

MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HURON-CLINTON METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
THURSDAY, July 8, 2010

The regular meeting of the Huron-Clinton Board of Commissioners was held at 10:30am on Thursday, July 8, 2010 at the Farmhouse Grille at Kensington Metropark. The meeting was convened in pursuance to a call thereof by the Executive Secretary and due notice to the HCMA Board of Commissioners.

Present: **Commissioners:** John E. La Belle
 Harry E. Lester
 Robert W. Marans
 Anthony V. Marrocco
 Peter S. Walters
 John C. Hertel

Staff Officers:
 Director Jayne S. Miller
 Deputy Director David C. Moilanen
 Executive Secretary Gregory J. Almas
 Controller David L. Wahl

Others:
 Legislative Consultant George C. Carr
 Land Consultant Wayne Fetters

Absent: Commissioner Warren C. Evans

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lester at 10:30 am

1. Chairman's Statement

Chairman Lester commented favorably regarding the exciting changes occurring at the Metroparks citing the Strategic Planning and Organizational Committees as examples. He requested staff to consider the reasons to change as opposed to the reasons not to change.

2. Public Comments

Larry Noodén, Clinton Huron Environmental Coalition (CHEC) commented favorably on the numbers of visitors using the hiking trails and nature areas at the Metroparks citing the greater recreational value of walks in a natural environment versus an urban environment.

Chairman Lester stated he received numerous calls complimenting the Metroparks firework displays.

3. Minutes – June 2010

It was moved by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Walters that the minutes for the June 10, 2010 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Financial Statements – June 2010

It was moved by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner Marans that the financial statements for June 2010 be approved as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Vouchers

It was moved by Commissioner LaBelle, supported by Commissioner Walters that the vouchers for June 2010 (0210901 through 0211523) be approved as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Reports

A. Metro Beach

1. Proposal – Initial Assessment Report and Investigation, Service Area UST Release

Chief Engineer Arens reported the engineering firm of Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc. (FTCH) was retained to provide compliance services during excavation and removal of two existing composite fiberglass underground fuel storage tanks (USTs) at the Park Service Area at Metro Beach Metropark.

Arens said laboratory analysis of samples taken from the site indicated the presence of groundwater contaminants slightly above regulatory limits which it is suspected were the result of a confirmed release of former USTs which were removed in 1990.

Arens reported the presence of contaminants required that a confirmed release report be submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources & Environment (MDNRE) and that HCMA is required to retain a qualified environmental consultant to oversee compliance activities.

It was moved by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Walters that the proposal from Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc. dated June 25, 2010 in the total estimated amount of \$29,540 be accepted, and that an appropriation from Reserves to the Metro Beach Operations Account (802.95-924) be made as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Michigan Boating Industries Association Request

Mr. Van Snider, President, MBIA addressed the Board of Commissioners regarding the upcoming Boating and Outdoor Recreation Festival to be held September 22-26, 2010 at Metro Beach Metropark.

Snider said the MBIA has a long history of producing family-oriented events and would like to provide an enhanced eating experience by allowing restaurants from the area to provide a "Taste of Boat Town." He requested the Commission approve that beer and wine be sold at the event as a one-year trial.

Snider presented letters of support for the sale of beer and wine for the event from Mr. Anthony Forlini, Supervisor for the Charter Township of Harrison, Mr. Stephen Cassin, AICP, Executive Director, Macomb County Planning and Economic Development and Ms. Barb Dempsey, Mayor of the city of Mt. Clemens.

It was moved by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Marans that beer and wine sales be permitted for the 2010 Boating and Outdoor Recreation Festival at Metro Beach Metropark provided the MBIA provides appropriate proof of insurance and indemnifies the Authority against loss and that sales and consumption be restricted to certain specified areas.

Voting yes: Commissioners Hertel, Lester, Walters, La Belle, Marans
Voting no: Commissioners Marrocco
Absent: Commissioner Evans

Motion carried.

B. Stony Creek

1. Proposal – Engineering Design Services, Water and Sanitary Sewer System Renovations

Chief Engineer Arens reported that Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc. (AEW) was retained to provide preliminary engineering services for the Water and Sanitary Sewer System Revision project at Stony Creek Metropark.

Arens provided a summary of AEW's evaluations and recommendations' reporting the total estimated cost for the water main replacement is \$284,000 and the total estimated cost for the sewer project is \$271,000 for a total project cost estimate of \$555,000.

Arens also reported the complication of multiple jurisdiction governances, imminent road construction, confirmation of sewer capacities and other issues.

Arens presented a proposal from AEW to provide engineering services for a project to repair certain portions of the water and sewer system and to assist HCMA in developing the appropriate service agreements.

It was moved by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the Board of Commissioners accept the proposal from Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick, Inc. to provide engineering design services at their standard hourly rates for the total estimated amount of \$25,900 in accordance with their June 25, 2010 proposal, and that funding for these services be provided through the Authority's Supplemental Major Maintenance Reserve Account, as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Kensington

1. Proposal – Initial Assessment Report and Investigation, Service Area UST Release

Chief Engineer Arens reported the engineering firm of Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc. (FTCH) was retained to provide compliance services during excavation and removal of three existing composite fiberglass underground fuel storage tanks (USTs) at the Park Service Area at Kensington Metropark.

Arens said laboratory analysis of samples taken from the site indicated the presence of groundwater contaminants above regulatory limits which it is suspected were the result of a confirmed release of former USTs which were removed several decades ago.

Arens reported the presence of contaminants required that a confirmed release report be submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources & Environment (MDNRE) and that HCMA is required to retain a qualified environmental consultant to oversee compliance activities.

It was moved by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Marans that the proposal from Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc. dated June 29, 2010 in the total estimated amount of \$52,950 be accepted, and that an appropriation from Reserves to the Kensington Operations Account (804.95-924) be made as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously

6. Reports

C. Kensington

2. Report – Status update, Golf Starter Building Replacement Conceptual Design

Chief Engineer Arens reported the architectural firm of Lindhout Associates has completed preliminary design services for the Kensington Metropark Golf Starter Building and Plaza Replacement project.

Arens said the preliminary cost estimate for the project is \$1,577,000 and includes as a deductive alternative, a 1450 square-foot addition to the cart barn and electrical distribution system.

Mr. Piet Lindhout reported the proposed building will be very attractive, functional and cost-effective; will be constructed of quality, high-durability materials; includes sustainable design principles throughout the project; and will feature natural materials such as wood timber and accents, as well as other materials selected for sustainability and energy efficiency.

Commissioner Marans suggested the cost for LEED certification be investigated and considered.

It was moved by Commissioner La Belle, supported by Commissioner Walters that the Board of Commissioners authorize staff to proceed with design of the Golf Starter Building and Plaza Replacement project through advertisement for bids as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Intergovernmental Agreement – Police Dispatch Communications Services

Chief of Police, George Phifer presented an intergovernmental agreement whereby Livingston County would provide central dispatch services, provide personnel to answer the 9-1-1 phone system, and provide Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN) and National Crime Information Center (NCIC) services for the Police Department at Kensington Metropark.

It was moved by Commissioner La Belle, supported by Commissioner Walters that the Board of Commissioners approve the Intergovernmental Agreement – Police Dispatch Communication Services as recommended by Chief of Police George Phifer and staff.

Commissioner La Belle stated that Livingston County welcomed the opportunity to provide dispatch services for Kensington Metropark.

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Lake Erie

1. Report – Wave Pool Motor Emergency Repairs

Chief Engineer Arens reported that on May 27, two of the three 100-hp electric motors which power the wave generating system at the Lake Erie Wave Pool failed and that due to the emergency nature of the work, Director Miller, with the approval of Chairman Lester authorized staff to proceed with the repairs at the cost of \$16,597 in accordance with Section XV (c) of the HCMA Bylaws as amended June 18, 2009.

It was moved by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner Walters that the Board of Commissioners receive and file this report as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Reports

E. Administrative Office

1. Report – Camping

Deputy Director David Moilanen reported staff continues to explore and initiate opportunities for family and individual camping opportunities at several locations within the Metroparks. In light of the difficult economic circumstances and declining property tax revenues, he said staff is implementing alternative camping opportunities that result in minimal additional costs.

Moilanen provided an informational sheet which outlines the current group camping facilities within the Metroparks including recent attendance figures, additional family camping events that have been conducted in 2009 or have been scheduled for 2010, and identifies possible sites and types of camping that are being explored by staff.

He said staff is also researching opportunities for establishing and operating unscheduled season-long camp grounds for 2011; focusing on modifying parts of existing group camps at Wolcott Mill, Kensington, Hudson Mills and Lower Huron to provide family/individual tent camping; and developing hike-in back country camping at Wolcott Mill, Stony Creek and on the recently acquired Schmitt Lake property at Indian Springs.

Commissioner Walters stated he had no issue with an even more aggressive camping approach in Wayne or Macomb counties, but that Oakland County has underutilized campgrounds and would want further discussion before significant expansion in Oakland County.

Commissioner Marans suggested that the special camping events should be systematically evaluated to determine what works well and should be continued and what works poorly and should be modified or discontinued.

Director Miller concurred indicating intent to provide thematic camping events with periodic reports to the Board.

Commissioner Lester commented on the lack of camping opportunities in Wayne County and that Lower Huron Metropark would be a good location for camping.

It was moved by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Marrocco that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the camping report and that staff continue to study future camping opportunities at the Metroparks.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Report – Spring Auction

Purchasing Manager Scott Michael reported the auction held on Saturday, June 12 at Huron Meadows Metropark was very well attended with more than 310 registered bidders and 190 lots sold and that the net proceeds to the Authority was \$152,359.50.

It was moved by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Marrocco that the Board of Commissioners receive and file this report as prepared by Purchasing Manager Scott Michael and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Donations

It was moved by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Walters that the following donations be accepted and that a letter of appreciation be sent to the donors.

- A \$200 donation of a memorial tulip tree for the Administrative Office made by Dave Wahl.
- A \$250 donation for "Wear the Gear" made by Gregory Surmont.
- A \$250 donation for "Wear the Gear" made by McGraw Wentworth.
- A Reflections of Kensington art piece made by Michelle Olzack for use at the Kensington Park office.
- A \$300 bench donation made by Rose Harding for use at Stony Creek.
- A \$350 Red Maple tree donation made by Sandy Miller for use at Hudson Mills.
- A \$350 bench donation made by William Arlow for use at Lake Erie.
- A \$475 picnic table donation made by Elaine Neelands for use at Hudson Mills.
- A \$1500 donation for five benches made by Lawrence Larson for use the Indian Springs Nature Center/Farmland trail.
- A \$2000 donation to be used for the disc golf course and scorecards, course maintenance and as compensation for use of the special toboggan hill disc golf course made by Discraft.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Report – 2nd Quarter, 2010 Appropriation Adjustments

Controller David Wahl reported \$285,600 in General Fund appropriation adjustments of which \$211,000 represent funds transferred between accounts, appropriations totaling \$74,600 made from the General Funds Reserve for Future Contingencies account and appropriations totaling \$42,700 returned to the Reserve for Future Contingencies account.

It was moved by Commissioner La Belle, supported by Commissioner Marrocco that the Board of Commissioners approve the above appropriation adjustments as recommended by Controller Wahl and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Legislative report

Legislative consultant George Carr reported a bill expanding Public Act 312 Binding Arbitration passed both the state House and Senate expanding binding arbitration to include, but not limited to, authorities, districts, or boards whether these entities were created by statute, ordinance, contract, delegation, resolution, or other mechanism.

Carr said the bill also exempts the state from paying for any portion of the arbitration and transfers the additional cost to the participating unions and local governmental agencies.

Commissioner Walters left the meeting room.

It was moved by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the legislative report.

Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Walters returned to the meeting room.

8. Park/Department Presentation – Natural Resources

Chief of Natural Resources, Paul Muelle presented a review of the Natural Resources Department's responsibilities including arboriculture, construction projects, storm clean up, eco-system management, habitat restoration, wildlife management, water resources management, natural resources mapping, management plans, invasive species control, volunteer work days and projects, prescribed burns, sustainability programs, environmental compliance and other responsibilities.

Commissioner Hertel commented the presentation was extremely impressive and that the media and public are under-informed and should be made aware. He also commented on the lack of diversity in the volunteers.

Commissioner Marans concurred that the presentation was excellent and needs to be publicized.

9. Director's comments

Director Miller commented that the board packets have been revised for clarity, ease of use and two-sided copy to further resource conservation efforts; future agendas will continue staff presentations and topic suggestions by the Board are appreciated; the Special Parks District Forum (SPDF) which took place in Charleston, South Carolina was informative including visits to a dog park, water facilities and campgrounds; Commissioners' La Belle and Marrocco attendance at the DSO concerts was appreciated; the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) will begin displaying reproduction art exhibits at two Metroparks; a collaborative partnership meeting was held with representatives from the five county parks and recreation departments with future meetings planned; Commissioner Marans, Chief Planner Nyquist and she met with representatives of Detroit regarding the potential of future Metroparks involvement within the city, future meetings are planned and a status report will be presented to the Board in six months; the Strategic Planning and Organizational Restructuring efforts will be wrapped up by the beginning of September for 2011 budget consideration and that a Board work session is suggested for sometime in August or September.

10. Commissioners' comments

Commissioner Walters commented favorably regarding Chief of Natural Resources Muelle's report and observed there is remarkable diversity in Kensington Metropark users on weekends.

Commissioner La Belle commented in favor of a dog park at Stony Creek Metropark.

Commissioner Marrocco commented now that beer and wine sales will be allowed, the Metroparks should approach the organizers of the ethnic festivals which previously used the Freedom Hill venue for possible festivals at the Metroparks.

Commissioner Marrocco commented favorably that 2010 attendance is up, as is revenue, at all the Metroparks. He observed and questioned, however, why 2010 golf rounds are up but that there is a reduction in golf revenues for the same time period.

Director Miller noted the extreme competition for golfers in Southeast Michigan and resulting discounting to retain customers.

Commissioner Lester stated golf fees should be lowered.

Commissioner Marans observed the very diverse population of Metropark users at Lower Huron Metropark on July 3. He also requested a report be presented at the October Board meeting regarding the effect of beer and wine sales at the Metro Beach Boat and Outdoor Recreation festival.

11. Motion to Adjourn

It was moved by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners adjourn the regular meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Gregory J. Almas
Executive Secretary