

Regular Board Meeting – October 21, 2020

Resolution Summary

Resolution	Description	Byers	Dalton	Doneghy	Luetke	Savage	
Resolution No. 60-20	Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying Them to the County Auditor			Motioned	2 <sup>nd</sup>		Approved
Resolution No. 61-20	Amendment to Board Resolution No. 95-19, "Issuance of Super Blanket Purchase Orders for 2020 Waste Disposal Services"	Motioned		2 <sup>nd</sup>			Approved
Resolution No. 62-20	2021 Request for Advance of Taxes Collected			2 <sup>nd</sup>	Motioned		Approved
Resolution No. 63-20	Ratification of Schedule of Payables	2 <sup>nd</sup>		Motioned			Approved
Resolution No. 64-20	Contract Approval, Metroparks Toledo, Misc. Asphalt Paving, Lucas County, OH	Motioned			2 <sup>nd</sup>		Approved
Resolution No. 65-20	Contract Increase Approval, Metroparks Toledo - Wildwood Resurfacing Project	Motioned			2 <sup>nd</sup>		Approved
Resolution No. 66-20	Authorization to Request Funding Through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Land and Water Conservation Fund	Motioned		2 <sup>nd</sup>			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, OCTOBER 21, 2020, 8:30 A.M.**  
**WARD PAVILION – LIVE STREAM**

**Commissioners Present:**

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

Unable to attend: Kevin Dalton, Officer

Dave Zenk, Executive Director

Staff Present: Matt Cleland, Jill Molnar, Emily Ziegler, Joe Fausnaugh, Matt Killam, Scott Carpenter, Carrie Alexander, Allen Gallant, Jon Zvanovec, Trish Hausknecht

**1. NON-RESOLUTION BOARD ITEMS**

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

Mr. Savage led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Savage proposed a revision to the consent agenda to add volunteer recognition as the first item. Mr. Fritz Byers made a motion to approve the revised consent agenda and for the disposition of the minutes for the regular Board meeting held on September 23, 2020. This motion was seconded by Ms. Lera Doneghy and approved.

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

**A. Volunteer Recognition: Randy Haar and Chris Haar**

Randy Haar and Chris Haar were recognized for their services and contributions as volunteers with Metroparks Toledo.

**B. Moments**

Mr. Savage mentioned that the Board of Park Commissioners and Metroparks Toledo staff recently gathered,

with pandemic-related safety precautions, for the Manhattan Marsh dedication. Toward the end of the dedication, Mr. Savage said that attendees commented that they wondered what will be next. He observed that this is another example of the culture and spirit of Metroparks Toledo and its projects that are transforming this region.

C. Emily Ziegler, Chief of Planning and Capital Projects; Cheryl Zuellig, Vice President/Director of Sales – SmithGroup – Glass City Future Phases

Ms. Emily Ziegler provided an update about the current state of Glass City Metropark and Phase I construction of the project.

Ms. Ziegler said that, although the need for green space and a park downtown was not originally a focus of Metroparks Toledo, it was part of the vision of the Downtown Master Plan developed by the 22nd Century Committee. Once Metroparks Toledo became part of this vision, many stakeholder meetings occurred with the public to ensure Metroparks Toledo would incorporate the needs of the community. This new development will bring to life many unique experiences and elevate overall economic development.

Ms. Ziegler reported that Glass City Metropark, Phase I, will open next month, which would not be possible without Metroparks Toledo's numerous partners and funding sources.

Ms. Cheryl Zuellig provided an overview regarding the design of Glass City Metropark, Phase II. The vision of this park has been in progress for the past few years. The first phase opening this year will include 21 acres, and the second phase will provide an additional 51 acres.

Ms. Zuellig stated that environmental stewardship is a vital component with Metroparks Toledo, and will continue to follow the 80/20 plan, with eighty percent (80%) natural environment and twenty percent (20%) built environment. The anticipated plantings will come from Metroparks Toledo's own seed nursery.

Community amenities will offer many ways for park visitors to gather. The first installation is the Glass City Pavilion, which will accommodate up to 200 people and includes a planted roof. Additionally, an event lawn will accommodate up to 5,000 attendees.

The next stage of development will include construction of the Market Hall and All Seasons Plaza. This will include a skating ribbon/pond and, in the summertime, incorporate a scooter track and water play experiences. A dining facility will be open year-round, and Glass City Metropark will offer shelters for rental.

Some artistic elements will be incorporated from previous industrial elements that were discovered on the land. 815 Front Street will house Metroparks Toledo's office for the park, and a Toledo Police Department and a community enrichment center will be activated by community partnerships.

The park will incorporate walking and cycling trails, a kayak cove including an accessible launch within the cove, and an outlet to the Maumee River. As fishing is a critical component within this park, several nodes will exist for fishing. Ms. Zuellig also described some of the play nodes that will be developed in Phase II of Glass City Metropark, including water play in the Mini Maumee, misting towers, watering boulders, and more.

Camping opportunities will allow visitors to venture into Toledo to experience many aspects of downtown and the surrounding area, including attending a Mud Hens game, visiting the Toledo Museum of Art, and experiencing other opportunities in and around downtown Toledo.

Phase II will provide additional connectivity for the neighborhoods, as well as a pedestrian bridge over the Martin Luther King Bridge. The bridge will be light, thin, and airy, based on community feedback. Additional connectivity will include a new multi-use trail that is 7 miles long, and which will connect both sides of the river and 5 unique neighborhoods.

SmithGroup was engaged with ConnecToledo and Metroparks Toledo to create a design concept for the Riverwalk. The Riverwalk's meander concept will mimic the flow of the Maumee River, including twists and turns, and ups and downs. Lighting will be consistent along the entire Riverwalk. Additionally, a glass

component will be incorporated because of the history of glass in Toledo. Ms. Doneghy inquired if the paving would be accessible, and it is ADA approved.

Ms. Molly Luetke said that growing up many of her acquaintances moved away from Toledo, but this type of project puts Toledo on the map and encourages younger generations to stay in or return to the area. Additionally, Ms. Luetke mentioned that this will offer an opportunity for a more diverse community and partnerships with the local design groups. Ms. Luetke said she trusts that Metroparks Toledo is responsibly engaging in this project for the community, and that it is a very impressive initiative.

Mr. Byers thanked Ms. Ziegler and Ms. Zuellig for the presentation. He said the concept of this project has been an objective of the Board of Park Commissioners and Metroparks Toledo for several years. To have this update at this particular time is exciting for the present and future, and it is particularly exciting to see Metroparks Toledo's current state of the unveiling for Glass City Metropark, Phase I, and the grander vision for Phase II and the Riverwalk. Mr. Byers said it struck him that this concept arose from the community. While the concept was widely perceived among neighborhood and community leaders, there was a call to develop this concept and the area around the river. Mr. Byers said significant consideration occurred regarding what agency should lead this concept, and, in that context, Metroparks was called to the project. While the concept was not originally a focus of Metroparks, it was because of the community's vision that the Metroparks was called to oversee this project and became part of the vision. To watch the community rally around this endeavor, including many diverse and economic groups, was so profound.

Mr. Byers said it is remarkable to see all of the features woven into Glass City Metropark Phase II development of this park. He noted that environmental responsibility will occur in the same place where Metroparks Toledo is activating natural elements and incorporating several forms of engagement throughout the neighboring communities and the entire Riverwalk. The Riverwalk is an integral part of this planning. The Board of Park Commissioners hopes that this development will come to fruition, which comes from the support of the levy. Looking at Metropark Toledo's history of fiscal responsibility in developing Glass City Metropark Phase I, the same will hold true if the levy passes, and Metroparks Toledo will be fiscally responsible with taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Byers inquired from Mr. Matt Cleland if the financial planning has been integrated into Metroparks Toledo's planning not only for this project, but for the entire park district. Mr. Cleland reported that Metroparks Toledo is running operating forecasts to ensure all areas are properly planned, and operating the current financial plan. Current financial forecasting for the Glass City Riverwalk extends to 2040.

Mr. Byers thanked Ms. Ziegler and Ms. Zuellig, and commended Ms. Ziegler and her team for their insight and leadership on Metroparks Toledo's behalf. He stated that the Board of Park Commissioners is united in moving forward with this coalition, and acknowledged all that this project offers for the City and surrounding areas, the broader region, and the nation.

Mr. Savage said that Ms. Ziegler's vision and ability to advance her vision has assisted in Metroparks Toledo's ability to deliver on its efforts. He said Issue 17 will provide support for not only the Riverwalk and Glass City Metropark, but also the park system as a whole. In addition to the support of Issue 17, Metroparks Toledo is also a prudent steward of grant funding and will need both types of funding resources to move forward with this project. There has already been a successful \$50M project with the neighbor to Glass City Metropark, which would not have happened without Metroparks Toledo developing next door. Mr. Savage extended gratitude to Metroparks Toledo's staff, volunteers, and supporters for this project.

D. Matt Cleland, Deputy Director & Treasurer – Treasurer's Report

Typically in October, Metroparks Toledo presents the Board of Park Commissioners with a draft of the next year's budget. To that end, a draft 2021 budget has been built with a new online budgeting software and is available for review. Once approved, the budget will be available to the public in full transparency in a new easy-to-use format. The draft budget is sufficient to continue clean, safe and natural operations of Metroparks Toledo at current levels, but does not include the effects if the levy passes in November 2020. Mr. Cleland said it was necessary to build the base budget in this manner to ensure Metroparks Toledo is prepared for 2021

regardless of the outcome on Election Day. The challenge with the draft budget is that it will entirely change if the levy passes. As a result, there are two different executive summaries because there are two drastically different outlooks. After the election, Mr. Cleland will finalize the proposed budget and share it with the Board of Park Commissioners for review prior to the November 2020 board meeting.

Mr. Matt Cleland reported that everything is trending as expected at this point in 2020. Regarding tax income, an increase occurred in September, though Metroparks Toledo typically does not receive those revenues this time of year. This changes Metroparks Toledo's expenses as well, given the function of recording the expense and offsetting revenue for fees associated with tax collections. The net effect is zero. Another change exists in intergovernmental revenue, since last month the revenues came in a little lighter than anticipated. Mr. Cleland has connected with the Ohio Department of Taxation for updated projections on local government funds and anticipates those will be down approximately eight percent (8%) for 2020, also with a projected decrease of eight percent (8%) in 2021.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic fit within the 2020 budget to date, but as Metroparks Toledo looks ahead to 2021, it will need to be mindful of the pandemic, and the likely continued decrease in earned revenues.

Mr. Cleland observed that the online budget created an opportunity for the budget holders to review their budgets prior to completing the draft budget, which previously was not possible. He thanked the budget holders and staff involved in the budget process for their support.

Mr. Byers inquired why substantial expenditures in contract services are so far below budget, and how it affects Metroparks Toledo's future. Mr. Cleland said he anticipates that the under budget percentage will be reduced as year-end approaches. Mr. Cleland anticipates that several large purchase orders for planning services and expenditures in this area will be paid by years' end, depending when the invoices are submitted. He said year-end expenses could come in at \$4.7M. Going forward, in 2021, the allocation for contracted services may decrease significantly as less planning will be occur if the levy does not pass.

Due to the timeline of the review of the 2021 budget, Mr. Dave Zenk and Mr. Cleland are willing to meet with the Board after November 3, 2020.

Ms. Doneghy thanked the staff for the "Then and Now" and said to keep up the great work.

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

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

Resolution No. 60-20 – Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying Them to the County Auditor

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 Ms. Doneghy:

Resolution No. 61-20 – Amendment to Board Resolution No. 95-19, "Issuance of Super Blanket Purchase Orders for 2020 Waste Disposal Services"

Mr. Cleland reported that waste disposal has exceeded Metroparks Toledo's purchase order due to the need for additional rollout dumpsters for projects.

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

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

Resolution No. 62-20 – 2021 Request for Advance of Taxes Collected

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

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

Resolution No. 63-20 – 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.

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

Resolution No. 64-20 – Contract Approval, Metroparks Toledo, Misc. Asphalt Paving, Lucas County, OH

Mr. Savage inquired whether this falls under the scrap yard grant. Mr. Jon Zvanovec stated that this falls under Metroparks Toledo's general fund and does not utilize taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Byers stated that this is a great example of the public bidding process and reflects that the bid package was very clear and was an efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

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

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

Resolution No. 65-20 – Contract Increase Approval, Metroparks Toledo, Wildwood Resurfacing Project

Mr. Zvanovec stated that this was a scrap tire project, and unforeseen issues arose during the project, including with drainage and insufficient base and asphalt, which have required additional materials and decisions.

Mr. Byers reported that in the spirit of fiscal prudence, on occasions on when these situations arise, it is important to understand the reasons and that the bidding process offered full integrity. He stated that the underground conditions may have been discernable prior to the work.

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

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

Resolution No. 66-20 – Authorization to Request Funding Through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Land and Water Conservation Fund

Mr. Allen Gallant reported that these are federal dollars funded under the Great American Outdoors Act, and he perceives this to be a potential continued funding source moving forward. The exact scope is still be finalized.

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

Mr. Savage inquired as to why soybeans were planted at the former Spuyten Duyval property. Mr. Scott Carpenter responded that soybeans break down the soils for future native species planting.

5. BOARD INITIATED TOPICS AND DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Savage stated he cannot thank Mr. Zenk and his team enough for their continued leadership. Mr. Zenk responded that he is grateful for the team surrounding him.

With no further business or action to be taken, Mrs. Doneghy made a motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 9:53 a.m., which was seconded by Ms. Luetke and approved.

  
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Scott Savage, President

Attest:   
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Dave Zenk, Executive Director

DDZ/kjm  
10/21/20