. The cash flow is slightly lower than expected, due to timing of tax payments. All items are trending as expected overall.

Mrs. Doneghy asked about the Then and Now Report in regard to an overage in an invoice. This was due to an unexpected invoice being received beyond an encumbrance already established.

4. BOARD APPROVAL OF CONTRACTS, DEEDS, AGREEMENTS, ETC.

A. Mr. Byers offered and moved for adoption of the following resolution, with a second by Ms. Luetke:

Resolution No. 09-21 – Approval of Supplement and Amendment to the 2021 Certificate of Estimated Resources and Appropriations Measure

Mr. Cleland reported these are additional appropriations, largely associated with the expansion of Secor Metropark, releasing grant funds received for use in the project.

After discussion and upon unanimous vote the resolution was declared duly adopted and recorded in the appendix to these minutes.

B. Mr. Dalton offered and moved for adoption of the following resolution, with a second by Mrs. Doneghy:

Resolution No. 10-21 – Ratification of Schedule of Payables

After discussion and upon unanimous vote the resolution was declared duly adopted and recorded in the appendix to these minutes.

C. Mr. Byers offered and moved for adoption of the following resolution, with a second by Mrs. Doneghy:

Resolution No. 11-21 – Authorization to Request Funding Through the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Mr. Allen Gallant reported that is an opportunity to work with the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities (“LCBDD”) to support the “My Mentor and Me” program to ensure individuals with special needs are accompanied by a mentor at Metroparks Connections Camps. This grant would provide funds to support staffing and training resources for the program. The partnership with LCBDD also helps with identifying individuals who wish to participate in the Connections Camp program and ensure Metroparks has the resources to accommodate all who wish to participate.

After discussion and upon unanimous vote the resolution was declared duly adopted and recorded in the appendix to these minutes.

- D. Ms. Luetke offered and moved for adoption of the following resolution, with a second by Mr. Dalton:

Resolution No. 12-21 – Authorization to Request Funding Through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of State Parks and Watercraft

Mr. Gallant reported that this was a new funding opportunity through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (“ODNR”) last year. The funds last year were to be utilized to support the improvements at the Otsego Road area of Bend View Metropark. This year’s funding will support additional kayak launches at Howard Marsh Metropark.

After discussion and upon unanimous vote the resolution was declared duly adopted and recorded in the appendix to these minutes.

- E. Ms. Luetke offered and moved for adoption of the following resolution, with a second by Mr. Byers:

Resolution No. 13-21 – Authorization to Apply to the Ohio Public Work Commission (“OPWC”) for Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program Funds

Mr. Gallant reported that approximately \$1.2 million will be available for Metroparks’ funding area; this is relatively consistent with previous years.

After discussion and upon unanimous vote the resolution was declared duly adopted and recorded in the appendix to these minutes.

- F. Mrs. Doneghy offered and moved for adoption of the following resolution, with a second by Mr. Dalton:

Resolution No. 14-21 – Approval to Request Funding through the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation

Mr. Gallant reported that this is a new funding opportunity for Metroparks. An application was submitted last year which did not advance to funding. This year’s application will be enhanced and will be to support a virtual Window on Wildlife to allow those with barriers to reaching the physical Window on Wildlife locations to enjoy the benefits of the features through a livestream video feed of the locations. This would also include a component of technology lending for individuals who do not have computers or tablets to access the video feed.

Mr. Byers indicated that this is an exceptionally insightful way of reaching the community and leveraging taxpayer support to do so.

After discussion and upon unanimous vote the resolution was declared duly adopted and recorded in the appendix to these minutes.

- G. Ms. Luetke offered and moved for adoption of the following resolution, with a second by Mr. Byers:

Resolution No. 15-21 – Contract Approval, Wetland Restoration for Metroparks Toledo, Oak Openings Preserve Expansion, Village of Swanton, Lucas County, Ohio

Mr. Jon Zvanovec indicated that the location of the expanded property is on the corner of State Route 64 and Airport Highway. The contractor was previously utilized to build the boardwalk connectors at Secor Metropark. The construction would commence in late summer 2021.

After discussion and upon unanimous vote the resolution was declared duly adopted and recorded in the appendix to these minutes.

- H. Mr. Byers offered and moved for adoption of the following resolution, with a second by Mrs. Doneghy:

Resolution No. 16-21 – Contract Approval, Professional Surveying Services, Glass City Riverwalk

Mr. Zvanovec reported that this would be an exhaustive survey process commencing in 2021 and continuing into 2022. Six (6) letters of interest were received and Lewandowski Engineers was selected as best for the project to inform design and ensure Ohio Department of Transportation processes are met. Metroparks utilizes a transparent scoring matrix to review all proposals, and provides feedback to all vendors as to why a particular vendor was selected.

Mr. Byers expressed his gratitude in the meticulous process utilized to award contracts and the commitment to transparency and positive relationship building with all vendors.

After discussion and upon unanimous vote the resolution was declared duly adopted and recorded in the appendix to these minutes.

- I. Mr. Byers offered and moved for adoption of the following resolution, with a second by Mrs. Doneghy:

Resolution No. 17-21 – Contract Approval, 815 Front Street at Glass City Metropark, Construction Manager At-Risk Services

Mr. Zvanovec indicated that only two (2) responses were received for the Request for Proposals; The Lathrop Company was selected to be the contractor for what will be the Glass City Enrichment Center.

Mr. Gallant reported that this construction contract allows for the beginning of the renovations for the Glass City Enrichment Center, a community resource and service hub, including employment, education, and wellness programs. Partnerships with various community organizations will be utilized to ensure a collaborative service is provided to individuals seeking assistance.

Ms. Luetke asked if there were current or planned TARTA route stops to ensure access to this community hub. Mr. Gallant indicated that there are currently stops near this location, but new or revised stops will be evaluated with TARTA as the project progresses.

After discussion and upon unanimous vote the resolution was declared duly adopted and recorded in the appendix to these minutes.

- J. Mrs. Doneghy offered and moved for adoption of the following resolution, with a second by Ms. Luetke:

Resolution No. 18-21 – Approval of Land Purchase: 1456 Summit Street, 0 Water Street

Mr. Tim Schetter reported that this property is essential to the full vision of the Glass City Riverwalk to be accomplished. This property is the largest portion of the Riverwalk still needed to be acquired on the downtown side of the project. The acquisition was made possible through partnership with ConnectToledo and the Lucas County Land Bank.

Mr. Dave Zenk added that the property acquisition is an example of great collaboration to ensure the land was secured and kept for restoration and preservation into the future. This acquisition is the first major use of the levy funds approved by Lucas County voters.

After discussion and upon unanimous vote the resolution was declared duly adopted and recorded in the appendix to these minutes.

K. Mr. Byers offered and moved for adoption of the following resolution, with a second by Mr. Dalton:

Resolution No. 19-21 – Approval of Updated 2021 – 2023 Strategic Plan

Ms. Carrie Alexander reported that the seven (7) strategic priorities approved at the January 2021 board meeting were built upon to identify goals and action steps for achieving those priorities and the newly adopted vision. Once approved by the Board, the new strategic plan will be shared with Metroparks' staff to create one-year action plans and individual goals for each employee; this planning will begin with senior staff, then managers, and ultimately each staff member.

Mr. Byers expressed that the strategic plan is meant to add functionality and concrete actions for the vision and mission statements, and provide internal direction.

After discussion and upon unanimous vote the resolution was declared duly adopted and recorded in the appendix to these minutes.

5. BOARD INITIATED TOPICS AND DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Savage expressed his gratitude for the addition of Ms. Luetke and Mr. Dalton to the Board of Commissioners and their instrumental roles in enhancing the work of the Board.

At 10:06 a.m., President Scott Savage made a motion to recess into executive session to consider the items that qualify for consideration in executive session. Mr. Savage stated that the purpose of the executive session was to discuss the purchase of property pursuant to Ohio R.C. §121.22(G)(2). Mr. Savage asked if there was any discussion and reported, under Ohio R.C. §121.22, that a roll call vote on this motion is necessary. Ms. Jill Molnar conducted a roll call vote of the commissioners.

ROLL CALL

Mrs. Doneghy – Yes
Ms. Luetke – Yes
Mr. Dalton – Yes
Mr. Byers - Yes
Mr. Savage – Yes

Mr. Savage reported, upon roll call vote, that the motion passed, and the Board recessed into executive session.

The Board adjourned executive session at 10:28 a.m. and resumed its regular session.

With no further business or action to be taken, Ms. Doneghy made a motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 10:28 a.m., which was seconded by Ms. Luetke and approved.



Scott Savage, President



Attest: _____
Dave Zenk, Executive Director

DDZ/kjm
02/24/21