

**Proposed Minutes
Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority
Board of Commissioners
Thursday, September 11, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Board of Commissioners was held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 11, 2014 at the Willow Metropark Food Bar area.

Commissioners Present:

John E. La Belle
Timothy J. McCarthy
John C. Hertel
Jaye Quadrozzi
Harry E. Lester
Robert W. Marans
Anthony V. Marrocco

Staff Officers:

Director
Deputy Director
Controller
Recording Secretary/Corporation Counsel

John P. McCulloch
George Phifer
Rebecca Franchock
Joseph W. Colaianne

Other Attendees:

Toni Spears
George Carr, Legislative Consultant
William Fountain, ROI Golf

Chairman La Belle called the September 11, 2014 meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

1. Chairman's Statement

No statement.

2. Public Comments

Toni Spears commented that the weather challenges this summer has resulted in major tree losses, power outages, and beach closings. She raised the importance of environmental stewardship and concerns from storm water runoff and high bacteria levels. Ms. Spears highlighted the dedication of the Metroparks' environmental stewardship referencing the efforts to mitigate storm water runoff with the Lake St. Clair project that improved the parking areas and installation of bioswales with native plants. She stated that with substantial lands along rivers, creeks and lakes, that the Metroparks should consider what other projects could be done for water management and quality. Ms. Spears also commented on the review of mowing areas in the parks and suggested that any increase in park mowing should be justified based on criteria set forth in the 2009 Natural Resources Report.

3. Minutes – August 14, 2014 Regular Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner McCarthy that the Board of Commissioners' approve regular meeting minutes as presented.

Closed session minutes presented required further revision and will be presented at next meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval – September 11, 2014 Agenda

That the Board of Commissioners' approve the Sept. 11, 2014 agenda as revised moving items (5)(c) Approval – Contract between HCMA and Foundation; and (5)(e) Agreement – Utility Easement for Shelby Township from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Approval – Sept. 11, 2014 Consent Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner McCarthy, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the Board of Commissioners consent agenda as revised consisting of the following: Vouchers – August 2014; Purchases - Road Salt, Eastern and Western Districts; Approval – TIFA Exemptions, Auburn Hills DDA; Approval – 2015 Fees and Charges; Bids – Auxiliary Power Connection – Snell Road Well, Stoney Creek; Bids – Environmental Discovery Center Exterior Staining, Indian Springs; and Bids – Service Yard AST Installation and UST Removal, Hudson Mills.

Motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda

5(c). **Approval of Contract between HCMA and Foundation**

Motion by Commissioner McCarthy, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the Board of Commissioners approve the contract between HCMA and the Foundation, subject to the proposed changes recommended by Commissioner Marrocco.

Discussion: Commissioner Marrocco suggested three changes to the proposed agreement. (1) Revise Article II, Section 2.1 of the proposed agreement to remove the phrase “as requested” and replace with the following: “as deemed necessary by the Board of Commissioner”; (2) Section 2.2 remove “without charge”; and (3) Article IV, Section 4.1 first sentence after the work “services” “equipment and office expense.”

Motion carried unanimously.

5(e). **Approval of Utility Easement for Shelby Township**

Motion by Commissioner McCarthy, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the Board of Commissioners approve the utility easement for sanitary sewer facilities serving Stony Creek Metropark subject to the changes recommended by Commissioner Marrocco.

Discussion: Commissioner Marrocco suggested add 17 feet and moving easement to the back to accommodate potential road improvements along property line. Mr. Brahm-Henkel indicated that he would contact Shelby regarding the changes.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Legislative Report**

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

Discussion: Mr. Carr indicated that the legislature is gearing up for the lame-duck session. He noted that when it needs to, the legislature and governor’s office can work very fast as it did recently with respect to closing a loophole created by the courts that could have made the state liable for more than \$1 billion in tax refunds to out-of-state corporations. Mr. Carr also noted that legislation may be introduced to address term limits but was not sure who was behind the legislation.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. **Update – Park Operation**

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

Discussion:

1. Jeff Shuman, Operations Supervisor, provided the report and slides from the Southern District highlighting certain events since the last Board meeting (e.g. Turtles hatching at Oakwoods; 2014 Girls and Boys’ Camp, Lake Erie; and the Wonderland Marine Fishing event). He noted that the new tolling plaza at Lake Erie was completed. Mr. Shuman stated there was considerable storm damage that occurred Sept. 5; a dozen trees were lost at

Lower Huron Metropark. Commissioner Marans noted that the sign at Willow seemed out of place. Mr. Shuman indicated that the appearance should improve with landscaping.

2. Mike Lyons, Superintendent provided the report from the Eastern District. Mr. Lyons highlighted several noteworthy events, which included the Michigan BASS Tournament; Lake St. Clair concert series; children programs; Voyageur Encampment (a colonial period reenactment event); boating and outdoor festival; and the DIA Firefly Film Festival. Mr. Lyons noted rustic camping has been very successful, and may want to consider additional weekend camping throughout the summer.
3. Susan Schmidt provided the report on behalf of Wolcott Mill. She noted that the Harvest Festival and Corn Day celebrating the harvest season was successful. Park users were able to experience sheep shearing, wool spinning, blacksmithing, and other farming and harvest activities. Ms. Schmidt indicated that a civil war era tree at the park appeared to be in distress, and with the assistance of the Natural Resource Crew, the old tree appears to be on the mend. With the recent purchase of property at Wolcott Mill an intra-park trail has been marked that would serve to connect the Historic Center to the Farm Center. Finally, Ms. Schmidt highlighted the Star Party at Camp Rotary where the weather cooperated for a viewing of the Perseid Meteor Shower. Commissioner Marans inquired as to the attendance levels at the various events and suggested talking to some of the attendees how the Metroparks could build attendance. Commissioner Hertel commended Director McCulloch and staff regarding the potential of the walking trail between the Farm Center and the Historical Center. Commissioner Hertel inquired as to the status of the Mill. Ms. Schmidt indicated the rehabilitation of the Mill is nearly complete, and the Mill should be working by the next meeting. The hope is to have the historic Mill operating and milling corn next year.
4. Kim Jarvis, Western District Superintendent also highlighted a number of events, including the DIA Firefly Film Festival, Colonial Kensington program (e.g. battle reenactment, and colonial related demonstrations); the Merrill Down and Dirty Run (more than 2,000 participants); the Huron River Cleanup at Kensington and Hudson Mills; and the First Annual Fly Fishing Festival.
5. Ryan Colliton, Stewardship Coordinator updated commissioner on the comprehensive Environmental Management Plan addressing mowing on Metroparks' property. The report is the result of site visits, staff meetings and historic data analysis and provides a framework to balance different park uses, improve the professional appearance of the parks and protect natural areas that are near or within mowing areas.
6. Jennifer Hollenbeck, Interim Interpretive Services Manager updated commissioners on the 3M Technology Enhanced Nature Study (TENS). The project was funded through the 3M Corporation through a grant. Ms. Hollenbeck explained how students are learning about nature and science using technology.
7. Paul Muelle, Natural Resources and Environmental Compliance Manager and Tim Philips, Park Planner advised commissioners that the Storm Water Greenscape Project at Lake St. Clair Metropark was the recipient of a Michigan Chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects Merit Award (ASLA). The project was recognized in the category of Landscape Architectural Design for displaying superior professional achievement. The project was one of three projects in the state recognized in this category. The award was based on quality of design, functional success, context or relationship to its surroundings and overall significance to the profession and the environment.

Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Marrocco left the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

8. Update – Golf Operations

Motion by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Lester that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the Golf Operations Update as presented.

Vote 6-0-1

Discussion: William Fountain, ROI Golf provided status report on golf operations (see Attached Report).

9. Reports

A. Administrative Office

1. Update – Financial Statements and Statistical Information

Motion by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Lester that the Board of Commissioners That the Board of Commissioners receive and file Financial Statements and Statistical Information Update as presented by Controller Franchock and staff.

Discussion: Controller Franchock briefed commissioners on the Metroaparks overall financial status to date and projected financial information for the end of the year and 2015.

Vote 6-0-1

2. Update – Marketing and Communications

Motion by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the Marketing and Communications Update as presented by Community Relations Administrator Chip Tischer and staff.

Discussion: Chip Tischer, Community Relations Administrator provided an update regarding marketing and communications. Mr. Tischer acknowledged the continued success of the Metroparks Facebook campaign, as well as the launching of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Healthy Blue Extras campaign (a discount program that was no cost to the Metroparks). In addition, Mr. Tischer discussed Arts, Beats & Eats, the boat show and updated commissioners on upcoming events and the marketing department.

Vote 6-0-1

4. Update – Development Activities

Motion by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the Update – Development Activities as presented by Fund Development Director Molly Bell.

Discussion: Molly Bell, Fund Development Manager updated the Board on development activities to date including DonorPerfect database implementation, fundraising strategies, Metropark Memberships and memorial opportunities.

Vote 6-0-1

Ms. Bell also noted the Foundation received a \$5,000 memorial donation and requested the Board officially agree to informally rename “Goose” island located on Kent Lake within Kensington Metropark to “Nana’s Island” for all grandmothers.

Motion by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners informally rename “Goose” island to “Nana’s” island in honor of all grandmothers as recommended by Fund Development Molly Bell.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Staff Officer Report

None

11. Other Business

None

12. Commissioner Comments

Motion by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Lester to nominate Thomas M. Welsh, Sr. to the Michigan Recreation and Park Association Hall of Fame.

Vote 6-0-1

Commissioner Lester raised concern with the re-organization of the Human Resources department and that the administrative staff should consider hiring a person with human resources experience who will communicate with HCMA employees and ensure the flow of information. He believes that some employees feel left out.

13. Motion to Adjourn

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

Vote 6-0-1

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Joe Colaianne
Recording Secretary/Corporation Counsel