

Minutes
Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority
Board of Commissioners
Thursday, November 8, 2018

A regular meeting of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Board of Commissioners' was held on Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. at the Administrative Office.

Commissioners Present:	Timothy J. McCarthy Robert W. Marans Jaye Quadrozzi Kurt L. Heise Steve Williams John Paul Rea
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Commissioners Absent:	Bernard Parker
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Staff Officers:	
Director	Amy McMillan
Deputy Director	David Kirbach
Chief of Finance	Rebecca Franchock

Other Attendees:	
Miller Canfield	Steve Mann

1. Call to Order

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

2. Chairman's Statement

Commissioner McCarthy said he was glad everyone made it to the meeting despite the bad traffic.

3. Public Participation

Toni Spears, Dexter, said there was recently a wonderful celebration for the Osprey Restoration project held at the Kensington Nature Center. She thanked staff for providing some assurance regarding quality of the meat donated from the deer management program and for being vigilant regarding PFAS sampling procedures.

Jim Pershing, Southern District Park Superintendent, said today was the 36th anniversary of the beginning of his full-time employment with the Metroparks and that he was retiring from the Metroparks after 42 years and working his entire career at the Metroparks. He said on his last day he would clean a bathroom on his last day as he did his first day of seasonal employment 42 and one-half years ago to symbolically close the circle. He said he met his wife while working at the Metroparks and raised a family and plans to enjoy retirement. He thanked his friends and coworkers that offered him opinions, help and guidance over the years and it was his pleasure and privilege to serve the Board and citizens of southeast Michigan for more than four decades.

4. Approval – Oct. 11, 2018 Regular Meeting and Closed Session Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners' approve the Oct. 11, 2018 regular meeting and closed session minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval – Nov. 8, 2018 Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Williams that the Board of Commissioners' approve the Nov. 8, 2018 agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Approval – Nov. 8, 2018 Consent Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Quadrozzi, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners' approve the consent agenda consisting of the following:

- a. Approval – October 2018 Financial Statements and Payment Registers
- b. Approval – October 2018 Appropriation Adjustments
- c. Purchases
 1. Replacement Vehicle, Police Department
 2. Chassis Cab Truck, Lake St. Clair Metropark
- d. Report – Purchases Over \$10,000
- e. Report – Annual Fireworks Schedule
- f. Approval – 2019 Board Meeting Schedule
- g. Approval – Exemption of Taxes Subject to Capture, City of Novi
- h. Report – Marketing/Media Stats

Commissioner Quadrozzi requested the fireworks item be removed from the consent agenda for discussion.

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Williams that the Board of Commissioners remove the annual fireworks report from the consent agenda.

Motion carried as amended.

6-e

Report – Annual Fireworks Schedule

Director McMillan updated the Board on the decision-making process that led staff to propose reducing the number of fireworks events from five to three. She said the parks had bad weather at the beginning of the fireworks cycle, which meant lower attendance, but not lower costs. Staff discussed what the fireworks cost and how they impact attendance. Ms. McMillan said fireworks events are attendance drivers at Lake Erie, Hudson Mills and Willow Metroparks and staff wanted to retain the events at these parks and to also have the fireworks on the same date each year. For Kensington and Stony Creek, staff compared fireworks attendance revenue/expenses with non-firework attendance revenue/expenses. For both Kensington and Stony Creek, if the weather is good, attendance is good.

Commissioner Quadrozzi said what Ms. McMillan said makes sense. However, the parks should have at least one fireworks celebration in Oakland or Macomb counties since a lot of patrons use these parks and they (the parks) are part of their July Fourth holiday. She requested a fireworks celebration be added to either Kensington or Stony Creek (or both) as they are the largest parks in the system. Ms. Quadrozzi also said having the fireworks at Stony Creek as it spans both Oakland and Macomb counties would be a good compromise.

Commissioner Rea said that having a showcase event at the larger parks to drive attendance is important and standardizing the schedule is imperative. The timing of the fireworks is important and he welcomed the idea of having fireworks at Stony Creek.

Commissioner Heise asked if an RFP had gone out for fireworks. Deputy Director Kirbach said the Metroparks has a multi-year contract with Wolverine Fireworks that ends in 2019.

Motion by Commissioner Quadrozzi, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners approve the 2019 Fireworks schedule to include Stony Creek Metropark on a date to be determined.

Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Williams said it's important to standardize the dates and to also market the events properly.

7. **2019 Preliminary Budget**

Ms. McMillan said staff is well into the budget process for 2019 and preliminary budget numbers were provided to the Board for review. Staff will begin meeting with each department and park operations in order to bring a budget to the Board in December for approval. Ms. McMillan said she met with Commissioner Parker and he requested funding for the Summer Fun and Get Out and Learn Interpretive programs be added to the 2019 budget. She said while the budget is a living document, the Board has already taken action on several items including the approval of a Capital Project Fund.

Ms. McMillan asked the Board to approve, as part of the 2019 budget, a reorganization of the Metroparks. The changes have been discussed with Board members and impacted staff. Staff members affected by the changes were told of the proposed reorganization changes prior to the meeting. She thanked the human resources department for having the conversations with staff and the employee association for their support.

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Quadrozzi that the Board of Commissioners approve the reorganization changes and the related severance agreements for the affected personnel.

Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner McCarthy said the employee association has been cooperative during this process and said they asked a good question – if this reduction was a cost saving move or just a reorganization. Mr. McCarthy said it's a reorganization in order to make the Metroparks more rationale in its management style and not a cost saving endeavor.

8. **Reports**

A. **Administrative Office**

1. **Approval – Blue Cross Blue Shield Rate Stabilization Surplus**

Motion by Commissioner Quadrozzi, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners' approve the use of a portion of the Committee Fund Balance for Rate Stabilization to be paid in January 2019 to employees in the amount of \$1,000 for single and \$2,000 for two-person/family coverage, in accordance with Board action in May 2015 as recommended by Chief of Human Resources and Labor Relations Randy Rossman and staff.

Discussion: Mr. Rossman updated the Board on the background for the rate stabilization and that the high deductible health plan is working to reduce costs.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Approval – Health Insurance Renewal**

Motion by Commissioner Heise, support from Commissioner Williams that the Board of Commissioners' accept the recommended renewal for the 2019 employee and retiree medical and dental insurances as recommended by Chief of Human Resources and Labor Relations Randy Rossman and staff.

Discussion: Mr. Rossman updated the Board on the health insurance renewal for 2019 and gave a brief history of the high deductible health plan. He said there was 4.1 percent decrease in the health insurance for 2018. The hard cap was expected to increase by another 3 percent and dental coverage will increase by \$44,000 for 2019.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Approval – Brand Development and Marketing Consultant**

Motion by Commissioner Heise, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners' award RFP 2018-045 to Factory Detroit, Inc. of Royal Oak, Michigan to provide Brand Development services for a period of one-year in the amount of \$120,000 as recommended by Director McMillan and staff.

Discussion: Senior Buyer Heidi Dziak updated the Board on the process for choosing a consultant. She said an evaluation committee consisting of five staff members evaluated and ranked the proposals based on the vendor's qualifications, experience, understanding of the project, methodology and approach and price. The top five proposals were made available for all staff to read at district park offices. Staff contacted and checked the references for the five top-ranked vendors. The five top-ranked vendors then presented their proposals to the evaluation committee and any staff that wished to attend and participate in asking questions. Feedback was also solicited from all staff.

Commissioner Marans asked how well the company understood the history and how the Metroparks operates. Ms. Dziak said yes, they understand the history and are knowledgeable with the park system.

Commissioner Marans asked if Factory Detroit has seen the recent survey that was conducted.

Ms. McMillan said the information was not included in the RFP; however, it is available to view online. She said Factory Detroit will also be conducting focus groups and meeting with board members in order to better understand how the Metroparks operates. It will be an active front-end process and Factory Detroit will also be doing collateral marketing material and working with media.

Commissioner Marans said Factory Detroit can get a sense of the parks by reviewing the survey as well.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Reports

A. Administrative Office

4. Approval – Skips Canoe Rental Price Changes

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners' approve the rate increases as proposed by Skip's Huron River Canoe Livery as recommended by Deputy Director David Kirbach and staff.

Discussion: Mr. Kirbach updated the Board on the minor increases Skip's Huron River Canoe Livery would like to have in 2019.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Planning Department

1. Approval – Dexter-Huron/Delhi Master Plan

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Williams that the Board of Commissioners' approve the Dexter-Huron and Delhi Master Plan as recommended by Chief of Planning and Development Nina Kelly and staff.

Discussion: Ms. Kelly updated the Board on minor revisions that were made to the plan that included changing out pictures and updating water trails.

Commissioner Marans asked where the master plans were being distributed. Ms. Kelly said a reduced number of copies were being printed and that it is available online.

Commissioner Marans asked if copies were dropped off at local libraries near the parks. Ms. Kelly said no, but it could be done.

Commissioner Williams said he drops off maps at local libraries and having copies of the master plans at the libraries makes sense.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Reports

B. Planning Department

2. Approval – Beach Restoration Project Concept Plan, Lake St. Clair Metropark

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Heise that the Board of Commissioners' approve the Lake St. Clair Beach Restoration Project Concept Plan as recommended by Chief of Planning and Development Nina Kelly and staff.

Discussion: Ms. Kelly updated the Board on the beach restoration efforts and reviewed the conceptual layout. She said the E. coli problem is coming from the beach area and not other sources. She said the Metroparks may receive grant funding to help offset the cost of the project.

Commissioner Quadrozzi asked how the concept would deter geese. Annette DeMaria with Environmental Consulting and Technology (ECT), said geese like to have a direct line of site from one place to another and will not stay in a location without it.

Commissioner Quadrozzi asked if the concept could work at Kensington as well. Ms. Kelly said yes.

Commissioner Marans asked if this approach has been used elsewhere. Ms. DeMaria said yes and that it's a pretty standard method to deter geese and gulls.

Commissioner Rea said he applauds the partnership with all the stakeholders and the beach restoration effort is a step in the right direction.

Commissioner Heise asked how the anti-gull device worked. Ms. DeMaria said it sounded like a gull in distress to birds and like a normal gull sound to humans.

Commissioner McCarthy said he went online to listen to the sound and it wasn't too bad. Ms. Kelly said the system used to be used at Lake St. Clair and was fixed to the food concession building. It was taken down because patrons complained.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval – American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Striping Contracts, All Locations

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Heise that the Board of Commissioners' award Contract Nos. 900-18-018, 900-18-019 and 900-18-020 to the low responsive, responsible bidder, J. Ranck Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$27,036.50, \$24,344.00, and \$26,580.00, respectively as recommended by Chief of Planning and Development Nina Kelly and Chief of Engineering Services Mike Henkel and staff.

Discussion: Ms. Kelly updated the Board on the project and said there were three contracts, one for each district and that funding was allocated in the 2018 budget; the project will be completed in the spring 2019.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Natural Resources Department

1. Update – Deer Management

Motion by Commissioner Williams, support from Commissioner Heise that the Board of Commissioners' receive and file the deer management report as presented by Chief of Natural Resources and Regulatory Compliance Ryan Colliton.

Discussion: Chief of Natural Resources and Regulatory Compliance Ryan Colliton updated the Board on deer management as it related to PFAS. The information is constantly evolving and

new information came out regarding the Clinton Watershed on Nov. 7. Mr. Colliton reviewed the PFOS information to date regarding a Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) 'Do Not Eat' advisory for deer taken within approximately five miles of Clark's Marsh in Oscoda Township that has a military based located nearby. PFAS levels were 547 parts per billion (ppb), which is above the health advisory threshold of 300 ppb. In total, 80 deer were taken throughout the state for sampling and included locations in Alpena, Grayling and Rockford. Deer taken in these locations had a non-detect or below the health threshold. These areas were tested because of elevated PFAS levels in their surface water, which is the same scenario with Norton Creek and Kent Lake.

Mr. Colliton said he wanted to address the potential impacts as it relates to public health and the deer management program since all the venison harvested from the deer management programs is donated to homeless shelters etc. Kent Lake meets the same criteria as the other areas tested and he is not aware of any deer testing that has taken place in southeast Michigan. Staff wants human health to be the primary concern and proposes taking a year off and not conducting deer management to make sure the deer population at the Metroparks is not contaminated.

Commissioner Williams asked if fire suppressants materials have changed at the Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Mr. Colliton said they have not changed the suppressants used.

Commissioner Marans asked if the deer management program will be intensified next year. Mr. Colliton said he recommends not changing the flyovers in order to establish herd numbers.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Reports

C. Natural Resources Department

1. Approval – Black Creek Marsh ADA Accessible Dock Funding

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Williams that the Board of Commissioners' approve the request to transfer \$40,000 to the Other Improvements-Outside Services account to cover the increased costs of construction for the Black Creek Marsh ADA accessible shore fishing dock as recommended by Chief of Natural Resources and Regulatory Compliance Ryan Colliton and staff.

Discussion: Mr. Colliton updated the Board on the project, the request for additional funding and the reason the project was rescheduled from 2017.

Commissioner Williams asked if eliminating the poles was because of the instability of the ground underneath. Mr. Colliton said its for ease of removal, to take it out in the winter so the dock does not get ice damage in the winter.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Other Business

None.

10. Staff Leadership Update

- a. Jennifer Jaworski, chief of interpretive services let the Board know the Kensington Farm Center was the recipient of a \$90,000 grant from Impact100 Oakland County; the grant program called is "Seeding a Green Future." This grant will engage students and teachers in sustainable agriculture, STEM education and critical thinking and logical reasoning skills to inspire lifelong learning success. Ms. Jaworski reviewed the criteria needed for schools to participate, which is at least 50 percent of students must be enrolled in federally reduced or free lunch program and have less than a 20 percent science proficiency score in MSTEP, which is the state mandated testing system. This grant is specifically for Oakland County, four school districts met the criteria

and staff has spoken to two schools in Pontiac and Southfield). Interpretive staff will work with students on a bi-weekly basis over a three-year time frame during sixth, seventh and eighth grades. Ms. Jaworski said working with students over a three-year period will have a quantitative measurable impact and staff will be looking at the fifth grade MSTEP scores and comparing them to the scores they receive in eighth grade.

Commissioner Marans said this will have a long-term impact on kids and by following the students to see what they do down the road and what they do after graduation will be really helpful.

Mary Pat Rosen, Impact100 Oakland County, said one of the criteria to receive the grant was the impact it would have on students.

- b. Deputy Director Dave Kirbach introduced Jerry Cyr as the new southern district park superintendent. Mr. Cyr addressed the Board and thanked Ms. McMillan and Mr. Kirbach for the opportunity and said he was looking forward to working in the southern district.
- c. Ms. McMillan said staff put together a video for Mr. Pershing's retirement. Commissioner McCarthy presented Mr. Pershing with a certificate of service for his years at the Metroparks.

11. **Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner McCarthy said Mr. Pershing has the greatest collection of "stuff" and a huge collection of Metroparks items.

Commissioner Williams thanked staff for their continued hard work and congratulated Mr. Pershing on his retirement.

Commissioner Heise asked if there would be any work sessions for the budget. Ms. McMillan said it may be easier to work in smaller groups because of scheduling and that she would poll the Board again.

Commissioner Rea congratulated Mr. Pershing on his retirement.

Commissioner Marans said voters approved the millage for the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation.

Commissioner Quadrozzi thanked Mr. Pershing for his years of service.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Williams, support from Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners' adjourn the regular meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shawn M. Athayde
Recording Secretary