

**Minutes**  
**Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority**  
**Board of Commissioners**  
**Thursday, June 9, 2016**

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A regular meeting of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Board of Commissioners was held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 9, 2016 at Stony Creek Metropark at the Nature Center.

Commissioners Present: John C. Hertel  
Timothy J. McCarthy  
John E. La Belle  
Anthony V. Marrocco

Staff Officers:  
Director George Phifer

Other Attendees:  
Ron Liscombe Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, PLC

Absent:  
Commissioner Jaye Quadrozzi  
Commissioner Robert W. Marans  
Commissioner Bernard Parker

Chairman Hertel called the June 9, 2016 meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

**1. Chairman's Statement**

Commissioner Hertel said that we have been blessed with good weather and he hopes it continues. He also said it was good to have Commissioner La Belle back at the meetings.

**2. Public Comments**

Jerry Sieja, Sterling Heights, addressed the Board and thanked Kroger for sponsoring the Metroparks fireworks. He also thanked the staff at the Stony Creek golf course for their outstanding service. Mr. Sieja also thanked the Michigan Stone Masons for repairing the wall at Sheldon Estates and said it looks nice. He also thanked staff for the upkeep and maintenance of the parks.

Toni Spears, Dexter said the Metroparks has a nice logo with the two rivers, which was approved by the Board and appears on the welcome signs into the parks. She said she was surprised to see a new logo without the two rivers on literature, Foundation emails, promotional videos, promotional items for Summer Fun and the mobile stage.

Kevin Varga, CreekFleet Sailing Club, said he is with a group of boat owners that sails out of Stony Creek on a regular basis. Most of the members of the group come directly from work and it's convenient to store the boats at the park. He said the price increase for boat storage has significantly affected their membership and the he brought a proposal for the Board to consider regarding a reduced group rate.

Commissioner Hertel said the information would be given to all the commissioners to review.

**3. Minutes – May 12, 2016 Regular Meeting and Closed Session**

Motion by Commissioner McCarthy, supported by Commissioner Marrocco that the Board of Commissioners' approve the May 12, 2016 meeting minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 4. **Approval – June 9, 2016 Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner La Belle, supported by Commissioner McCarthy that the Board of Commissioners' approve the amended June 9, 2016 agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 5. **Approval – June 9, 2016 Consent Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner McCarthy that the Board of Commissioners' approve the consent agenda consisting of the following:

- a. Approval – May 2016 Financial Statements and Payment Registers
- b. Approval – May 2016 Appropriation Adjustments
- c. Approval – 2016 Tax Levy Report
- d. Purchases
  1. Staff Vehicles, Stony Creek Metropark
  2. Mower, Willow Metropark
  3. Park Pool Vehicles, Various Metropark Locations
- e. Approval – TIFA Exemptions, Charter Township of Orion
- f. Bids – Hudson Mills Activity Door Replacements
- g. Update – Wolcott Restoration Grant
- h. Update – Wolcott and Stony Creek Water Quality

Commissioner Marrocco asked why staff was purchasing Ford Taurus' instead of Ford Focus' to save money. Director Phifer explained that staff chose the Taurus over the Fusion because an all-wheel drive Taurus was less expensive than a Fusion. The Focus was not chosen for pool vehicles because they are a smaller car than both the Taurus and Fusion and does not have adequate space. Commissioner Marrocco thanked Director Phifer for providing the additional information.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **Regular Agenda**

#### 6. **Legislative Report**

None.

#### 7. **Reports**

##### **A. Planning Department**

##### **1. Update – Stony Creek and Wolcott Mill Master Plans**

Motion by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner McCarthy that the Board of Commissioners' receive and file the Report on Stony Creek and Wolcott Mill Master Plans as recommended by Manager of Planning Nina Kelly and staff.

*Discussion:* Manager of Planning Nina Kelly updated the Board on the Stony Creek and Wolcott Mill Master Plans and recently held public meetings for both parks. Ms. Kelly said staff would be bringing the Stony Creek Master Plan to the Board for approval at the July 14, 2016 meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

##### **B. Administrative Office**

##### **1. Approval – Administrative Office Parking Lot Extension**

Motion by Commissioner McCarthy Supported by Commissioner Marrocco that the Board of Commissioners' (1) award Contract No. 500-16-006 to the low responsive, responsible bidder, T&M Asphalt Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$56,222; and (2) transfer \$42,595 from the Kensington Major Maintenance Unallocated account to

the Administration Unallocated Capital account to fund the project as recommended by Manager of Engineering Mike Brahm-Henkel and staff.

Discussion: Manager of Engineering Mike Brahm-Henkel updated the Board on the scope of the project, which would add 13 parking spaces for staff and visitors.

Commissioner Hertel asked how many trees would be cut down. Mr. Brahm-Henkel said four trees; however, once the parking lot was finished, additional trees could be planted. Commissioner Hertel also asked where the addition would be added. Mr. Brahm-Henkel said on the property adjacent to I-96.

Commissioner Marrocco asked if the spaces would be for employees. Mr. Brahm-Henkel said yes, for staff and visitors.

Commissioner Marrocco asked if the parking could be added to the lot behind the Administrative Office. Mr. Brahm-Henkel said staff looked into adding parking behind the building, but it was easier to add the additional spaces in the front of the building since there are irrigation lines and sewer lines behind the building.

Motion carried unanimously.

## **7. Reports**

### **B. Administrative Office**

#### **2. Approval – Cell Tower Lease Agreement Renewal**

Motion by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner McCarthy that the Board of Commissioners' approve the contract proposal from Crown Castle CCATT LLC a Delaware limited liability company as recommended by Director George Phifer and staff.

Discussion: Director Phifer updated the Board on the cell tower lease with Crown Castle and requested approval to extend the lease agreement.

Commissioner Hertel asked whom the lease was with. Patricia Dinning with Crown Castle said they purchased the lease from the carrier (AT&T and Sprint) and that Crown Castle administered the leases.

Motion carried unanimously.

## **8. Election of Board Officers**

Motion by Commissioner La Belle, supported by Commissioner Marrocco that the Board of Commissioners' maintain the same officers through June 2017.

Motion carried unanimously.

## **9. Other Business**

None.

## **10. Staff Officer Update**

Director Phifer recognized Bonnie Garrett and that she retired after 37 years with the Metroparks. He also introduced Hilary Simmet as the new Community Relations Specialist and said she would be working on community outreach, event planning and social media marketing.

Ms. Simmet reviewed her background with the Board and said she was excited to be with the parks.

Commissioner McCarthy welcomed Ms. Simmet.

Lisa Croff, media relations specialist, updated the Board on media promotions and previewed an expanded Wolcott Mill Metropark video. She also said Fox 2 came out to Kensington Metropark for an Out and About segment; that there were two live in studio pieces with interpreters on Fox 2 plus additional mentions on radio stations WWJ and WJR; and that media value for the April and May was \$141,461.12.

Commissioner Hertel said he has been on the Board since 1983 and has been hoping for this kind of coverage since 1983.

Director Phifer thanked staff for their hard work in preparation for the Memorial Day weekend and said it was a good weekend for the parks.

Director Phifer said that staff decided to reopen and operate the Farm Grille at Kensington last year. Revenue for 2015 was \$30,000 and to date this year, revenue is already at \$32,000. Kim Jarvis, Western district park superintendent said patrons like having a source for food and that staff is working with the farm to have items such as natural ice cream and pancake breakfasts.

Director Phifer also updated the Board on the use of additional tollbooths placed at Kensington to try to capture more revenue. Currently, GPS brings people into the park from Buno Road, which does not have a tollbooth. Director Phifer said that in less than 30 days, the two additional tollbooths have generated more than \$44,000 in revenue. Ms. Jarvis said Kensington used to have seven tollbooths and once Route 3 opened, the tollbooths were reduced to five. She said more people come into the park via Buno Road, which bypasses the tollbooths. Ms. Jarvis also said the two additional tollbooths took in \$16,000 in revenue during the Memorial Day holiday weekend.

Commissioner Marrocco asked where the extra tollbooths were located. Ms. Jarvis said at the traffic circle past the farm center and on the Metroparks portion of Buno Road.

Director Phifer thanked Manager of Engineering Mike Brahm-Henkel and staff for their efforts to repair the Sheldon Estates stone wall located within Stony Creek.

Director Phifer requested Board approval to hire a full-time law enforcement officer at Wolcott Mill and for a full-time receptionist at the Administrative Office.

Director Phifer said that with the growth of Wolcott Mill and the surrounding area, there is the need for more police presence since equipment is outside overnight, illegal dumping and farm animals unattended at night.

Commissioner Hertel said there are three facilities at Wolcott that need patrolling and that he is worried about what happens to equipment and the facilities at night. He also asked if this proposed structure addressed nighttime or overnight patrols. Director Phifer said there is currently one person now, which most likely could be changed from a mid-day to late evening shift and that other parks have an overnight shift, which could patrol Wolcott at night.

Motion by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner McCarthy that the Board of Commissioners' authorize staff to hire a full-time police officer for Wolcott Mill Metropark and a full-time receptionist for the Administrative Office.

Motion carried unanimously.

**11. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Hertel said there was a photo in the nature center lobby of a stream that would one day become Stony Creek Lake and said everyone should take the time to see the photo.

Commissioner La Belle asked Paul Muelle if he was retiring. Mr. Muelle said he was retiring in August. Commissioner La Belle thanked Mr. Muelle for his years of service with the Metroparks.

Commissioner McCarthy also thanked Mr. Muelle for his service.

Commissioner Marrocco congratulated Mr. Muelle and said he hopes the damn never fails at Stony Creek because the DEQ would never let the Metroparks rebuild the lake. He also thanked Lisa Croff for her work on the video.

**12. Motion to Adjourn**

Motion by Commissioner McCarthy supported by Commissioner La Belle that the Board of Commissioners' adjourn the regular meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shawn M. Athayde  
Recording Secretary