

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HURON-CLINTON METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Board of Commissioners was held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 10, 2011 at the Administrative Offices. 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:	Harry E. Lester Anthony V. Marrocco Warren C. Evans John C. Hertel
	Staff Officers:	
	Director	David C. Moilanen
	Deputy Director	Gregory J. Almas
	Controller	David L. Wahl
	Executive Secretary	George Phifer
Absent:	Oakland County Rep.	Vacant Robert W. Marans John E. La Belle
Others:	Legislative Consultant Land Consultant	George Carr Wayne Fetters

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lester at 10:30 a.m.

1. Chairman's Statement

Chairman Lester thanked staff for the great job everyone was doing.

2. Public Comments

Larry Noodén, Clinton Huron Environmental Coalition (CHEC), commented that staff should focus on the strengths of the Metroparks; that a major amount of park users are walkers and that the Metroparks should publicize this more often.

Toni Spears, HCMA volunteer, said the Mute swans are beautiful birds, but it is important to manage them and that they cause a great deal of damage. Spears said that the public should support the swan management program.

Ken Roth, Northville resident, said he recognized and appreciated the difficult decisions that the Commissioners have to make regarding keeping costs down for the parks. Roth asked the Commissioners to think about the positive impact that winter sports have had on the parks; and that if a golf course is privatized, the private company will not pick up this activity. Roth asked the Commissioners to keep this in mind.

3. Minutes – February 2011

It was moved by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the Board of Commissioners approve the Feb. 10, 2011 regular meeting minutes and the Feb. 10, 2011 closed meeting minutes as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Financial Statements – February 2011

It was moved by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Evans that the financial statements for February 2011 be approved as submitted by Controller Wahl and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Vouchers

It was moved by Commissioner Evans, supported by Commissioner Marrocco that the vouchers for February 2011 (0215390 through 0215854) be approved as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Purchases

It was moved by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Evans that the following purchases be approved as recommended by Purchasing Manager Scott Michael and staff.

Commissioner Marrocco requested that all future bid results include all bidders that are used by cooperative purchasing agreements.

- ITB-10-036, Phone Upgrade, Stony Creek
- State of Michigan Contract No. 071I0200131, Pick-up Truck Purchase, Stony Creek
- State of Michigan Contract No. 071B200262, Radio Purchase Upgrade, All Parks
- ITB-11-005, Safety Surface, Metro Beach, Stony Creek, Lower Huron, Willow, Indian Springs
- ITB-11-004, Steel Drums, All Parks
- NJPA Contract No. 081209KBA, Work Vehicle, Hudson Mills

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

A. Metro Beach

1. Michigan Boating Industry Association Request

Deputy Director Almas reported that the Boating and Outdoor Recreation Festival is an important event for the Metroparks. Offering a full range of services and events at the Festival is essential to its success. There have been no regulatory issues regarding the sale of beer and wine at this, or similar events. Staff will ensure compliance with all insurance and Michigan Liquor Control Commission requirements.

It was moved by Commissioner Evans, supported by Commissioner Marrocco that the Board of Commissioners approved beer and wine sales for the 2011 Boating and Outdoor Recreation Festival at Metro Beach as recommended by Director Moilanen, Deputy Director Almas and staff.

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

2. Michigan Boating Industry Association Exhibit Request

Director Moilanen reported that The Michigan Boating Industries Association is also requesting that the Metroparks allow Bombardier, Inc. as an exhibitor at the 2011 Boating and Outdoor Recreation Festival.

Moilanen also reported that as part of the exhibit Bombardier would provide demonstrations of various land and water recreational vehicles. The all-terrain vehicles would require staging, including use and manipulation of turf areas adjacent to the rest of the show exhibits.

Moilanen recommended that staff negotiate with MBIA regarding exhibits to be displayed at Metro Beach for this event.

It was moved by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the Board of Commissioners authorize staff to negotiate with MBIA and Bombardier to develop a one-year contract for conducting activities demonstrations of various land and water recreational vehicles during the 2011 Boating and Outdoor Recreation Festival.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

B. Wolcott Mill

1. Update – Master Plan

Chief Planner Nyquist reported that the Wolcott Mill master plan originally conceived in the early to mid 1970s is due for a facelift; that Park development began in 1979 and there are presently four facilities open to the public – the mill, the farm center, Camp Rotary and the golf course. Nyquist said the master plan provides guidance for development in the near future (10 years) and a vision for the unforeseeable future.

Commissioner Marrocco recommended that staff continue discussion with Ray Township, Macomb County Roads, Macomb County Public Works Commission and the public.

It was moved by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Marrocco that the Board of Commissioners direct staff to continue discussions with interested parties including Ray Township, the Macomb County Department of Roads, Macomb County Public Works Commission before meeting with the public; and that staff develop a draft Wolcott Mill Master Plan for approval as recommended by Chief Planner Nyquist and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Stony Creek

1. Bids – Park Plantings

Chief Engineer Arens reported that the project included furnishing all labor, supplies, new and current materials, transportation and equipment required to install trees, shrubs, and perennials at various locations within Stony Creek Metropark.

It was moved by Commissioner Evans, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the Board of Commissioners award Contract No. 509-11C to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, KLM Scape & Snow, LLC dba: KLM Landscape, in the amount of \$10,939.40 as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

D. Kensington

1. Bids – Golf Course Maintenance Agreement

Director Moilanen reported that staff prepared and solicited Requests for Proposal (RFP) for the purpose of maintaining Kensington Metropark Golf Course for a one-year contract period. The Request for Proposal was advertised on Michigan Intergovernmental Trade Network (MITN) regional bid notification system and 55 firms received notification.

Moilanen reported there was a mandatory pre-bid meeting on Feb. 8 to review the published proposal, tour the maintenance facility, answer any questions and help clarify terms or conditions of the proposal. Representatives from seven companies attended the meeting. Moilanen said bidders were given the Metroparks actual operational costs for 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Moilanen also reported that proposals were due Feb. 17. Two proposals were received from Davey Golf Course Maintenance and Valley Crest Golf Course Maintenance and that copies of the proposals were reviewed by a five member evaluation committee, consisting of HCMA park and administrative staff. The committee met to evaluate the relative strengths and weaknesses of the proposals with regard to the evaluation criteria set forth in the solicitation.

Moilanen said while the two firms made good efforts in putting their bids together and in their presentations to the review committee, there were some items that would need further clarification in order to accurately compare their costs of maintaining Kensington

Golf Course with the current costs of maintaining the course, as well as to evaluate the extent and quality of the services they would provide.

Moilanen also said staff is concerned that only two companies chose to submit bids. Several companies mentioned that the contract length of one year was not adequate to make their equipment costs competitive.

Moilanen said that with the time of year, short time frame for putting the proposal together and for companies to put bids together hampered obtaining more complete and accurate bids. More time during the operating season would allow potential bidders to accurately evaluate course conditions and therefore provide more accurate costs of maintaining the course. More time during the operating season would also allow Metroparks staff to better review the level of service potential contractors provides their current clients.

Moilanen said staff feels that in order to insure an accurate assessment of the potential cost benefits to be derived by privatizing the maintenance of Kensington Golf Course, the current bids should be rejected and the pilot project be rebid for the 2012 season. This will also give the Metroparks a longer time to evaluate the quality of the service provided and the working relationship with the private maintenance firm.

It was moved by Commissioner Evans, supported by Commissioner Marrocco that the Board of Commissioners reject both of the current proposals and direct staff to solicit proposals for the maintenance of the Kensington Golf Course for the period of 2012 – 2014 as recommended by Director Moilanen and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

D. Kensington

2. Trail Maintenance and Repair Agreement – Milford Township

Deputy Director Almas reported that The Charter Township of Milford is requesting to renew the Trail Maintenance and Repair Agreement for grass cutting, sweeping, garbage pick-up, removal of tree limbs and debris from the trail, as well as safety patrol of the trail between HCMA and Milford Township which is located in and contiguous to Kensington Metropark for the period of April 15, 2011 through Oct. 31, 2011.

The parties agree that when maintenance work is performed, the cost share will be two-thirds for the Township and one-third for HCMA. The Authority will patrol the trail south of General Motors Road and the cost will be split 50-50 between the Township and the Authority.

It was moved by Commissioner Evans, supported by Commissioner Marrocco that the Board of Commissioners approve the Annual Trail Maintenance and Repair Agreement with the Charter Township of Milford for the period of April 15, 2011 through Oct. 31, 2011 as recommended by Deputy Director Almas and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Kensington

3. Grant Resolution – Nature Center Pond Overlook Reconstruction

Chief Planner Nyquist reported that with Board approval, the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) will apply for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant (MNRTF) to help fund the redevelopment of the Kensington Nature Center Pond Overlook.

The MNRTF grant application requires a Resolution of Support from the applicant's governing board.

It was moved by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the Board of Commissioners approve the Grant Resolution for the Nature Center Pond Overlook Redevelopment project as recommended by Chief Planner Nyquist and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

E. Administrative Office

1. Reorganization Plan Approval

Director Moilanen reported that staff developed a reorganization plan that consolidates Metropark operations into five districts with the ultimate goal of reducing the districts down to three.

Commissioner Marrocco stated there should be salary differentials for those people assigned to different size park units.

Director Moilanen replied that staff would work out salaries once the plan is finalized.

It was moved by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Marrocco that the Board of Commissioners approve staff to organize park operations into five park administrative districts with the intent to consolidate to three districts as attrition occurs as recommended by Director Moilanen, Deputy Director Almas and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. 2011 Park Entertainment and Dance Programs

Deputy Director Almas reported that the 2011 Entertainment and Dance Program continues to offer a wide variety of entertainment for park visitors; and that the grand total for the 2011 park entertainment programs is \$86,905 a \$77,760 decrease from 2010.

Almas also reported that DSO performances have not been included at this time as there is no proposed agreement between HCMA and the DSO due to protracted collective bargaining between musicians and DSO management. This represents \$60,000 of the decrease from 2010.

It was moved by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Evans that the Board of Commissioners approve the 2011 Park Entertainment and Dance Program and that staff execute the corresponding entertainment agreements as recommended by Deputy Director Almas and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Medicare Part D Subsidy

Human Resources Officer Johnstone reported that the Authority received a payment of \$2,565.39 as year-end reconciliation reimbursement for Medicare Part D prescription drug subsidy for 2009. This payment brings the total reimbursement for 2009 to \$70,361.10. As part of the Authority's effort to pre-fund retiree health care benefits; any funds received under Medicare Part D subsidy are to be transferred to the Retiree Health Trust. This is in accordance with actions taken by the Board in June 2005.

It was moved by Commissioner Evans, supported by Commissioner Marrocco that the Board of Commissioners approve the transfer of \$2,565.39 to the Retiree Health Care Trust Fund as recommended by William Johnstone, Human Resources Officer and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

E. Administrative Office

4. Report – Mute Swan Management

Chief of Natural Resources Muelle reported that the feral, free flying, mute swan (*Cygnus olor*) population is large and expanding in the lower peninsula of Michigan. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service consider the mute swan a nonnative problem species, and supports efforts to limit mute swan population growth and range expansion. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE) Statewide Mute Swan Management Program has developed a long-term management goal (2030) of maintaining a spring populations less than 2,000 mute swans.

Muelle reported adult mute swans may become dangerously aggressive toward people and pets, especially in areas where they have become accustomed to food handouts and that Mute swans also compete for resources with other waterfowl.

Muelle said that over the past several years, mute swan populations have significantly increased at Stony Creek, Kensington and Metro Beach Metroparks. This increase is a concern to visitor and employee well-being, rare and threatened species viability, pollution problems due to fecal contamination and overall park ecosystem health. The proposed management goal for the Metroparks is to control the mute swan population at a level that (1) minimizes conflicts with humans; (2) minimizes the impacts to the Metroparks' native species and habitats; and (3) is consistent with the objectives of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment. Specifically, the Metroparks goal is to reduce mute swan spring population levels to 50 percent of the 2011 population by 2015 and 80 percent by 2030.

Muelle said reducing the mute swan population would be done in a safe, humane and practical manner. Mute swan numbers would be reduced through a combination of lethal removal (sharp shooting), euthanasia/live capture, and through nest and egg destruction.

It was moved by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner Evans that the Board of Commissioners approve the mute swan management guidelines and population reduction goals and direct staff to proceed with the proposed management plan as recommended by Chief of Natural Resources Paul Muelle and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Donations

It was moved by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner Evans that the following donations are accepted and a letter of appreciation be sent to the donors as recommended by Deputy Director Almas and staff.

- A \$475 bench donation made by Michael Taylor to be used at Huron Meadows Metropark.
- A \$475 Bench donation made by Ray Haggerty to be used at Hudson Mills Metropark.
- A tent donation made by McKillen Tents for use during the January Frosty Freestyle cross country race held at Huron Meadows Metropark.
- Four dairy cows and one bull calf donation made by Roy Schwark to be used at the Wolcott Farm.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Legislative Report

Legislative Consultant Carr reported that the state Legislature is now in overdrive with the introduction of the governor's income tax plan.

Carr reported one key part of the governor's tax and revenue plan not yet introduced is the 1 percent assessment on paid medical claims. Depending on how this bill is drafted, it could potentially cost the Authority additional health care premiums for active and retired employees.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

E. Administrative Office

7. Request to rename a Metroparks Facility to Honor a Former Director

Tom Welsh requested that the Board of Commissioners approve the renaming of a golf course in the name of former Director Gary Bartsch and stated that the Thomas S. Welsh Foundation would cover the cost of an appropriate plaque or monument.

It was moved by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Marrocco that the Board of Commissioners approve the renaming of the golf course at Stony Creek honoring former Director Gary Bartsch.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Closed Session

It was moved by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the Board of Commissioners immediately adjourn to a closed session to discuss land acquisition.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Voting Yes: Commissioners Hertel, Evans, Marrocco, Lester

Absent: Commissioners Marans, La Belle

The regular meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

In closed session, it was moved by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Evans that the Board of Commissioners immediately reconvene to the regular meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Voting yes: Commissioners Hertel, Evans, Marrocco, Lester

Absent: Commissioners Marans, La Belle

The regular meeting reconvened at 11:53 a.m.

It was moved by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner Evans that the Board of Commissioners authorize staff to complete the purchase of the Thomas property.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner Evans that the Board of Commissioners authorize staff to purchase the Burskey Springfield LLC 310 property.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Park/Department Presentations

a. Interpretative Services

Chief of Interpretative Services C. Michael George made a presentation on services offered by the Interpretative Services Department. George presented information on the various special events, outreach programs and partnerships involving members of the Interpretative Department.

10. Director's Comments

Director Moilanen invited Commissioners to attend the 51st Annual Employee Recognition dinner scheduled for March 19.

Moilanen said the short list for the Marketing Director position is down to four applicants; that interviews would be held on March 29; and that Commissioner Hertel would be participating in the process.

Moilanen also reported that Oakland County has not selected a commissioner to fill the vacant position on the Metroparks Board.

Moilanen provided Commissioners with the schedule of township supervisor meetings and invited Commissioners to attend.

11. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Marrocco suggested staff take a look at vehicle entries as there appears to be discrepancies in vehicle entries and revenues at Indian Springs and Lower Huron.

12. Motion to Adjourn

Commissioner Hertel exited the meeting room at 12:07 p.m.

Commissioner Lester adjourned the meeting at 12:12 p.m. There was no quorum for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



George Phifer
Executive Secretary