

5. **Approval – Feb. 11, 2016 Consent Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Quadrozzi, supported by Commissioner Parker that the Board of Commissioners' approve the consent agenda consisting of the following:

- a. Purchases
 1. Staff Vehicle
 2. Interpretive Vehicles
 3. Police Equipment Install
- b. Update – Purchases over \$10,000
- c. Approval – TIFA Exemptions
 1. City of Oak Park Corridor Improvement Authority Development and TIF Plans
- d. Approval – MMRMA Member Self Insured Retention Fund Payment
- e. Approval – Underground Storage Tank Coverage Addition

Motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda

6. **Legislative Report**

Motion by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Parker that the Board of Commissioners' receive and file the Legislative Report as submitted by Consultant George Carr.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. **Reports**

A. **Lake St. Clair Metropark**

1. **Approval – Boat Launch Skid Pier Replacement**

Motion by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner Parker that the Board of Commissioners' award Contract No. 702-16-277 to the low responsive, responsible bidder, Michigan Recreational Construction in the amount of \$44,574 as recommended by Manager of Engineering Mike Brahm-Henkel and staff.

Discussion: Manager of Engineering Mike Brahm-Henkel updated the Board on the project stating three skid piers were replaced last year and another three would be replaced this year.

Commissioner Marans said this was a modest design and asked if there was a design for longer and/or wider ramps. Mr. Brahm-Henkel said yes, staff aimed for a wider design for American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. In addition, it is also the same design the DNR uses.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. **Reports**

B. **Stony Creek Metropark**

1. **Approval – Cart Path Resurfacing Contract Termination**

Motion by Commissioner La Belle, supported by Commissioner Parker that the Board of Commissioners' (1) approve terminating the existing contract with Pavex Paving, Inc.; and (2) authorize staff to develop a new project proposal that would reflect the necessary changes on the Scope of Work as recommended by Manager of Engineering Mike Brahm-Henkel and staff.

Discussion: Mr. Brahm-Henkel reviewed the project and contract expenditures to date. He said staff was able to make a few repairs in 2011 but that the cart path has no foundation to support construction equipment and is not wide enough. Staff also contacted local engineering firms that the Metroparks has worked with for ideas and

recommendations on the best course of action. Recommendations were to add an aggregate base material.

Commissioner McCarthy said he was concerned if the Metroparks had the right contractor for this project and welcomed input and suggestions from the other commissioners.

Commissioner Marrocco said the previous owner did nothing substantial to the property and put very little effort into the cart path.

Commissioner Marans asked what a ballpark range is for the projected costs. Mr. Brahm-Henkel said approximately \$1.2 million.

Commissioner Marrocco said they cart paths do not need to be seven-feet wide and recommends terminating the contract and bid out again.

Commissioner Marans asked if staff knew the condition of the property before it was purchased. Mr. Brahm-Henkel said he did not think so.

Commissioner Parker asked if staff was looking at options to phase in the paths or do the rebuild all at once. Mr. Brahm-Henkel said yes, for this year staff was looking at phasing construction in so it would not interrupt the upcoming golf season. Staff will look into other options for the paths with the new project design.

Commissioner Marans asked for the motion to be amended to include the approval for an engineering design proposal.

Motion by Commissioner La Belle, supported by Commissioner Parker that the Board of Commissioners' (1) approve terminating the existing contract with Pavex Paving, Inc.; and (2) authorize staff to develop a new project proposal that would reflect the necessary changes on the Scope of Work; and (3) include engineering design proposal as recommended by Manager of Engineering Mike Brahm-Henkel and staff.

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

7. Reports

C. Administrative Office

1. Bids – Swing Set Replacement, various parks

Motion by Commissioner Quadrozzi, supported by Commissioner La Belle that the Board of Commissioners' (1) accept the proposal from Michigan Recreational Construction, Inc. the low responsive, responsible bidder for \$68,488.00 to replace twelve (12) swing sets; and (2) transfer \$38,088 from the Fund Balance as recommended by Manager of Planning Nina Kelly and staff.

Discussion: Director Phifer stated that \$33,088 would be needed from the Fund Balance to cover the remaining balance to purchase the swings.

Manager of Planning Nina Kelly updated the Board on the project and the results of swing set inspections.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval – Adventure Course Vendor Agreement

Motion by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Marrocco that the Board of Commissioners' approve contract No.15-035 to the low responsive, responsible bidder Adventure Forest, LLC, Go Ape! as recommended by Interpretive Services Manager Jennifer Hollenbeck and staff.

Discussion: Director Phifer updated the Board on the background of the project and said Chris Swallow with GoApe! and Ron Liscombe with Miller Canfield were available for questions.

Interpretive Services Manager Jennifer Hollenbeck reviewed the adventure course concept, the types of courses available and the appropriate acreage needed for the course.

Commissioner McCarthy asked about the timing for opening the course. Mr. Swallow said they hoped to have the course open for the summer.

Commissioner Parker asked if discounts and group rates were available. Mr. Swallow said yes, they have substantial discounts the first season in order to build clientele and for people with low income and special needs. Mr. Swallow also said they were affiliated with more than 12 parks including the Cleveland Metroparks in Ohio, Lums Pond State Park in Delaware and Rock Creek Regional Park in Maryland.

Commissioner Marans asked what the fiscal impact was for the other parks and inquired about revenue. Mr. Swallow said the adventure courses should generate approximately \$50,000 a year.

Commissioner Marans also asked if GoApe! would assist the Metroparks with marketing efforts. Mr. Swallow said yes, they would provide a marketing plan and work with staff on advertising, marketing etc.

Commissioner McCarthy asked if there was adequate insurance for the Metroparks. Ron Liscombe with Miller Canfield said yes, there is adequate insurance, an indemnification clause and umbrella coverage.

Commissioner Marrocco asked if the Metroparks was going with option A or B (two listed in the contract). Director Phifer said option A for the first year. Commissioner Marrocco asked if going with option B in subsequent years was possible. Director Phifer said yes. Mr. Liscombe said the contract was set up for one course in the first year and the second year would have two courses. Commissioner Marrocco asked if the Metroparks would receive additional money. Director Phifer said yes.

Commissioner Marans asked what Eastern District Park Superintendent Mike Lyons thought about the adventure course for Stony Creek. Mr. Lyons said he was looking forward to the addition, as there are not a lot of amenities at the park for the targeted age group.

Motion carried unanimously

8. Other Business

1. Detroit Partnership

Motion by Commissioner Parker, supported by Commissioner La Belle that the Board of Commissioners' (1) approve the recommendation for Metroparks staff to partner with the city of Detroit Parks and Recreation Department, by providing in-kind Natural Resources Services support in the amount up to \$245,000 for park restoration; and (2) purchase basic park furniture to be placed at three designated parks in the city of Detroit in the amount of \$10,400; and (3) authorize staff to transfer funds from the Fund Balance to support this initiative as requested and recommended by Director George Phifer and staff.

Discussion: Commissioner McCarthy said there would be no action today to implement. Only an action to move forward.

Director Phifer updated the Board on background for the initiative and Commissioner Parker's request to explore partnership opportunities with the city of Detroit. Director Phifer said he and staff met with representatives from the city of Detroit Parks and Recreation, and the mayor's office to evaluate the three parks, and then provided recommended options to Detroit for the parks.

Commissioner McCarthy said he was looking for a motion to continue the dialogue with the city of Detroit. Commissioner Marans said the requested motion in the Board's packet was for approval and asked if it was incorrect.

Commissioner Parker said it was his understanding that the proposal presented was up for approval and not just to continue discussions.

Commissioner McCarthy said someone needed to speak with other agencies to help offset the fiscal impact to the Metroparks. Director Phifer said he spoke with several commissioners and said that they wanted to find other funding options.

Commissioner Marrocco said he is against this project. The Board is looking into investing \$250,000 into this project and that the money should be used in the Metroparks. He said fees were just raised by \$10 and that people were not happy. The money should be spent within the park system and not outside it.

Commissioner McCarthy said any Foundation funds should be legitimately used and said he had reservations about using Foundation money.

Commissioner La Belle asked for a motion to table the item or continue discussions.

Commissioner Parker said he understands the concerns and that Detroit is a special circumstance and shouldn't have to rebuild on its own. He said there are three parks on the river that have the potential to bring more people to the area to use these parks and facilities. Fixing up a park for people to use is good for everyone and that this project would not take away from the Metroparks by using staff and in-kind services.

Commissioner Parker said he would continue to look for other partners to assist with this effort.

Commissioner Quadrozzi said she agrees with both Commissioner Marrocco and Commissioner Parker and that Detroit is unique and if the Metroparks is able to help, we should. However, she said she is not comfortable moving forward without first finding other partners.

Commissioner Marans said he is not ready to support the motion at this time.

Motion by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Quadrozzi that the Board of Commissioners' receive the further information before a decision is made on a partnership involving Metroparks funding consisting of the following: (1) A write up for further justification as to why the Metroparks should be involved; (2) information on what the Metroparks would be giving up and opportunity costs; (3) supplemental funding from other agencies; and (4) what is the impact for the Metroparks (exposure, publicity etc.) and the plan for the initiative.

Commissioner Parker did not vote.

Motion carried.

Commissioner Marrocco said if the city of Detroit were willing to give us the land on a 99-year lease to run the parks, similar to that of the DNR and Belle Isle, then he would approve the plan.

Commissioner McCarthy said Metropark staff should not be the ones pursuing outside funding for the project.

Commissioner McCarthy asked for a motion to table the item.

Motion by Commissioner La Belle, supported by Commissioner Marrocco that the Board of Commissioners' table the Detroit Partnership item.

Commissioner Parkers voted no.

Motion carried.

9. Staff Officer Update

1. Controller Franchock said employee financial education meetings were held in January; had nearly 100 percent attendance for full-time employees; that two more sessions would be held this year; and that the employees expressed their appreciation for the Board supporting this initiative.
2. Director Phifer advised the Board that the annual employee recognition dinner would be held Saturday, April 16 at Laurel Manor and Banquet Center in Livonia and they would be receiving more information.

10. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner La Belle asked if there was anything in the Metroparks system that could be useful to help Flint. Director Phifer said he would speak with staff and provide the Board with more information.

11. Motion to Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Marans supported by Commissioner Quadrozzi that the Board of Commissioners' adjourn the regular meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shawn M. Athayde
Recording Secretary