

Minutes
Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority
Board of Commissioners
Thursday, May 11, 2017

A regular meeting of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Board of Commissioners was held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 11, 2017 at Willow Metropark at the pool area food bar.

Commissioners Present:	Timothy J. McCarthy Robert W. Marans Steven E. Williams Bernard Parker Jaye Quadrozzi (arrived at 10:52am) Kurt L. Heise
Staff Officers:	
Director	George Phifer
Deputy Director	Dave Kirbach
Chief Financial Officer	Michelle Cole
Absent:	
Macomb County Representative	Vacant
Other Attendees:	
Steve Mann	Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, PLC

Vice Chairman McCarthy called the May 11, 2017 meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

1. Chairman's Statement

Vice Chairman McCarthy said Chairman Hertel's term as the governor appointee expired and Gov. Snyder appointed Kurt Heise to the Board.

Commissioner Heise introduced himself and updated the commissioners and meeting attendees on his background.

Commissioner McCarthy also commented on both Commissioners Hertel and Marrocco. He said Commissioner Hertel served as the Wayne County representative from May 1983 – March 1988; served as chairman from June 1985 – June 1987; was the governor appointee from May 1995 – February 2000; was Macomb County representative from February 2000 – April 2005; served as chairman from Jan. 13 – June 9, 2005; was governor appointee from May 2005 – May 2017; served as chairman from June 2007 – June 2009 and then again from June 2015 – April 2017.

Commissioner McCarthy said that Commissioner Marrocco served from April 2005 – April 2017 and served as chairman from 2011 – 2013.

Commissioner McCarthy said the Board would formally recognize both Commissioner Hertel and Marrocco at a later date.

2. Public Comments

Toni Spears, Dexter, said Lower Huron has a wonderful display of red buds and everyone should try and see them while they are in bloom. Ms. Spears thanked Nina Kelly and the Planning Department on the draft Master Plan for Hudson Mills. She said there was a good turnout of participants at the public meetings and among the public participation and online comments "respondents advocated for improved wildlife habitat, stronger and more nuanced invasive species control, protection of native species, and decreased mowing and clearing..." She said since this public participation was for the entire Western District but open to all, the comments really apply to all the parks. Ms. Spears also said that as the grassland management plan is revised this year, the comments from the public should be part of that plan.

Ms. Spears commented on the agenda and the request for approval for two items totaling more than \$5 million for the Boat Launch Building redevelopment project at Stony Creek. She said that level of

expenditure needs careful consideration. Ms. Spears also said the project raises questions such as how did a project budgeted for \$2 million in 2017 turn into a \$5 million project? How will this project affect the Kensington office replacement projected slated for 2018, as the boat launch project will use the funding set aside for the Kensington office project. What is the process that resulted in turning a \$2 million project into a \$5 million project, how much is in the Fund Balance and how has it changed over the last few years.

3. Approval – April 13, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Parker, support from Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners' approve the April 13, 2017 regular meeting minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval – May 11, 2017 Amended Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Williams that the Board of Commissioners' approve the amended May 11, 2017 amended agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval – March 9, 2017 Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approval – April 2017 Financial Statements and Payment Registers
- b. Approval – April 2017 Appropriation Adjustments
- c. Purchases
 1. New Holland Tractor, Kensington Metropark
 2. Ford F-550 Hooklift Truck, Kensington
- d. Report – Purchases over \$10,000
- f. Approval – Computerize Fuel Management Installation, Stony Creek, Hudson Mills, Willow and Lake Erie Metroparks
- g. Bids – Infrared Pavement Repairs, Kensington, Lower Huron, Willow Metropark

Motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda

6. Reports

A. Administrative Office

1. AARP Presentation

Discussion: Director Phifer welcomed AARP State Director Paula Cunningham and Associate State Director Kim Bishop and said the Metroparks began the relationship with AARP in 2016 with a \$10,000 donation and support for the Michigan Philharmonic events.

Ms. Cunningham thanked the commissioners for the opportunity to speak to the Board today and presented at \$10,000 sponsorship check. Ms. Cunningham said sponsorships are important, but that AARP is interested in partnerships and building relationships. The first event AARP will be doing this year will be a "flash mob" on June 22 at Lake St. Clair Metropark with Ernestine Shepherd, an 80-year-old bodybuilder.

Commissioner Marans asked why Lake St. Clair was chosen. Director Phifer said the decision was left up to AARP. Ms. Cunningham said the event at Lake St. Clair was the location that worked with Ms. Shepherd's schedule.

Ms. Cunningham said that AARP would be at the parks for the Michigan Philharmonic concerts and would be holding a short program prior to the concerts on identity theft and fraud. Another activity AARP will be having at the parks will be a "good form walking" where trained professionals will assist patrons on how to walk correctly to avoid injuries. Finally, movies for grownups would be held this summer at the parks.

Ms. Cunningham said AARP has members throughout the state with four locations with paid staff located in Jackson, Lansing, Detroit and Grand Rapids.

Commissioner Parker said it would be nice to recognize anyone at these events that was 79-years-old since the Metroparks are also celebrating its 75th anniversary.

6. Reports

A. Administrative Office

2. Approval – Heavner Canoe Concessionaire Agreement

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Williams that the Board of Commissioners approve the Heavner Canoe Livery Agreement at the Kensington Farm Center for a two-year period, with the option to renew the contract for an additional two years beginning May 14, 2017 as recommended by Director George Phifer.

Discussion: Director Phifer said staff was seeking approval to renew approval to renew the contract with Heavner Canoe for a two-year contract with the option to renew for two additional years. Director Phifer said the Metroparks increased the revenue received from 10 percent to 20 percent, which is in line with other vendors. Director Phifer said Miller Canfield has also reviewed the contract.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Finance Department

1. Approval – Pension Plan Actuarial Valuation and Contribution

Motion by Commissioner Williams, support from Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners' (1) receive and file the Annual Actuarial Valuation and GASB Statement No. 67 and No. 68 Report; (2) approve the 2017 Pension Contribution at the budgeted amount of \$2.85 million; and (3) approve the 2017 Retiree Health Care Trust contribution at the budgeted amount of \$1.175 million as recommended by Chief Financial Officer Cole and staff.

Discussion: Chief Financial Officer Michelle Cole said the actuarial valuation for the Pension Plan was received last week and the Retiree Health Care valuation was received on May 10, 2017. Staff was requesting approval for both the Pension and Retiree Health Care contribution.

Commissioner Parker asked if this Pension Committee discussed and agreed to this amount.

Commissioner McCarthy said the Pension Committee and Retiree Health Care Trust (RHCT) Board reviewed both items. He said assumption changes were made for both plans – the income assumption was reduced from 7.25 to 6.75 percent and the mortality rate was increased; both of which affected the funding status. Previously, the Pension Plan was in the 80 percent range and the Retiree Health Care was in the 70 percent range. Now, the Pension Plan is closer to 73 percent and the Retiree Health Care Trust is closer to 68 percent.

He said the Pension/ RHCT committee as well as staff, are worried about levels and would like to increase the amounts. Staff brought a recommendation to increase the funding over the next five years and to bring the funding rate up closer to 80 percent with a \$10 million contribution. Because the Pension Committee and RHCT Board received the information just prior to the Board meeting, the Pension Committee and RHCT Board wanted to have time to review and discuss how priorities will need to shift in order to accommodate the additional contribution of \$10 million.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Planning Department

1. Report – Hudson Mills Draft Master Plan

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

Discussion: Manager of Planning Nina Kelly reviewed draft Master Plan for Hudson Mills and said the process is similar to the process completed with other parks. Ms. Kelly reviewed the park history, facilities, reviewed the golf course including revenue/expenditures and the

various areas within the park. She said reviewed the community influences, public input and said 40 people attended the meeting and that 600 responses were received online.

Commissioner Marans commended Ms. Kelly and staff on the plan. He said he has received several calls regarding closing the golf course and said he understands the rationale for closing the course and wanted to hear plans for the property. Director Phifer said the plan would be to close the course in 2018 and that staff would begin notifying stakeholders once staff received Board approval.

Commissioner Marans said it would be a good opportunity to hear from the golfers to see what their interests are as an alternative to golfing.

Commissioner Parker asked staff what the current plans for using the golf course property after it closes. He said it's important to have something to offer patrons. Director Phifer said staff has an idea on what amenities/facilities they would like to add such as moving the interpretive center from the office/activity building to the golf course area and then adding more canoe/kayak launch sites.

Commissioner McCarthy said he understood Commissioner Parker's concern about having a plan. He said it is a planned project that will happen in phases, but first, the Board will need to decide on closing the golf course.

Commissioner Williams said he was at the course on Saturday and didn't realize how far the rest of the park was from the course. He said one of the things people have contacted him about, was that they don't want to pay to get into the parks if they are just golfing. He would like to know how much tolling revenue is from golfer use.

Commissioner Williams also commented on high schoolers that use the Hudson Mills Golf Course and if any other Metropark courses would be able to accommodate students.

Commissioner Heise asked about the Border-to-Border (B2B) trail. Commissioner Marans explained the trails history with Washtenaw County and said it is now a key component to the governor's Iron Belle Trail initiative.

Commissioner Quadrozzi said the age demographics around the park was surprising(over 65) and that repurposing the park for something that would be suitable for the aging demographics and how would people get from the park to a new facility.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Reports

D. Engineering Department

1. Bids – Boat Launch Building Redevelopment, Stony Creek Metropark

Motion by Commissioner Quadrozzi, support from Commissioner Parker that the Board of Commissioners' approve (1) award Contract 509-16-532 to Cedroni and Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$ \$4,783,348; and (2) approved reallocating projects and funding in the 2018 five-year Capital projects plan to cover the cost of the project; and (3) approval additional design fees in the amount of \$185,500 to Anderson Eckstein and Westrick, Inc. as recommended by Manager of Engineering Mike Brahm-Henkel and Staff.

Discussion: Manager of Engineering Brahm-Henkel reviewed project with the Board and explained why changes for different aspects of the project were needed. He also explained why restrooms were expanded to include showers for users and that a viewing platform was added near lake for patron use.

Commissioner Marans said he wanted to address comments Toni Spears made during public comments. Specifically, what amount was allocated for the trails and if this the final building design. Director Phifer said yes that the Board approved the building design at the Nov. 10, 2016 Board meeting and that the cost for moving path was small amount in respect to the overall plan. Director Phifer said the \$2 million set aside for their project was only a starting point and that the project grew to accommodate requests from the Board. He said most of

expenses will occur in 2018 and that the Kensington Office building, the administrative building and Lower Huron building are still slated to be completed, just at a later date.

Commissioner Quadrozzi said the people that she knows that are runners and bikers are very happy about the redesign. One concern that has been brought up is what will happen in the winter. Mr. Brahm-Henkel said the current building will remain open until the new building is built.

Commissioner Parker asked if staff is certain the area will hold cars in addition to vehicles with boat trailers? Mr. Brahm-Henkel said yes, boat trailers were one of the changes to the reconfiguration to the parking lot in order to make it more accessible for both vehicles and patrons.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Reports

D. Engineering Department

2. Bids – Willow Golf Course Emergency Culvert Repairs, Willow Metropark

Motion by Commissioner Parker, support from Commissioner Williams that the Board of Commissioners' award Contract 710-17-177 to DP Schwehofer Excavating in the amount of \$60,992 as recommended by Manager of Engineering Mike Brahm-Henkel and staff.

Discussion: Mr. Brahm-Henkel updated the Board on the project and the flooding incident that caused the culvert to collapse. He said the area floods a lot and the contractor is ready to begin once the Board approves. Mr. Brahm-Henkel also said it's a county drain.

Commissioner Williams asked if the county no longer allow side beside culverts. Mr. Brahm-Henkel said no and the new culvert is 81-foot x 59-foot.

Commissioner Parked asked if this one would erode as well of if there is new technology to prevent it from collapsing. Mr. Brahm-Henkel said the area floods a lot and staff will need to monitor the integrity of culvert.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Other Business

Commissioner McCarthy asked for an update on the generator for the administrative office. Mr. Brahm-Henkel said staff received quotes that came in at \$146,000 that it's a Cummins generator and that staff will move quickly to get it installed.

Commissioner McCarthy said Macomb County has not approved the new commissioner; however he said the new appointee would be at the June meeting.

Commissioner McCarthy reminded everyone of the upcoming golf charity event taking place on Friday, June 9 and encouraged everyone to support the event.

Commissioner McCarthy said he had a conflict with the location for the June 8, 2017 meeting, which is currently scheduled for Stony Creek. He polled commissioners and asked if there was an objection to move the June meeting from Stony Creek to the Administrative office.

Motion by Commission Marans, support from Commissioner Williams that the Board of Commissioners' approve moving the location for the June 8, 2017 Board meeting from the Stony Creek Nature Center to the Administrative Office.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Staff Officer Update

Director Phifer introduced Ryan Colliton, Manager of Natural Resources and Regulatory Compliance. Mr. Colliton updated the Board on the Natural Resources Department highlighting invasive species control, wildlife and forest management. Habitat management and water resources management.

Ron Gamble with the Natural Resource Department reviewed compliance and sustainability efforts taking place at the Metroparks.

Commissioner Marans said it was a good presentation and asked about sustainability in other parts of the parks in terms of recycling etc. Director Phifer said the parks have placed recycling bins within all the parks and staff has been attending sustainability meetings with the state in order to continue efforts in making sustainability a priority at the staff level and within the parks.

Mr. Colliton said he attended a recycling meeting in Lansing and the main topic was how to educate people on what can and cannot be recycled. Staff has begun a draft sustainability report on ways to continue efforts at the parks.

Commissioner Marans said he would like staff to think broader and to include thinking about facilities and how building can be more energy efficient. Also, think about food and what is ordered at the park level. Are the parks buying organic and locally grown products etc.

Commissioner Williams asked if the Metroparks has switched to the new hazardous waste reporting system. Mr. Gamble said that the reporting system for Tier II was still the same as of a few days ago.

Commissioner Williams said there was a lot of autumn olive at the Hudson Mills Golf Course. He wanted to know how the more isolated areas are handled. Mr. Colliton said the Natural Resources Crew and Natural Areas Crew that spends a majority of their time controlling invasive species control by hand (pulling by hand, brush cutting, spraying etc.).

Commissioner Quadrozzi left the meeting at 12:02pm.

Director Phifer said the spring auction was held at the Wolcott Farm Center on May 6, 2017 and it went very well. He introduced Heidi Dziak, senior buyer and Sherrie Borchardt. Ms. Dziak said Ms. Borchardt was retiring after 42 years of services with the Metroparks. Ms. Dziak thanked Sherrie for her years of service and all the hard work she did in preparing for the auction. Ms. Borchardt updated the Board on the auction and said the Metroparks received more than \$600,000 in revenue and that approximately 1200 people attended the spring auction.

9. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Marans said it was a good meeting

Commissioner Parker welcomed Commissioner Heise. He also said revenue is up, which is good since the weather has been cool and rainy. He also said he would like to see a marketing and media plan at the next meeting. Director Phifer said staff would prepare a preliminary plan for Board review, once the media relations position was filled.

Commissioner McCarthy said he would be visiting all the parks on May 23, 24 and 25 and invited the other commissioners to join him.

10. Motion to Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shawn M. Athayde
Recording Secretary