

Minutes
Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority
Board of Commissioners
Thursday, May 8, 2014

The regular meeting of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Board of Commissioners was held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 8, 2014 at the Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center.

Commissioners Present:	John E. La Belle John C. Hertel Timothy J. McCarthy Anthony V. Marrocco Harry E. Lester Robert W. Marans
Staff Officers:	
Director	John P. McCulloch
Deputy Director	George Phifer
Controller	Rebecca Franchock
Recording Secretary/Corporation Counsel	Joseph W. Colaianne
Absent:	
Commissioner	Jaye Quadrozzi
Others:	
Legislative Consultant	George Carr

Chairman La Belle called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

1. Chairman's Statement

No statement.

2. Public Comments

No public comments.

3. Minutes – April 17, 2014 Regular Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Lester that the Board of Commissioners' approve the April 17, 2014 regular meeting minutes as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval – May 8, 2014 Agenda

Motion by Commissioner McCarthy, supported by Commissioner Lester that the Board of Commissioners' approve the May 8, 2014 meeting agenda, removing item 8B(3), as recommended by Director McCulloch and staff.

Discussion: Chairperson La Belle noted, with regard to Item 8B(3) that the Pension Committee and Retiree Health Care Trust Board decided to hold off to address concerns regarding the selection of retiree representation on the committees.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval – April 17, 2014 Consent Agenda

Motion by Commissioner McCarthy, supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners approve the April 17, 2014 Consent Agenda consisting of the following: Vouchers – April 2014, Financial Statements – April 2014, Purchases for (1) HEART Lab, Lake St. Clair Metropark; (2) Mower, Indian Springs and Huron Meadows Metroparks; (3) Mower, Willow Metropark (4) Safety Surface, Stony Creek, Kensington, Lower Huron, Willow and Lake Erie Metroparks, Bids – Marina Concrete Walk Repairs, Lake St. Clair Metropark, Bids – Golf Course Entrance Road Reconstruction, Indian Springs Metropark, and Approval – Fund Balance Designation.

Motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda

6. Legislative Report

Motion by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Lester that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the legislative report as presented by Legislative Consultant George Carr.

Discussion: Mr. Carr noted that the Legislature is working on \$350 Million road funding assistance package. In addition, new legislation will be introduced that would affect how local governments will provide notice. This information was provided to the Director for review and determination of how HMCA may be affected.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Update – Park Operation

Motion by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Lester that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the Park Operations Update as presented by park operations staff.

Discussion: Deputy Director Phifer introduced Dave Kirbach, Western District maintenance manager who presented the report from the Western District. Mr. Kirbach indicated that despite winter-like weather at the beginning of April, there was plenty of activity in the western district. Park revenue for April was up as compared to April 2013. Major activities for the month included Easter egg hunts, a disc golf tournament, and sheep shearing. Mr. Kirbach also noted that a group of dedicated cross country skiers gave a special thanks to Adam Haberkorn and park staff for the outstanding work on the cross country ski trails at Huron Meadows. This group also donated \$5,000 to cross country ski efforts. Mr. Kirbach noted that work has begun on the redesign and repaving of the parking lot at Martindale Beach. Construction of the shelter at the Black Locust Disc Course is underway, made possible with the \$20,000 donation from Jim Kenner, owner of Discraft. Finally, Mr. Kirbach noted that there will be a celebration at Hudson Mills on June 7, National Trails Day, for the West River Trail. (Please see attached report).

Mr. Eric Koppin, park operations manager at Lake St. Clair Metropark presented the report from the Eastern District. Mr. Koppin highlighted the impact on both Stony Creek and Wolcott Mill from severe weather that occurred in April. A storm left uprooted and damaged trees and power loss at facilities for several days. The hardest hit was the golf course and Sheldon Pines area at Stony Creek. Mr. Koppin noted that park maintenance and the Natural Resources crew did an excellent job cleaning up after the

storm. Although snow fell on April 15, and other adverse weather affected visitation and golf operations, total revenue was up substantially (42.9 percent) for the same period last year. Mr. Koppin also describe several events and activities that took place in the eastern district which included the Easter Egg Scramble, new farm animals, Earth Day Clean up, and the Macomb County Health and Fitness Foundation healthy living event. Mr. Koppin noted that Wolcott Mill was selected as a site for the Detroit Institute of Arts InsideOut program showing of reproduction of masterpieces. At Stony Creek, a pair of Bald Eagles with three eaglets can be seen nesting near Inwood Trails. Finally, Mr. Koppen indicated that with the volunteer and fundraising efforts of the Cerku family, the Greenhouse at Wolcott Mill is now functioning and a ribbon cutting ceremony took place on April 27. (See attached report).

Mr. Jeff Linn, Park Operations Manager presented the report from the Southern District. Mr. Linn noted that weather was all over the map for the month of April, which included snow on April 15. There was also some minor flooding at Willow Golf course. For the first time in years, both Willow and Lake Erie Golf courses opened on April 6. A controlled burn was held at Oakwoods, and Mr. Linn reported that the Natural Resource crew did an excellent job. Mr. Linn also described several events and activities in the southern district, which included the Easter Egg Scramble and Earth Day Clean up. Children also were to meet Mr. Drysdale a pot bellied pig. (Please see attached report).

Commissioner Hertel noted that the reports were very good and in particular the variety of events taking place at the parks. Mr. Hertel inquired whether staff was working with Berline Group, and noted that Fox 2 news features upcoming events on their Sunday programs. Carol Stone, HCMA Administration Services Manager noted that staff is working with Berline and electronic media which we will be observing later this month. Director McCulloch noted that staff is sending out press releases to media outlets and the importance of developing relationships with the media.

Commissioner McCarthy commented that he would like reports of media successes that highlight specific events. It was noted that HCMA Golf was featured twice in Michigan Golf Weekly.

Commissioner Marans stated that he would like to see PowerPoint presentations to highlight operational reports.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Reports

A. Lake St. Clair Metropark

1. Approval – Land Acquisition

Motion by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Marrocco that the Board of Commissioners authorize staff to prepare an agreement to purchase 10 acres of property adjacent to Lake St. Clair Metropark from Georgene Berent (Parcel 'A') at the \$25,000 appraised value as recommended by Natural Resources and Environmental Compliance Manager Paul Muelle and staff

Discussion: Paul Muelle indicated that this is the first of several properties that HCMA has been able to reach agreement with the property owner. He also noted that the acquisition costs will be reimbursed from grants.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Reports

B. Administrative Office

1. Approval – New World Systems ERP Vendor Contract

Motion by Commissioner Lester, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the Board of Commissioners approve the contract with New World Systems for software and services; and approve allocating \$377,100 from the Reserve for Technology upgrade to the Administrative Capital Equipment Account as recommended by Director McCulloch and Controller Franchock.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Hertel, La Belle, Lester, Marans, McCarthy, Marrocco

Nays: None

Discussion: Rebecca Franchock, Controller noted that about a year ago she had expressed concern that ERP project would be put on hold. With help from staff New World was selected as the preferred vendor. She also noted that representatives from New World were present to answer any questions. Corporation Counsel Colaianne noted that he had discussed some aspects of the contract with Commissioner Quadrozzi and with her input we were able to reach agreement with New World Systems.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval – ERP Hardware and Operating System

Motion by Commissioner Lester, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the Board of Commissioners approve the purchase for hardware and operating system to implement the new ERP system as recommended by Director McCulloch and Controller Franchock.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval – Pension Committee and RHCT Retiree Member Voting Representation

No Motion – Item removed from Agenda.

9. Staff Officer Report

1. Director McCulloch noted that staff is very sensitive to the simple formula, which is to seek ways to increase park attendance, raise revenue and limit/reduce costs. Superintendants continue to work on their district business plans. Director McCulloch noted that the Detroit Symphony Orchestra event is scheduled for June 21 at Stony Creek; this major event is coming together and getting much exposure. He noted that the major sponsors are First State Bank, SEI, and ITC. Community Relations efforts will be a multi-month process and we continue to increase our exposure with our local partners, highlighting our amenities and programs; Chip Tischer is spearheading this effort. McCulloch also highlighted his recent attendance at the Special District Parks Forum in Orange County, California. He noted that each year we have the opportunity to meet with other park professionals and he pick up ideas for our own strategic planning. Next year, the Metroparks in conjunction with Oakland County Parks and Recreation will be hosting this event. McCulloch noted that he is also reaching out to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to include Belle Isle as part of the 2015 Parks Forum event. This will provide national exposure and boost attendance at the Parks Forum.

Commissioner Hertel noted that he and Commissioner McCarthy serve on the Convention Visitors Bureau and that it may be of assistance. Director McCulloch noted that the Special Parks planning committee has reached out to the Bureau.

2. Deputy Director Phifer reminded the Board that the West River Trail dedication at the Hudson Mills Golf Course following the today's meeting and that there will be refreshments after the dedication.
3. Controller Franchock indicated that staff is working on the Five-Year-Plan and there will be a high-level presentation at the June 2014 Board meeting. She also noted that staff is working on the "chart of accounts" to improve the business decision making model. With regard to revenue, Franchock noted that 90 percent of taxes have been collected, tolling is up 36 percent and golf is up 10 percent from last year. Finally, Franchock noted that for the 2014 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) that she is contemplating the solicitation of RFP for auditing purposes.

10. Other Business

None

11. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Hertel complimented staff with reaching out to the Board and utilizing their expertise for assistance. In particular, he noted that Mr. Colaianne involved Commissioner Quadrozzi with regard to the software contract.

Commissioner Lester was glad to see former Controller Dave Wahl in attendance.

Commissioner McCarthy very pleased with the Metroparks/DSO sponsorship effort and in particular, SEI participation.

Commissioner Marrocco noted that vehicle permits sales were down 14,000.

12. Motion to Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Lester that the Board of Commissioners adjourn the regular meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Joe Colaianne
Recording Secretary/Corporation Counsel