

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

The regular meeting of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Board of Commissioners was held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 10, 2011 at the Administrative Office. 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:	Anthony V. Marrocco John E. La Belle John C. Hertel John P. McCulloch Robert W. Marans Harry E. Lester Timothy J. McCarthy
	Staff Officers:	
	Director	David C. Moilanen
	Deputy Director	Gregory J. Almas
	Controller	David L. Wahl
	Executive Secretary	George Phifer
Absent:	None	
Others:	Legislative Consultant	George Carr

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

1. Chairman's Statement

Chairman Marrocco said that Commissioner Hertel would be late due to a traffic accident on I-696.

2. Public Comments

Toni Spears, HCMA volunteer, commented on the proposal to move the Giant Stove to the Metroparks. People are looking for a different kind of experience such as golfing, hiking and using bike trails. Moving the Giant Stove into the parks is inconsistent with the park mission. Spears also said there are cost constraints and that it would be inappropriate to spend taxpayers' dollars on this project.

Andrea Mathis, HCMA volunteer, commented that she moved to this area from out of state and always had powerful memories of the Metroparks. Mathis asked how would we explain putting the stove in the Metroparks and covering the cost to repair the stove? Mathis also said she agreed that the Metroparks is no place for a Giant Stove.

Commissioner Hertel entered the meeting room at 10:40 a.m.

3. Minutes – October 13, 2011

It was moved by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Lester that the Board of Commissioners approve the Oct. 13 2011 regular meeting minutes as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Financial Statements – October 2011

It was moved by Commissioner La Belle, supported by Commissioner Marans that the financial statements for October 2011 be approved as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Vouchers

Controller Wahl reported that due to a clerical error, the vouchers sent out were incorrect and that if the Board chooses, approval for the October vouchers can be postponed until December.

It was moved by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Lester that the Board of Commissioners defer approving the October vouchers until the December meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Purchases

Purchasing Manager Scott Michael reported that the project included furnishing, delivering and installing new ShoreTel phone equipment at Lower Huron, Hudson Mills and Kensington Metroparks. Michael said this is the last purchase from the original bid ITB-10-036A presented at the December 2010 Board meeting for approval. Michael also said the current pricing reflects a 29.43 percent discount.

It was moved by Commissioner La Belle, supported by Commissioner McCarthy that the Board of Commissioners award to the low responsive, responsible bidder, Ultracom, Inc. in the amount of \$56,680.39 as per ITB-10-036A as recommended by Buyer Maria van Rooijen and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

A. Metro Beach

1. Report – Name Change Survey

Director Moilanen reported that during the July 2011 Board meeting, Commissioners discussed the possibility of changing the name of Metro Beach Metropark as a way to reduce the confusion people have when the beach is closed at the park due to high E. coli levels in the water, and to better reflect the many activities and facilities at the park in addition to a beach.

Moilanen reported that as directed by the Board at that meeting, a brief survey was developed and distributed to visitors entering Metro Beach from the third week of August through September. (Survey cards were handed out at toll booths, and on several weekend days a table was set up in the plaza with staff assigned to encourage visitors to complete the survey and return it). A total of 388 completed surveys were received.

Moilanen reported that:

- The first question asked, "If you heard on the news, or read this headline: Metro Beach is closed, (a) would you still go to the park, and (b) would you assume the entire park is closed?" About 70 percent said they would still go to the park and would not think the entire park was closed. 118, or about 30 percent, responded that they would not come to the park and that they would think the entire park was closed if they saw or heard the headline "Metro Beach is closed."
- The second question asked, "To reduce the confusion, should the park be named something other than "Metro Beach Metropark" such as "Lake St. Clair Metropark?" About 69 percent answered that the park name should stay the same, 15 percent said it should be renamed Lake St. Clair Metropark, 12 percent said it didn't matter what the name was and 4 percent thought it should be named something else.
- The third question asked, "If the name was changed to Lake St. Clair Metropark, would you use the park more often, less often or the same amount as you do currently?" Almost all said the name of the park would not affect the amount they visited the park.

Moilanen reported that the majority of those responding to the survey preferred the Metroparks retain the name Metro Beach. There is a significant number, however, about 30 percent, who are confused and believe the entire park is closed when the media reports that Metro Beach is closed. Since 1994, when lakefront closures from high levels of E. coli became a significant issue, staff has tried working with the media to get them to clarify their statements so as to more accurately report that only the lake beach was closed, not the entire park.

Moilanen also reported that changing the name of the park would require changing in-park signs, path finder signs (e.g., on I-94 and Metro Parkway), brochures and other printed materials. Staff estimates this would cost about \$20,000.

It was moved by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner McCulloch that the Board of Commissioners postpone this item to the December Board meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

B. Stony Creek

1. Report – Potential Land Sale to NMSC

Chief Engineer Arens reported that at the Oct. 13, 2011 meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Executive Secretary Phifer reported on the status of the proposed sale of a 30-acre parcel of land located at the northeast corner of Inwood and Mt. Vernon Roads by HCMA to the North Macomb Sportsmen Club (NMSC). Executive Secretary Phifer reported on the completion of a natural features inventory, completion of appraisals and status of discussions with NMSC.

Arens reported that in particular, it was reported that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the National Park Service (NPS), in response to HCMA's inquiry, have determined that the proposed sale (or lease, or other transfer of interest) to NMSC would constitute a conversion to non-recreational use of the property. As such, the sale is prohibited under the regulations of the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) of 1965 (PL 88-578, Title 16 USC) without prior approval of a conversion mitigation plan by the MDNR and NPS.

Arens reported that MDNR's and NPS's determination is based on the fact that Stony Creek Metropark has received grant assistance from the LWCF for property acquisition and development in the past. The grant agreements obligate HCMA to comply with all applicable LWCF regulations, and they subject the entire park area referenced in the agreements (particularly, in the so-called "6(f)(3) boundary map" in the agreements) to LWCF anti-conversion regulations.

Arens reported that the purpose of these regulations is to provide for the addition of lands to recreational use and improvements to park lands.

Alternative 1 – Appeal MDNR/NPS Determination

One option would be to appeal the MDNR's and NPS's determination. If this alternative were to be pursued, it would be HCMA's responsibility to make the appeal, as owner of the land and recipient of the LWCF grant. The appeal would have to be made to MDNR, to NPS Midwest Region, and potentially NPS headquarters. Legal counsel may be necessary and the prospects for success are unknown. For these and other reasons, staff would not recommend appealing the decision.

Other Alternatives

Other alternatives involve the preparation of a conversion mitigation plan for submittal to MDNR/ NPS, proposing that the sale of the property to NMSC would be mitigated by HCMA's acquiring a replacement property elsewhere and incorporating that property within a Metropark.

The replacement property does not have to be directly adjacent to or nearby the converted site, but it must serve the same general community(ies) and area. Two alternatives for selling the property and mitigating the conversion are discussed below.

Alternative 2 – Land Swap with NMSC

A land swap as previously discussed with NMSC would be feasible only if all LWCF conversion mitigation requirements are met. However, HCMA and NMSC would have to cooperate to insure the property meets HCMA's land acquisition needs that it meets LWCF's requirements, and that pre-approval of the conversion mitigation plan by MDNR and NPS can be obtained.

Alternative 3 – Designate a Future HCMA Land Acquisition as Replacement Property

Due to HCMA's ongoing land acquisition effort at Wolcott Mill, a future acquisition of property there could potentially provide the replacement property needed to mitigate the conversion.

Key MDNR/ NPS Requirements for Conversion Mitigation Plans

MDNR/NPS typically require pre-approval of a mitigation plan before the conversion takes place; that is, before the property is sold or interest is transferred, and before the replacement parcel is purchased. Currently-owned HCMA property cannot be proposed as replacement property.

There are several other key requirements for a proposed mitigation plan to be approved by MDRN/ LWCF, as follows:

- The replacement property must be of equal or greater fair market value and recreational usefulness; that is, its appraisal value, recreational value, environmental value and (typically) acreage must be greater than that of the converted property.
- Appraisals must be provided for both the converted and replacement sites, and they must be prepared in accordance with the more stringent Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions.
- A Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) review for cultural and archaeological resources must be performed for both the converted and replacement sites; the application must be submitted for review and approval by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Depending on their review, SHPO may determine that a Phase I archaeological study is necessary, which would also have to be provided as part of the mitigation plan.
- An Environmental Impact Review must be performed in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), including Phase I Environmental Assessment, for both the converted and replacement sites.
- The mitigation plan must be submitted to SEMCOG for State Clearinghouse Review.
- A survey and legal description must be provided.
- A public hearing must be held, properly noticed and recorded.
- If a proposed replacement property is significantly greater in value and acreage than the converted property, it is possible to dedicate a portion of that property as a replacement parcel, provided that the replacement parcel remains of greater value and acreage than the converted property.
- The replacement property would become encumbered under all anti-conversion regulations of the LWCF.

Further discussion was held on the proposed land sale.

It was moved by Commissioner Lester, supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the Potential Land Sale to NMSC Report as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

B. Stony Creek

2. Bids – Eastwood Beach Play Area Development

Chief Engineer Arens reported that the project is to provide a play area development encompassing an area of approximately one acre at the beachfront of Eastwood Beach. Project provides a grouping of five major play elements designed for 5- to 12- year old children; including a large cabled climbing structure; three climbing structures with various slides, platforms, bridges and climbers; and a series of spinners; all connected by various climbing walls and interactives, and underlain with rubber and fiber play surfacing. The project also provides a 2- to 5-year old play area with a major play structure including slides, interactives, spring riders, swings and shade structures; also included are dinosaur-themed discovery play toys. Arens said the play area will also meet U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission standards and universal access standards.

It was moved by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner La Belle that the Board of Commissioners award Contract No. 509-11E to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, Usztan, LLC, in the amount of \$566,757.50 as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and Staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

B. Stony Creek

3. Change Order – Eastwood Beach Water Main Replacement

Chief Engineer Arens reported that at the Sept. 8, 2011 Board meeting, the Commissioners awarded a contract to repair and upgrade the water mains serving the Eastwood Beach and Boat Launch areas.

Arens reported the design of the revisions at the meter was preliminarily approved by Shelby Township and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality prior to bidding. Neither agency required a master backflow prevention device at the meter due to backflow prevention devices located at each connected facility. The assumption was that HCMA's system was and will remain a public system, HCMA being a public agency, and that the existing system was sufficiently backflow protected. Therefore no backflow prevention device was included in the contract documents.

Arens reported that the Township and MDEQ now require that a master backflow prevention device must be provided at the meter.

Arens reported a Change Order must be prepared in order to add a backflow prevention device to the contract. Arens said staff requests advance authorization to issue a change order in an amount not to exceed \$35,000 at this time, in order to expedite its issuance as soon as possible and to avoid construction delays. The actual amount to be authorized in the Change Order will depend final design of the backflow device and related work, on the contractor's quotation, and on the agreed-upon price as negotiated by the contractor and HCMA.

It was moved by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner McCarthy that the Board of Commissioners authorize a Change Order to Contract No. 2-509-11B in the amount of \$35,000 and that a transfer of funds in the amount of \$35,000 from the Supplemental Major Maintenance Account to Work Order No. 2-509.05-500S be made to cover the change order as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. AirMarc, LLC Waterslide Agreement Extension

Deputy Director Almas reported that at the June 2011 Board of Commission meeting, the Board approved an agreement with AirMarc, LLC d/b/a Rip Slide to operate a 36-foot high by 175-foot long by 47-foot wide waterslide on a one season trial basis at Eastwood Beach at Stony Creek Metropark which could be renewed if the trial was evaluated as a success.

The Agreement provided in part that:

- AirMarc, LLC shall provide the structure and provide staffing for the operation,
- AirMarc, LLC shall pay the HCMA a commission of 20 percent of sales with a minimum guarantee of \$2500 per month, and that
- AirMarc, LLC shall provide insurance in the amount of \$1million/\$2 million naming HCMA as an additional insured.

Almas reported that AirMarc operated the slide from July 16 through Sept. 5, 2011. Gross sales for the seven week period totaled \$49,875 with 20 percent commission payments to the Authority in the amount of \$9,975.

Almas reported at this time, staff is proposing to extend the trial for a full season at Stony Creek Metropark as well as adding a trial slide at Lake Erie Metropark near the Great Wave Pool. The Lake Erie trial will allow evaluation of the effect a slide will have on the revenues of

an adjoining pay aquatic facility. A pay-one-price for use of both the slide and wave pool is being considered.

Almas said if a full season trial is evaluated as successful, additional slides may be considered and recommended at Metro Beach and Willow Metroparks for the 2013 season with a longer term agreement.

Commissioner Marans inquired if there were any negative comments from Stony Creek. Almas replied that there were no negative comments.

Commissioner Marans suggested staff conduct a survey next summer to gauge customer satisfaction with the slide.

Commissioner Marrocco asked what we were trying to accomplish or find out. Almas replied staff wanted to assess the use of the waterslide after a full season, and to determine if we want to expand or continue the contracts.

It was moved by Commissioner Lester, supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners approve the proposed agreement extension with AirMarc, LLC d/b/a Ripslide at Stony Creek Metropark and Lake Erie Metropark for the 2012 operating season as recommended by Deputy Director Almas and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

C. Wolcott Mill

1. Update – Wolcott Mill Farm Business Development Plan

Director Moilanen reported that at the August 2011 Commission meeting, the Board directed staff, to work with a sub-committee of three commissioners (commissioners John Hertel, John McCulloch and Bob Marans), to develop a business plan for the operation of the Wolcott Mill Metropark Farm Center. This committee was also charged with developing a Request for Proposals for operating the Wolcott Mill Farm by a private contractor.

Moilanen reported staff has been working on various components of the business plan and has met twice with the commission subcommittee. Moilanen also said while staff has made significant headway in developing a business plan for the farm, much work remains to be done. At the October meeting of the subcommittee, it was agreed by participants that in order to give this important project the attention it deserves, a more realistic time frame for completing the business plan was needed and that staff would present the business plan at the December Board meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner McCarthy, supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the Wolcott Mill Metropark Farm Center Business Plan Development Report, as recommended by Director Moilanen and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

D. Kensington

1. DTE Energy Service Agreement – Wastewater System Improvements

Chief Engineer Arens reported that an upgrade of the existing DTE Energy electrical service line is required to provide adequate service to the sewage pump station located at the East Boat Launch area. This pump station will receive major upgrades as part of the Wastewater System Improvement project, the contract for which awarded by the Board of Commissioners on September 8, 2011 and is currently in progress.

Arens reported the total proposed cost of constructing the service is \$12,381.78, as shown in DTE's attached Agreement dated October 19, 2011. This charge is comparable to DTE charges for similar projects in the past.

It was moved by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the Board of Commissioners authorize the payment of \$12,381.78 to DTE Energy for electrical service for the East Boat Launch Pump Station at Kensington Metropark and authorize staff to execute the agreement, and that funding for the project be made through the Supplemental Major Maintenance Reserve fund as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

E. Willow

1. ITC Proposed Settlement Agreement

Chief of Natural Resources Paul Muelle reported that this past winter at Willow Metropark, International Transmission Corporation (ITC) performed tree clearing along their high voltage electric transmission lines, a portion of which occurred outside of their easement on Metropark property without the consent of the Metroparks. Admittedly, since ITC acquired the 8,100 miles of high voltage electrical transmission lines from DTE, they have been unable to verify and groundtruth every property parcel.

Muelle reported that ITC presented staff a Restoration Work Plan for the Willow corridor and have followed through with Work Plan items to clean-up and restore a portion of the damaged ground foliage and disturbed earth as a result of the clearing work. In addition, a property survey was conducted this spring to verify the ITC transmission corridor boundaries and all of the trees that were cut outside of the ITC easement were inventoried and appraised by an independent forester (Metropolitan Forestry Consultants, Inc.).

Muelle reported since that time, staff has had numerous meetings with ITC to discuss compensation for the unauthorized clearing work at Willow Metropark. ITC has submitted an offer, the terms of which are listed below:

In consideration for the tree removals at Willow Metropark, ITC agrees to offer the HCMA payment, equaling the sum of \$90,000, allocated over a three year period, beginning in 2012 and ending in 2014. For each of these three years, ITC will:

1. Provide funds totaling \$10,000 for tree plantings throughout the park system to improve esthetics and provide trees for public spaces.
2. Provide funding or services totaling \$10,000 for improvements and programs specifically targeting ITC transmission line corridors that run through the various Metroparks. This could include mass shrub planting, trail and roadside screen planting, invasive species control, interpretive/educational signage and other projects or programs as mutually agreed upon by both parties; and
3. Provide funds totaling \$10,000 for habitat improvement, invasive species control and other natural resource management issues throughout the park system.

Muelle said Items (1) and (3) would be in the form of a cash donation by ITC to the HCMA. Item (2) would be in the form of services provided by ITC and their contractors equaling the sum described above.

Muelle reported the proposal will provide funding for tree plantings and stewardship activities in any location within the Metroparks as well as provide funds for plantings and restoration within the electrical corridors.

Commissioner Marrocco suggested contacting ITC directly because we would like to get the \$60,000 upfront. Muelle replied he would follow-up on this.

It was moved by Commissioner La Belle, supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners tentatively approve the ITC proposal and direct staff to formalize a settlement agreement with ITC which would be presented to the Board of Commissioners for final approval as recommended by Chief of Natural Resources Paul Muelle and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

E. Willow

2. Bids – River Bank Erosion Repairs, Bike Trails

Chief Engineer Arens reported the project is to provide for erosion repairs and bank stabilization at two bike trail locations at the Huron River. The project includes placement of large riprap stone, earthwork, geotextile fabric, sediment barrier, and all labor, transportation and equipment necessary. (River bank erosion at Lower Huron is located at the bike trail crossing of the Huron River. Erosion there is endangering the footbridge abutment and associated pavement. Severe bank erosion along 350 feet of the Willow Bike Path Connector (near New Boston) has resulted in slope failure, failure of the adjacent bike path and partial closure of the path). The project is over budget at the Willow Connector due to major erosion that occurred during 2011, resulting in much greater damage than was anticipated in the 2011 Budget.

It was moved by Commissioner Lester, supported by Commissioner McCarthy that the Board of Commissioners approve the issuance of a Purchase Order to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, Faro Contracting, Inc., in the amount of \$89,539.10 as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

F. Oakwoods

1. Bids – Debris Removal, Flat Rock Dam

Chief Engineer Arens reported the project will provide for the removal and disposal of accumulated large woody debris which is lodged in the spillway of the Flat Rock Dam. The Dam, which impounds the backwaters and wetlands of Oakwoods Metropark, is owned by HCMA. Debris was last removed in 2008 concurrently with the Dam Repair Project, and debris has accumulated since then.

Arens reported this project was unforeseen and not included in the 2011 Major Maintenance Budget. If a Purchase Order is approved, a transfer of funds in the amount of \$27,000 from the Willow Metropark Major Maintenance Account will be necessary.

It was moved by Commissioner Lester, supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners approve the issuance of a Purchase Order to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, Compeau Bros., Inc., in the amount of \$25,050.00 and a transfer of \$27,000 from the Willow Major Maintenance account as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

G. Administrative Office

1. Preliminary 2012 Budget Estimates

Controller Wahl reported that Metroparks staff administrators are well into the 2012 Budget process to develop a financial plan for the continued development and operation of the Metropark system. At this stage of the process, staff is in a position to review how preliminary 2012 Budget figures are shaping up. It is requested that the Board of Commissioners review the attached preliminary budget allocations and give staff direction.

Wahl reported that in total, the preliminary 2012 Budget is projected at \$73,000,000, down slightly \$0.5 million (0.7 percent) from the 2011 Budget of \$73,500,000. Although the total budget is basically the same, the individual components of the 2012 Budget have changed from a year ago.

Wahl indicated staff is in the process of completing Park Operations Budget reviews and that final 2012 Budget numbers will be compiled within the next week.

Wahl reported that staff feels we have a solid, balanced budget plan for 2012 which follows the general objectives of the revised Five-Year-Plan. Wahl said staff has: (1) maintained park services, maintenance and security levels, (2) continued redevelopment, renovation and

reconstruction of ongoing facilities with 135 projects and, (3) reduced staff through attrition by not filling nine positions between 2011 and 2012.

Wahl indicated it is a balancing act to address each capitol and operations area adequately. Metropark employees at all levels have embraced the objectives by the revised Five-Year-Plan to bring about changes in operating and staff procedures to conserve cash however possible while only minimally impacting park visitors. Wahl said we have addressed matters contained in the Strategic Plan.

Wahl indicated he could go through each revenue and expenditure area of the preliminary 2012 Budget if the Board desired or respond to questions at this time.

Commissioner McCarthy inquired about the Reserve for Future Contingency account balances at the end of 2011 and 2012.

Wahl indicated that as anticipated in the Board approved revised Five-Year-Plan for 2102; the Reserve account has to be utilized to balance the 2012 Budget. The Reserve account is projected to end 2011 at \$17.9 million with \$3.75 million used in the 2012 Budget. The Reserve account is expected to start 2012 at \$14.15 million.

Further discussion was held on the matter.

Commissioner McCulloch requested that staff identify possible items in non-capitol areas exclusive of major maintenance that can be recommended for an additional \$2 million in cuts from the preliminary 2012 budget.

A discussion took place to assist staff in clarifying Commissioner McCulloch's request.

It was moved by Commissioner McCarthy, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the Board of Commissioners request that staff identify possible items in non-capital areas that can be recommended for an additional \$2 million in cuts from the preliminary 2012 budget.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

G. Administrative Office

2. Update – Six Month Marketing Report

It was moved by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Lester that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the Six-Month Marketing Update Report as recommended by Marketing Manager Kretzschmar and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Marans stated that this was an impressive start and that he's concerned about what happens in the next six months.

Commissioner Marrocco stated it was hard to evaluate at this point and that we won't know anything during the first six months.

Director Moilanen said another update can be given in three months.

Commissioner McCulloch said staff seemed to be satisfied with the direction this is going, however, the position is not budgeted for the full year.

Commissioner Marrocco recommended adding another seven months into the budget to cover the position for the entire year.

It was moved by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Lester that the Board of Commissioners add an additional seven months of compensation into the budget to cover the marketing manager position for the entire year.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. 2012 Commission Meeting Schedule

It was moved by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner La Belle that staff bring the 2012 Commission meeting schedule back to the Board with changes at the December Board meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

G. Administrative Office

4. 2012 HCMA Employee Recognition Dinner

Director Moilanen reported that the 2012 HCMA Employee Recognition Dinner, hosted by the Administrative Office, is planned for Saturday, March 10, 2012 and will be held at the Laurel Manor Banquet and Conference Center in Livonia.

Moilanen reported the Board of Commissioners has generously supported this event in the past which honors exemplary employees, pays tribute to retiring employees, recognizes employee tenure milestones and in general helps build employee morale. An allocation, not to exceed \$7,000, is requested of the Board of Commissioners to subsidize the cost of the event.

It was moved by Commissioner McCulloch, supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners approve a subsidy not to exceed \$7,000 for the 2012 Employee Recognition Dinner as recommended by Director Moilanen and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

G. Administrative Office

5. Update – Replicated Giant Michigan Stove from State Fairgrounds

Chief Planner Susan Nyquist reported that at the regular October meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Hertel presented a proposal to the Board of Commissioners, requesting to relocate a Replicated Giant Michigan Stove (Stove), from the Michigan State Fairgrounds to Kensington Metropark.

Nyquist reported a list of desirable criteria used to evaluate Metropark sites for the Stove:

- A park with high visitation
- A site near an expressway to maximize visual exposure
- A site near high traffic volume local roads
- A site with in-park access by car, bike, or foot
- A site near an interpretive facility
- A site near a recreational facility or activity

Nyquist report that as directed by the Board, and for the purposes of this report, only Metropark sites were considered.

Nyquist reported as a result of this process, Kensington and Willow Metroparks had the only sites able to meet all the valuable criteria. Wolcott Mill, although low in attendance, was evaluated because the Stove might compliment existing historic interpretation programs.

Nyquist reported that in addition to evaluating possible sites within the Metroparks for the Stove, a subjective list of discussion points was prepared as a platform for determining of the value of ownership of the Stove by the Metroparks.

Nyquist reported costs to deliver and install the stove are dependent on a final location. However, over a thirty year period, the Metroparks can plan to invest an estimated \$40,000 for routine and major maintenance.

Nyquist reported that the results of the location feasibility assumptions and the discussion points are attached to this report. The assumptions, bullet points, and results of the study should be viewed as pliable and subjective; and are presented to facilitate further interpretation and/or discussion by the Board.

Commissioner Hertel said thank you for the report.

Further discussion was held on the matter.

Commissioner Hertel made a motion that HCMA should take possession of the remainder of the Giant Stove from the state under the following conditions: engage with radio station WJR, who will raise the money to rebuild, transport and provide site costs for the Stove and proceed with the project at no cost to the Metroparks. There will be no advertising signs involved with this project.

It was moved by Commissioner Lester, supported by Commissioner McCarthy.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Voting yes: Commissioners Marrocco, Hertel, Lester, McCulloch, McCarthy, La Belle
Voting no: Commissioners Marans

Motion carried.

7. Reports

G. Administrative Office

6. Donations

It was moved by Commissioner La Belle, supported by Commissioner Marans that the following donation be accepted and a letter of appreciation sent to the donors as recommended by Deputy Director Almas and staff.

- CBS Radio Detroit provided equipment, airtime, Facebook/Twitter/email blasts, station email blasts, sky lanterns and HCMA stickers for sky lanterns for the "Michigan Remembers" 9/11 Tribute events held at Lake Erie and Metro Beach Metroparks; itemizing expenses of \$111,600 as an in-kind donation.
- 101.1 WRIF provided airtime for the "Michigan Remembers" 9/11 Tribute events held at Lake Erie and Metro Beach Metroparks; itemizing expenses of \$4,000 as an in-kind donation.
- Wilson Born provided for pruning of trees and brush disposal at Metro Beach Metropark Nature Center; itemizing expenses of \$660.
- Linda Sutherland made a donation of a miniature donkey to be used at Kensington Metropark Farm Center; itemizing a value of \$1000 and receiving \$400 in payment.
- Bill Cardella made a \$350 cash donation made for a bench to be used at Lake Erie Metropark.
- Teresa Shue made a \$310 cash donation for a memorial tree to be planted at the Kensington Metropark Golf Course in memory of Joshua Sellers.
- William Luke made a \$300 cash donation for a bench in memory of his father to be used at the Nature Center at Kensington Metropark.
- James Morgan made a \$250 donation for a picnic table to be used at Lower Huron Metropark.
- Greg Streby made a \$200 cash donation to be used to help rebuild the Camp Rotary "Mini-Mac" bridge at Wolcott Mill Metropark.
- Communication Works of America Local 4008 made a \$200 cash donation to be used to help rebuild the Camp Rotary "Mini-Mac" bridge at Wolcott Mill Metropark.
- Christina Letzring donated a Kitchen-Aid electric range – self cleaning oven for use in the kitchen of the park office at Indian Springs Metropark; itemizing a value of \$600.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Legislative Report

Legislative Consultant Carr reported that legislature is currently in a last minute rush toward the scheduled Nov. 10 recess for Thanksgiving. Hanging over the proceedings is the upcoming Nov. 8 recall election for Rep. Paul Scott (R-Grand Blanc). Scott is the only recall to make the November ballot out of more than 30 attempts. In rare unanimous holding, the Michigan Supreme Court refused to halt or delay Scott's recall election, despite a last minute appeal for delay by Gov. Snyder and Attorney General Bill Schuette. Carr said except for Rep. Scott personally, the outcome of the election is relatively symbolic.

Carr also reported that the much anticipated Personal Property Tax (PPT) reform from Gov. Snyder has not been released to date. Overshadowed by the debate over the stalled new bridge to Canada and the Transportation Package rolled out today, the details are now expected sometime after Thanksgiving.

Carr said he is currently following several bills with potential impact on the Metroparks and employees. Legislation on Worker's Compensation and Labor Negotiations are expected to be finalized by mid-November.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Director's Comments

Director Moilanen commented that for those interested in the NRPA and MRPA, please let staff know if there is an interest in attending the conferences and staff will provide information.

Chief Phifer presented Officer Joseph Wieczorek and Lt. Dale Alexander to the Board.

9. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner La Belle thanked the various employees for their consideration during his surgery.

Commissioner Hertel wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Lester asked staff to provide him with additional information regarding excess land.

Commissioner McCulloch commented that board retreats for the Board and staff needed to be set.

Commissioner Marrocco commented that we need to look at the monthly statistics regarding the average amount per car, per visit to the parks in each district.

10. Motion to Adjourn

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

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



George Phifer
Executive Secretary