

Regular Board Meeting – July 20, 2018

RESOLUTION SUMMARY

Resolution	Description	Byers	Doneghy	Savage	
Resolution No. 65-18	Authorization to Request Funding from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Great Urban Parks Campaign	2 nd	Motioned		Approved
Resolution No. 66-18	Contract Approval, Purchase of Two (2) 2018 Ford Explorer Police Package SUVs and one (1) 2019 Ford Taurus Police Package Sedan	Motioned	2 nd		Approved
Resolution No. 67-18	Ratification of Schedule of Payables	2 nd	Motioned		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

FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2018, 8:30 A.M.

MANOR HOUSE – WILDWOOD METROPARK

Commissioners Present:

Scott Savage, President
Fritz Byers, Vice President
Lera Doneghy, Vice President

Executive Director, Dave Zenk

Unable to attend, Attorney Dave Smigelski

Staff present: Matt Cleland, Jill Molnar, Ally Effler, Emily Zeigler, Matt Killam, Joe Fausnaugh, Cathy Marinelli, Scott Carpenter, Allen Gallant, Tim Schetter, Tim Gallagher, Lori Miller, Nate Ramsey, Sarah Spoerl, Arlene Slusher, Trish Hausknecht, Amy Mossing, and Karin Shindel

1. NON-RESOLUTION BOARD ITEMS

President Scott Savage called the meeting to order at 8:39 a.m.

Mr. Savage led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Lera Doneghy stated that a slight change to the consent agenda was necessary, in that the agenda referenced Mr. Fritz Byers as present when he was not. With that amendment, Mr. Byers made a motion to approve the consent agenda, and for the disposition of the minutes for the regular Board meeting held on June 27, 2018. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Doneghy and approved.

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

A. Mr. Byers publicly thanked Mrs. Ally Effler, Mr. Matt Killam, Mrs. Emily Zeigler, and Ms. Jill Molnar as they had a tremendous impact at the second event of the Folk Music series at Brookwood last night. Mr. Byers noted that these types of programs fall within Metroparks' mission. He reported that the musicians communicated that the vibe and venue was the best place they have played in years. There is so much excitement that the next event will be much larger and will be held in front of the Manor House on August 16, 2018.

B. Dr. Scott Abella, Assistant Professor in Restoration Ecology, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (“UNLV”)

Dr. Tim Schetter introduced Dr. Abella, Assistant Professor in the School of Life Sciences at UNLV, and noted that Dr. Abella began his career as an intern with Metroparks Toledo nearly 20 years ago.

Dr. Abella’s presentation focused on 2 areas of his research within the park district:

- (1) Ecological responses to conifer plantation management at Oak Openings Preserve; and
- (2) Overview of the aging of the oak trees at 3 Metroparks in the Oak Openings Region.

During his presentation, Dr. Abella noted that over a 14-year period, plant diversity increased significantly in research plots occurring in areas where conifer plantations were thinned or removed compared to areas where conifer plantations were uncut. He showed that this increase in overall plant diversity was linked to increases in the number of rare plant species, number of wetland indicator plants, and overall abundance of plant species important to pollinators and other wildlife.

Dr. Abella noted the important wildlife value of oak trees and shared preliminary data showing that old-growth oak trees in several park areas were found to date to the early / mid-1800s and possibly earlier. He also noted the educational value of this research to his biology students at UNLV who assisted in aging the trees.

Dr. Abella stated that in all of his experience working with the National Park Service and other federal agencies, Metroparks Toledo’s conservation initiatives place the park district among the nation’s conservation leaders.

Mr. Dave Zenk stated that Metroparks Toledo’s natural resources staff is using Dr. Abella’s research to develop future conifer management plans to be reviewed by the Board of Park Commissioners later this fall.

Mr. Byers commended Dr. Abella for the quality of his research, which was published in a major scientific journal, and suggested that Metroparks develop a “lay-person’s” abstract to help communicate this research to the general public. Mr. Zenk said that the agency is in the process of developing programs for the public to communicate the need for managing our resources and the importance of native Oak Openings communities. He stated that Metroparks Toledo needs to do a better job of communicating the message that it is the leader in conservation for this region.

Mr. Savage inquired about the number of acres of conifer plantings at Oak Openings Preserve. Dr. Schetter stated that there are approximately 400 acres of conifer stands remaining and that about half of them are unmanaged. Dr. Schetter also stated that about 90 to 95 percent of the stands are in a severe state of decline.

C. Matt Cleland, Deputy Director - Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Matt Cleland reported that year-to-date revenue and expenditures are as expected, with the exception of items previously discussed such as property tax and utilities. He observed that tracking progress of the district to this point in the year has been efficient as a result of the budget comparisons provided by Ms. Sherri Romanski’s financial report format. Salaries in June were high because it was a three-pay month and because retroactive pay related to the approval of the new bargaining agreement was made in June. Mr. Cleland noted that the education fund is subject to seasonal cash flows, such as the canal experience.

Mr. Savage inquired about interest revenue and Metroparks Toledo’s expectation for the full year of interest earnings. Mr. Cleland reported that with the 2 interest rate increases so far this year, with possible additional future increases, revenue is well above the conservative projection in the budget and the financial forecast. Mr. Savage inquired whether the budget estimates would be adjusted. Mr. Cleland replied they will not be updated until the new 2019 budget process.

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

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

Resolution No. 65-18 – Authorization to Request Funding from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Great Urban Parks Campaign

Mr. Byers inquired whether Mr. Allen Gallant knew the total amount of funds that NRPA has to distribute. Mr. Gallant responded that the NRPA has \$1.5 Million to distribute with the maximum amount for a request at \$300,000.00.

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

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

Resolution No. 66-18 – Contract Approval, Purchase of Two (2) 2018 Ford Explorer Police Package SUVs and one (1) 2019 Ford Taurus Police Package Sedan

Mr. Savage inquired for a clarification of the bid tab. There were 4 bid packages picked up, but only 2 packages were submitted.

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

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

Resolution No. 67-18 – 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.

5. BOARD INITIATED TOPICS AND DISCUSSION

Mr. Gallant reported that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources has selected Metroparks Toledo's application for funding toward the Downtown Waterfront Metropark to go to the federal level. He has to make some minor adjustments and then will re-submit the application, with the hope of hearing the outcome by fall.

Mr. Savage reported that at the Public Open House for the Downtown Waterfront Metropark, he met a young couple that may decide to stay in the area after hearing more about Metroparks Toledo's plans. It was wonderful for him to see firsthand Metroparks' planning process in the works with the overarching goal of drawing more people to this region because of what Metroparks has to offer.

Additionally, Mr. Savage reviewed the responses from CAPRA that it considered agency strengths. He stated that is a reflection of Metroparks' staff and its dedication to this agency. Mr. Savage feels a significant sense of gratitude to be a part of this agency.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:47 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 consider the purchase of property for public purposes 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

Mr. Byers – Yes

Mr. Savage – Yes

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

The Board adjourned executive session at 10:15 a.m. and resumed its regular session.

With no further business or action to be taken, Mrs. Doneghy made a motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 10:16 a.m., which was seconded by Mr. Savage and approved.

Scott Savage, President

Attest: _____
Dave Zenk, Executive Director

DDZ/kjm
7/20/2018