

**Minutes
Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority
Board of Commissioners
Thursday, December 8, 2016**

A regular meeting of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Board of Commissioners was held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 8, 2016 at the Administrative Office.

Commissioners Present:	John C. Hertel Bernard Parker (arrived at 10:40am) Anthony V. Marrocco Timothy J. McCarthy Robert W. Marans Steven E. Williams
Staff Officers:	
Director	George Phifer
Deputy Director	Dave Kirbach
Chief Financial Officer	Michelle Cole
Absent:	Jaye Quadrozzi
Other Attendees:	
Steve Mann	Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, PLC
Kyle Seidel	Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick, Inc.

Chairman Hertel called the Dec. 8, 2016 meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

1. Chairman's Statement

Commissioner Hertel said he wanted to talk about the upcoming year, that he has talked about having a development program in place for a long time and that he is glad the program is back on track. He said the volunteer program is doing really well and has had an incredible boost to programs. Having our own marketing/publicity program is also bringing in big dividends, doubling attendance at this year's Heritage Holidays and he said he hopes it continues to grow. He said staff is also working towards getting more signage and billboards.

Commissioner Hertel also said he wanted to have the divestiture of property issue and the sale of unused land resolved before June.

Commissioner Hertel also said his father was heavily involved with community efforts and that he was wounded in the Battle of Normandy. He said it is important to remember the anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the anniversary of the Arsenal of Democracy that began during WWII. He said WWII changed the direction of America and the Metroparks.

2. Public Comments

David Wahl, Metroparks retiree, said he was the former controller for the Metroparks and is now the retiree representative on the Pension Committee and Retiree Health Care Trust Board. He said he wanted to go on record to officially thank Rebecca Franchock for her work on the Pension Committee and Retiree Health Care Trust Board and that she has been a stabilizing factor for both plans during the past several years.

Toni Spears, Metroparks volunteer, said she wanted to thank Nina Kelly and the Planning Department for their preparation and program for the Kensington Master Plan. She also thanked Commissioner Williams and Director Phifer for attending the meeting. She said the meeting was well attended and that while most of the people that attended were there for the passive recreation aspect of the park, many were there to discuss the natural resources management aspect such as clearing invasive shrubs, mowing and tree removal. Ms. Spears said she was surprised when the comments

regarding the natural areas stewardship were not within the scope of the master plan. Director Phifer indicated that there would be a separate meeting in early 2017 to discuss natural area management. Ms. Spears said she hopes the meeting for the natural areas management would be well publicized, as many people would be interested in attending.

Kathleen Hansen, New Hudson, said she attended the master plan meeting at Kensington. She gave a brief history of the Metroparks mentioning how the administrative office moved from Detroit to Livingston County because of court costs and asked if anyone has researched the costs to moving to Oakland County. Ms. Hansen asked if there was a need for a new administrative office building since so many positions were now part-time. She also discussed the mission of the Metroparks, how it has changed and said the parks are turning into more of a "Disneyland" type atmosphere, and if that is the case, the Metroparks mission statement needs to change as well.

3. Approval – November 10, 2016 Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner McCarthy that the Board of Commissioners' approve the Nov. 10, 2016 Budget Hearing and regular meeting minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval – December 8, 2016 Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Parker, support by Commissioner Williams that the Board of Commissioners' approve the December 8, 2016 agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval – December 8, 2016 Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approval – November 2016 Financial Statements and Payment Registers
- b. Approval – November 2016 Appropriation Adjustments
- c. Approval – 2016 Property Tax Levy Adjustments
- d. Approval – Workers Compensation Insurance Renewal
- e. Approval – Recommended 2017 Fund Balance Designation
- f. Purchases
 1. Park Vehicles, All Locations
 2. Police Vehicles, All Locations
 3. Polecat Snowmakers, Huron Meadows Metropark
 4. Police In-Car Mobile Data Computers (MDC), Stony Creek, Kensington, Lower Huron
- g. Report – Purchases over \$10,000
- h. Bids - Baypoint Bathhouse Building Demolition, Stony Creek Metropark
- i. Bids – Maple Beach Bathhouse Building Demolition, Kensington Metropark
- j. Approval – Notification for Removal of Retirement Plan Trustee
- k. Approval – Appointment of New Retirement Plan Trustee
- l. Approval – Appointment of Retiree Health Care Trust Plan Administrator

Commissioner Marans asked why the item for the Fund Balance was highlighted. Director Phifer said it was highlighted to reflect a change in the amount, which was corrected after the packet was sent out.

Motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda

6. Reports

A. Administrative Office

1. Approval – Golf Course Repurposing, Wolcott and Lower Huron Metroparks

Motion by Commissioner McCarthy, support by Commissioner Parker that the Board of Commissioners' approve the repurposing of the Lower Huron Par-3 Golf Course and the Wolcott Mill Golf Course as recommended by Director Phifer and staff.

Discussion: Director Phifer said the item was amended to reflect a correction from accounting. Director Phifer also said that the Wolcott Master Plan was already completed and that further discussion would be held on the closure of a third course at a later date. He said both courses struggle with attendance and costs.

Commissioner Hertel asked if there were plans for passive use. Director Phifer said yes and that staff would bring recommendations to the Board.

Commissioner Marrocco asked if Hudson Mills was under consideration for closure. Director Phifer said yes and that discussion would be part of the planning process for the Hudson Mills Master Plan.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Planning Department

1. Approval – Lower Huron Master Plan

Motion by Commissioner McCarthy, support by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners' approve the 2016 Lower Huron Master Plan as recommended by Manager of Planning Nina Kelly and staff.

Discussion: Manager of Planning Nina updated the Board on the details of the Master Plan, explained the process and posting for feedback and thanked Commissioner Parker for meeting with staff.

Commissioner Parker asked if the presentation he received for Lower Huron had the same ideas for usage in the Master Plan. Director Phifer said yes, the plan included passive recreation with walking trails, picnic shelters and natural area restoration.

Commissioner Parker asked if the Master Plan should include specifics. Director Phifer said general ideas were laid out in the Master Plan such as mowing areas, picnic tables etc.

Commissioner Parker said there was a need for picnic shelters.

Commissioner Marans asked if funds were allocated in the budget for repurposing. Director Phifer said no, however, the savings would come from not operating the courses.

Commissioner Marans said any plans would need to come back to the Board for approval and that at least there were funds to begin addressing the issue. Director Phifer said yes.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Planning Department

2. Approval – West Beachfront and Playground Site Design, Lake St. Clair Metropark

Motion by Commissioner Marrocco, support by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners' approve the revised Lake St. Clair West Beachfront and Playground site design concept presented by Anderson, Eckstein, and Westrick, Inc. (AEW) as recommended by Manager of Planning Nina Kelly and staff.

Discussion: Ms. Kelly updated the Board on the project and introduced Kyle Seidel with AEW who reviewed design changes. Mr. Seidel said there were a lot of issues with the original design, which was developed by another firm. Mr. Seidel said the new design keeps the trees that were slated to be removed as well as the boardwalk.

Mr. Seidel said the new design will have perimeter fencing, three access points, a wider drop off area and the entrance was moved to a point farther away from the parking area. He said the playground was divided into play areas for two to five-year-olds, five to 12-year-olds and an adult fitness area. The new design also includes a tennis/pickle and shuffleboard area, an area for lawn games such as Frisbee and beanbag toss, and has an area for a small concession stand, picnic tables and a water fountain.

Commissioner Hertel said the new design was a tremendous improvement from what was first presented. He also thanked Commissioner Marrocco for helping to preserve the trees and boardwalk.

Commissioner Parker asked if bike racks were included in the design. Mr. Seidel said no, but they could be added.

Commissioner Marrocco asked about cost. Mr. Seidel said the design estimate is \$1.6 million and the previous bid was \$1.84 million.

Commissioner Marrocco asked if the amount was factored into the budget. Director Phifer said yes.

Commissioner Marans said he likes the separation by age and said older kids and adults may want to use the five to 12-year-old age structure. He wanted to know how staff would control who plays on the structures. Mr. Seidel said there would be signage with appropriate ages. Director Phifer said the area is generally self-policed, as older kids/teens would not want to be in areas with younger children.

Commissioner McCarthy said he is at the park often for cross country meets and uses the boardwalk to watch the races. He thanked staff for preserving the boardwalk.

Director Phifer said an amount was budgeted for design and that the final site plan and costs would be brought to the Board for approval before construction would begin.

Commissioner Marrocco asked how long it would take to build. Mr. Seidel said it is a two – three month project.

Commissioner Marrocco said he would like to see the playground built next year so the area isn't closed during the season. Mr. Seidel said depending on Board approval and any changes to the plan, they may have a site plan ready by February 2016. Director Phifer said he would like to keep the project moving forward and keep the Board up to date on progress.

Commissioner Marans suggested doing the construction in phases so part of the playground remains open, while the other areas are under construction.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Reports

C. Engineering Department

1. Bids – Pool Backwash Discharge Modification, Lake St. Clair Metropark

Motion by Commissioner McCarthy, support by Commissioner Parker that the Board of Commissioners' award Contract No. 502-15-68 to the low responsive, responsible bidder, M-K Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$202,358.72 and transfer \$69,958.72 from the Fund Balance to cover the cost of the project as recommended by Manager of Engineering Mike Brahm-Henkel and Staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Other Business

Commissioner Hertel said he watched Fox 2 Detroit one morning and saw a promotional piece for Heritage Holidays and wanted to thank Media Relations Specialist Lisa Cross for her work.

8. Staff Officer Update

Director Phifer introduced Julie Hein as the new Foundation manager, Robert Rudolph as the new IT manager and Jeff Brown as the new Western District Park Superintendent. Ms. Hein thanked the Board for the opportunity and said she looked forward to working at the Metroparks. Mr. Brown thanked the Board and Director Phifer for the opportunity and said he attended the Kensington Master Plan meeting and everyone that attended gave their legacy; he said he has been coming to the Metroparks for 52 years. Mr. Rudolph said he has been in the IT industry for more than 16 years and looks forward to working at the Metroparks.

Director Phifer thanked staff for their hard work making Heritage Holidays bigger and better and for continuing to grow the event. He also thanked Lisa Cross, Katie Kowalski and Hilary Simmet for their work and said that in 2015 on the first night of Heritage Holidays, 500 people attended the event and this year it doubled to more than 1,100 people.

Director Phifer introduced Hilary Simmet who gave a community outreach update.

Ms. Simmet said the Metroparks were involved in 22 festivals, seven health expos and seven parades. She updated the Board on awards the Metroparks won for participation in various parades, said the Clydesdale horses were in all the parades and that the public really enjoyed seeing the horses. Ms. Simmet also said that staff talks to the public, educates them about the Metroparks and helps with marketing the parks.

Commissioner Williams said the Howell Fantasy of Lights parade had 20,000 spectators this year even with the rainy weather.

Director Phifer thanked AEW for their work on the site plan for the Lake St. Clair playground redevelopment.

Commissioner Hertel said he wanted Director Phifer to mention discussions with Ray Township. Director Phifer said staff met with Ray Township in order to get an easement to connect the Historic Center and the Farm Center and that Ray Township wanted to get an easement to gain access to the river. Staff determined it was best to keep the two issues separate and that Ray Township eventually turned down the Metroparks request for an easement. Staff then revisited the area and found a better spot to connect the Historic and Farm Centers using Metroparks property and an easement was not required. Director Phifer said a project plan would be brought to the Board for approval.

9. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Marans asked if the Board meetings would still be on the second Thursday of the month. Director Phifer said yes, that the Board approved the 2017 schedule at the Oct. 13, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Marans wished everyone happy holidays.

Commissioner Marrocco wished everyone happy holidays and thanked Commissioner Hertel for his hard work.

Commissioner McCarthy said as the Metroparks Foundation president, he was hoping to get all the commissioners to contribute to the Foundation again this year. He also wished everyone happy holidays.

Commissioner Parker said he would like to see a presentation on outreach and a media campaign in early 2017. He also said there are 32 families at the school he runs and said if anyone would like to adopt a family to let him know.

Commissioner Williams asked if the permits would go through the county or state for the trail connector project at Wolcott Mill. Manager of Engineering Mike Brahm-Henkel said the county for the trail portion and the state for the portion that goes over the river.

Commissioner Hertel thanked the Board and Director Phifer for all their hard work and said he was proud to be on this Board and that there is little to no politicization.

10. Motion to Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shawn M. Athayde
Recording Secretary