

Minutes
Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority
Board of Commissioners
Thursday, January 12, 2017

A regular meeting of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Board of Commissioners was held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2017 at the Administrative Office.

Commissioners Present:	John C. Hertel (arrived at 10:44am) Anthony V. Marrocco Timothy J. McCarthy Robert W. Marans Steven E. Williams Jaye Quadrozzi
Staff Officers:	
Director	George Phifer
Deputy Director	Dave Kirbach
Chief Financial Officer	Michelle Cole
Absent:	Bernard Parker
Other Attendees:	
Ron Liscombe	Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, PLC

Vice Chairman McCarthy called the January 12, 2017 meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

1. Chairman's Statement

Vice Chairman McCarthy said Commissioner Hertel was running late due to the weather and he would chair the meeting until Commissioner Hertel arrived.

2. Public Comments

Toni Spears, Metroparks volunteer, thanked Nina Kelly and the Planning Department for their work on the Kensington Master Plan. She said she was also happy to see land repurposing for both the Wolcott Mill and Lower Huron golf courses. Ms. Spears also asked commissioners to consider carefully unfunded items, as some of the requests are not necessary such as the replacement of acoustic tiles at Lake St. Clair. She said the \$25,000 for the updates while nice, was unnecessary.

3. Approval – December 8, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support by Commissioner Marrocco that the Board of Commissioners' approve the Dec. 8, 2016 regular meeting minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval – January 12, 2017 Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Quadrozzi, support by Commissioner Williams that the Board of Commissioners' approve the January 12, 2017 agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Approval – January 12, 2017 Consent Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support by Commissioner Marrocco that the Board of Commissioners' approve the consent agenda consisting of the following:

- a. Purchases
 1. Computer Server Upgrade, various locations
- b. Report – Purchases over \$10,000
- c. Approval – Regulatory Sign Replacements, various locations
- d. Bids – Office Boiler Replacement, Lake St. Clair Metropark
- e. Bids – TWAC Acoustical Tile Replacement, Lake St. Clair Metropark
- f. Bids – Pool Painting, Lake St. Clair Metropark
- g. Bids – Vault Latrine Installation, Stony Creek Metropark
- h. Bids – Vault Latrine Installation, Kensington Metropark
- i. Approval – Wayne County Annual Maintenance Agreement

Commissioner Marans asked that item 5-e: Bids – TWAC Acoustical Tile Replacement, Lake St. Clair Metropark be moved to the regular agenda for discussion.

Commissioner McCarthy said the item would be moved to the regular agenda and listed as item 6-D-1; the motion as amended to reflect the change.

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda

6. **Reports**

A. **Planning Department**

1. **Report – Kensington Draft Master Plan**

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support by Commissioner Williams that the Board of Commissioners' receive and file the draft Kensington Metropark Master Plan as presented by Manager of Planning Nina Kelly, and staff.

Discussion: Manager of Planning Nina Kelly updated the Board on the Kensington Master Plan including the planning process, which included two public meetings. She said the public meetings were well attended and that more than 800 responses were received during the public comment and review period.

Commissioner Marans said it was a great report. He said the environment and trails received the most responses and asked what staff was doing to address these issues. Ms. Kelly said the Natural Resources section in the action plan addressed these issues.

Commissioner Marrocco said there was increased traffic coming into the parks this year. However, there was decreased traffic coming into Kensington and wanted to know why. Ms. Kelly said she could not pinpoint the reason for decreased vehicle traffic into Kensington.

Commissioner Marrocco asked if the rope course was going to be at Kensington. Director Phifer said the GoApe rope course would be opening at Stony Creek this year and then would open at Kensington next year. He said staff continues to look for opportunities to update and refresh amenities in the parks in order to give the public a reason to continue to visit the parks.

Commissioner Quadrozzi said with an aging demographic, staff should think about active seniors in the master plan process and different types of amenities. Ms. Kelly said staff would look into accessibility options. Commissioner Quadrozzi said linking accessibility was not the solution as there are many seniors that are very active.

Commissioner Marans said staff could look into the possibility of an offshoot to the hike-bike trails just in case patrons do not want to do a full loop, but still wanted to bike. Director Phifer said staff would look into options.

Commissioner Williams asked how permits were tracked that are sold at special events. Director Phifer said the administrative office has an allotment of permits and that revenue is not charged against the parks.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Reports

A. Planning Department

2. Approval – Preliminary Conceptual Golf Course Repurposing Designs, Wolcott Mill and Lower Huron Metroparks

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support by Commissioner Marrocco that the Board of Commissioners' (1) approve the concept plans for the repurposing of the Lower Huron Par-3 Golf Course and the Wolcott Mill Golf Course; and (2) approve a transfer from the Fund Balance to implement Phase 1 of each plan as recommended by Director Phifer and staff.

Discussion: Manager of Planning Nina Kelly reviewed the conceptual designs for the project.

Commissioner Hertel asked if the existing cart paths would be used for the hike-bike trails. Ms. Kelly said yes.

Commissioner Hertel also asked what would happen with the sand traps. Ms. Kelly said staff would look into different options. Commissioner Hertel said staff should work with Commissioner Marrocco since he has experience with golf courses. Director Phifer said staff he has spoken with Commissioner Marrocco about the courses and received input for adding fitness equipment at Wolcott.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Engineering Department

1. Approval – Preliminary Trail Design from Historic Center to Farm, Wolcott Mill Metropark

Motion by Commissioner McCarthy, support by Commissioner Marrocco that the Board of Commissioners' approve staff to move forward with the design of a new trail that will link the Wolcott Farm and Historic Center as recommended by Manager of Engineering Mike Brahm-Henkel and staff.

Discussion: Manager of Engineering Mike Brahm-Henkel updated the Board on the history of the project and reviewed proposed plans for the connecting trail. He said there were a few complications such as crossing the river and that staff would need to work with the Macomb County Department of Roads. Mr. Brahm-Henkel said the

trail would be located on Metroparks property, could be accessed from the road currently at the Historic Center and that the engineering survey crew has already completed the topographical work.

Commissioner Hertel said he, Commissioner Marrocco and Director Phifer met with Ray Township on several occasions regarding the project, and the township was not enthusiastic about moving forward with the project. Commissioner Hertel said the Macomb County Department of Roads was helpful and looked forward to partnering with the Metroparks on this project. He said the Metroparks tries not to butt heads with local units of government and this plan allows the Metroparks to avoid problems with the township.

Commissioner Hertel said Wetzel State Recreation Area, which is near Wolcott and is pretty much abandoned. He said the state uses the land to remediate wet lands across the state. He said if we have a wetlands issue with building the new trail, Wetzel gives the Metroparks an option to remediate the issue.

Commissioner Marans asked if Ray Township was aware of the new proposal.

Commissioner Marrocco said there is a new township supervisor and he gave him the information. He said the new supervisor may be more accessible and easier to work with.

Commissioner Marans said it also would be a helpful to speak with the state and get there assistance with project costs.

Commissioner Williams asked if the Metroparks if the two golf courses that were closing had any wetlands that could be used in remediation efforts. Director Phifer said the DNR was conducting grant workshops and that staff would be attending one later in the month, which would be helpful and these items could be discussed.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Reports

B. Engineering Department

2. Approval – Professional Services Proposal, Underground Storage Tank Investigation and Initial Assessment Reporting

Motion by Commissioner Quadrozzi, support by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners' approve the proposal from FTC&H in the amount of \$28,100 as recommended by Manager of Engineering Mike Brahm-Henkel and staff.

Discussion: Manager of Engineering Mike Brahm-Henkel updated the Board on the project and said a separate consultant was needed to conduct tests for contamination of the site. An onsite sniffer test was conducted along with onsite visual and olfactory observations to look for any signs of contamination. FTC&H conducted these tests while the removal was in progress and there appeared to be no signs of contamination. The laboratory sample results were just slightly over the allowable limits in the dispenser location. Staff asked the state if the area could be retested, which was allowed, the results came back clean, and FTC&H prepared a sampling report.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Reports

B. Engineering Department

3. Bids – Wave Pool Spray Pad

Motion by Commissioner Quadrozzi, support by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners' (1) award Contract 512-16-232 to the low responsive, responsible bidder, Cross Renovation, Inc., in the amount of \$214,225; and (2) approve the transfer of \$129,225 from Fund Balance as recommended by Manager of Engineering Mike Brahm-Henkel and staff.

Discussion: Mr. Brahm-Henkel updated the Board on the project and placement of the toys. The new amenities would be geared toward younger children since the waves in the pool tend to be overwhelming smaller children. The spray pad toys would use the same filtration of the wave pool and will be limited to the amount of water that can be used for the spray pad features.

Commissioner Marrocco asked if the wave pool and spray pad would be on one system and if there was an issue with the pool would the entire area be closed. Mr. Brahm-Henkel said it depended on the problem. If it is a problem with the filtration system, then yes, both the pool and spray pad would be closed.

Commissioner Marrocco asked staff to check with the contractor to see if the systems could run separately so both the pool and spray pad would not need to be closed simultaneously.

Commissioner Marans said it was a good plan since Lake Erie and usage numbers have gone downhill over the years.

Commissioner Marrocco said staff may need to begin advertising in Monroe County since it is close to the area. Director Phifer said staff would look into advertising in Monroe County.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Engineering Department

4. Approval – Generator Replacement, Administrative Office

Motion by Commissioner McCarthy, support by Commissioner Williams that the Board of Commissioners' (1) approve staff to move forward with the procurement of a new stand by generator and automatic transfer switch for the Administrative office in the estimated amount of \$150,000; and (2) approve a transfer from the Fund Balance to cover the cost of the project as recommended by Mike Brahm-Henkel and staff.

Discussion: Mr. Brahm-Henkel updated the Board on the ongoing issues with the generator at the administrative office. He said if the office experiences an outage, phone and data goes down system wide. Mr. Brahm-Henkel also said parts for the current generator, which is 14-years-old are hard to find, does not run all the administrative office systems and the transfer switch works intermittently. He said staff contacted two companies for quotes (Cummins and Michigan CAT) for a replacement generator as well an upgraded generator.

Commissioner McCarthy said he would suggest staying with Cummins or CAT, as they are well known companies.

Commissioner Hertel asked what the situation was with the air conditioning. Mr. Brahm-Henkel said the air conditioning would need to be rewired to run on the new generator (currently is not wired to the current generator). Commissioner Hertel said that without the ability to open windows at the office, the air conditioning needed to be addressed.

Commissioner Williams asked what the baseline for the generator was 80kW or 125kW. Mr. Brahm-Henkel said the current generator is 80kW and an upgraded generator would be 125kW. Commissioner Williams said a company should come out and do a load test on the new system and that automatic load testing should be done set up as well.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Reports

C. Natural Resources

1. Approval – Great Lakes Fisheries Trust Grant Agreement

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support by Commissioner Marrocco that the Board of Commissioners' approve the grant agreement with the Great Lakes Fisheries Trust for the Black Creek Shore Fishing Access project and complete the required resolution as recommended by Manager of Natural Resources and Regulatory Compliance Eric Ellis and staff.

Discussion: Manager of Natural Resources and Regulatory Compliance Eric Ellis explained the project to the Board. He said the total cost of the project was \$81,800 and the grant total was for \$58,500. Mr. Ellis also said the closest shoreline fishing area was 36 miles away from Lake St. Clair Metropark.

Commissioner McCarthy asked for a description of the fishing line disposal area. Mr. Ellis said it was an area that had a long PVC pipe were people fishing could dispose of fishing line so it would not endanger wildlife.

Commissioner Marrocco asked how many people could be accommodated on the deck. Mr. Ellis said he would check with the manufacturer and update the Board.

Commissioner Hertel inquired about wheel chair accessibility and how many chair could fit onto the platform. Director Phifer said staff would contact the manufacturer then update the Board.

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Bids – TWAC Acoustical Tiles, Lake St. Clair Metropark

Motion by Commissioner Marrocco, support by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners' (1) authorize staff to issue a purchase order to Memtech Acoustical for project 16-293 in the amount of \$25,126.58; and (2) authorize staff to transfer \$25,126.58 from the Engineering Outside Services account to the Lake St. Clair Major Maintenance unallocated account as recommended by Manager of Engineering Mike Brahm-Henkel and staff.

Discussion: Director Phifer said that in discussions with park staff, it was decided upgrade the facility by replacing the current acoustical tiles, which are old, faded and cracked. In order to promote the facility for weddings and special events, the upgrades are needed to give the TWAC a fresh updated look.

Commissioner Marrocco said the activity center should look fresh and new for the people that have their events at the facility.

Commissioner Marans said he hoped it would address the acoustics at future meetings.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Other Business

1. Metroparks Property

Director Phifer said he has been looking into property and land holdings to see any of the current Metroparks land should be, or needed to be sold. He was requesting Board approval authorizing staff to work with each commissioners to develop a property listing to sell/divest.

Commissioner Hertel said that over the years, there have been policy changes and subcommittees have been used to resolve issues. The Metroparks do not have many options on how it receives funding and changing the millage rate is not an option. He said he likes the idea of working with commissioners individually since each county is unique. Most Board members account on behalf of their county and citizens and the county representatives know what is best for each county.

Commissioner Hertel said he does not like having to look at the possibility of selling land, but sometimes it is necessary. Schmidt Lake was purchased several years ago and there have been no plans to develop the area.

Commissioner Hertel stated that he appreciates and supports Director Phifer's recommendation and that this was a good way to receive input from all of the board members.

Commissioner Marans said that prior to discussions with Board members, it would be helpful if there were a set of priorities such as what should be developed, areas with population growth, any natural resources or encumbrance issues.

Commissioner Hertel said he is finally seeing rebuilding and growth from the 2008 economy downturn.

8. Staff Officer Update

1. Director Phifer said Board members received Metroparks 50th anniversary books and that staff is currently working on 75th anniversary events, which will coincide with the annual fireworks displays and Michigan Philharmonic concerts.

Commissioner Marans said one of the founders, Harlow Whittemore, had a daughter in the area and said she wanted her father to receive greater recognition on his legacy. Commissioner Marans asked staff to reach out to her regarding funding for the events. Director Phifer said that staff has been working to contact Ms. Whittemore.

2. Manager of Engineering Mike Brahm-Henkel updated the Board on the project at Wolcott Mill Metropark to replace the grist mill at the Historic Center. He said the contractor was having problems getting wood planks large enough to recreate the wheel. He said white oak is the preferred wood for the wheel and it's in short supply right now. Mr. Brahm-Henkel said the Natural Resources Crew was able to find good white oak timber from land clearing at the parks and contacted a company in Lapeer to have it cut to the proper dimensions for the wheel. Mr. Brahm-Henkel said the wheel would be dismantled on Jan. 19, 2017 and sent to the contractor to be reconstructed.

3. Mr. Brahm-Henkel updated the Board on the "Little Mac" bridge located at Wolcott Mill Metropark at Camp Rotary. He said a tree recently fell on the bridge and broke the sway cables. Mr. Brahm-Henkel said staff is running into complications with trying to reconstruct the bridge to keep the historical significance. He said more wedding parties are using the bridge as a location for photos and staff is not sure if the bridge will be able to hold all the weight. Mr. Brahm-Henkel said that staff is researching this project for possible solutions and will make every effort to maintain the original look when it is reconstructed.
4. Mr. Brahm-Henkel updated the Board on the Baypoint and Maple Beach demolition projects at Stony Creek and Kensington. He said the contractor awarded the bid could not get bonded and that staff would be selecting the second lowest bidder to complete the demonstration work for both Baypoint and Maple Beach. Mr. Brahm-Henkel said he was working with Director Phifer and Miller Canfield on appropriate paperwork.

9. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Hertel said Commissioners' Marans, Marrocco and Parker would be on the sub-committee for the salary review.

Commissioner Marans said the announcements for master planning events was good and hoped the information was on the website. He also said the master plan timeline was helpful.

Commissioner Marrocco wished everyone a happy new year.

Commissioner Williams wished everyone a happy new year and thanked everyone for their hard work.

10. Motion to Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner McCarthy supported by Commissioner Williams that the Board of Commissioners' adjourn the regular meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shawn M. Athayde
Recording Secretary