

Minutes
Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority
Board of Commissioners
Thursday, March 12, 2015

The regular meeting of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Board of Commissioners was held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 12, 2015 at the Administrative Office.

Commissioners Present:	John E. La Belle John C. Hertel Timothy J. McCarthy Robert W. Marans Harry E. Lester Jaye Quadrozzi Anthony V. Marrocco
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Staff Officers:	
Deputy Director	George Phifer
Controller	Rebecca Franchock

Absent:	
Interim Director	Gregory J. Almas

Other Attendees:
George Carr, Legislative Consultant
Steve Mann, Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, PLC
Rick Patterson, Potter, DeAugustino, O'Dea and Patterson

Chairman La Belle called the March 12, 2015 meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

1. Chairman's Statement

Chairman La Belle welcomed Commissioner Lester back to the meetings. La Belle also said he received a compliment regarding the Metroparks at the recent MMRMA conference regarding the hiring of the new manager of planning.

2. Public Comments

Toni Spears, Dexter, Michigan welcomed Commissioner Lester back to the meetings. She also said she was happy to see the Washtenaw County Border-to-Border Trail discussion on the agenda. Spears said with the old mill in Dexter so close to the trail, there may be more interpretive opportunities for the parks. She said she hopes the trail has limited space (small footprint) in order to preserve the river water quality.

3. Minutes – Feb. 12, 2015 Regular Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner McCarthy that the Board of Commissioners' approve the Feb. 12, 2105 regular meeting minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval – March 12, 2015 Agenda

Motion by Commissioner McCarthy, supported by Commissioner Quadrozzi that the Board of Commissioners' approve the amended March 12, 2015 agenda with the removal of Item 9-E-4, the approval for Underground Storage Tank Coverage as requested by Commissioner Marrocco.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Approval – March 12, 2015 Consent Agenda**

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

- a. Vouchers – January and February 2015
- b. Financial Statements – January and February 2015
- c. Purchases
 1. Mower, Lake St. Clair Metropark
 2. Vehicle, Wolcott Mill Metropark Farm Center
- d. Approval – Amended 2015 Board Meeting Schedule
- e. Approval – 52nd District Court Community Service Garden, MOU
- f. Approval – Trail Maintenance and Repair Agreement, Milford Township
- g. Bids – Picnic Shelter Assembly, Stony Creek Metropark
- h. Bids – Golf Course Asphalt Widening, Kensington Metropark
- i. Bids – Asphalt Bike Trail Infrared Pavement Repairs, various locations
- j. Report – Well House Iron Removal System, Indian Springs Metropark
- k. Approval – Macomb County 4-H Agreement

Motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda

6. **Closed Session**

At the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners' held on March 12, 2015 there was a motion by Commissioner Marrocco supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners immediately adjourn to a closed session to consult with attorney(s) regarding pending litigation. [*Section 8 \(e\) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act. M.C.L 15.268 \(e\)*](#)

ROLL CALL VOTE

Voting yes: Quadrozzi, Marans, Marrocco, McCarthy, Lester, Hertel, La Belle
Voting no: None
Absent: None

The regular meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.

Chairman La Belle reconvened the regular meeting at 11:53 am

Motion by Commissioner Quadrozzi, supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners' accept the recommendation as discussed in closed session.

Chairman La Belle called for a roll call vote:

Voting yes: Quadrozzi, Marans, Marrocco, McCarthy, Hertel, La Belle
Voting no: Lester
Absent: None

Motion carried.

7. **Legislative Report**

Motion by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners' receive and file the Legislative Report as submitted by Legislative Consultant George Carr.

Discussion: Carr said the Legislature was in session and that nearly halfway through the fiscal year the governor recently signed approximately \$250 million in budget cuts due to revenue shortfalls and that the issue of road funding is complicating the budget process. Carr

updated the board on projects under development, which include MDNR Trust Fund project potentials, signage options at Kensington and Lake St. Clair, affinity license plate options and the potential for state park passport coordination. Carr also let the Board know he developed a new format for the reports, which is more up-to-date than providing a report two weeks prior to the meeting. The Board said they were good with the new format. Commissioner Hertel said he was happy the Board retained Carr's services.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Reports

A. Lake St. Clair Metropark

1. Approval – Lake St. Clair Maintenance Dredging Grant Cancellation

Motion by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the Board of Commissioners' approve cancelling the current grant project and authorize staff to work with the Army Corps of Engineers to address dredging at Lake St. Clair as requested by the Manager of Assets and Development Mike Brahm-Henkel and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Stony Creek Metropark

1. Approval – Boat Storage Relocation

Motion by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner McCarthy that the Board of Commissioners' authorize staff to obtain pricing from contractors for the relocation on the existing boat storage facility as recommended by Manager of Assets and Development Mike Brahm-Henkel and staff.

Discussion: Manager of Assets and Development Mike Brahm-Henkel updated the Board on the project plan and said the project is identified in the current Five-Year-Plan for the year 2018; however, due to the poor aesthetics of the storage area, staff wanted to move ahead with the project this year. Commissioner Marrocco asked about the layout and relocation of the storage area. Brahm-Henkel said instead of boaters parking next to the boat launch site, they would park across the street. Commissioner Quadrozzi said she is in favor of relocating the boat storage area and adding a comfort station.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Kensington Metropark

1. Report – Oil and Gas Casing Compressor Test

Motion by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner Quadrozzi that the Board of Commissioners' authorize staff to work with West Bay Exploration regarding oil and gas casing pressure testing as recommended by Manager of Assets and Development Mike Brahm-Henkel and staff.

Discussion: Manager of Assets and Development Mike Brahm-Henkel reviewed the request by West Bay Exploration with the Board and explained what process would be used for the compressor testing. Commissioner La Belle asked if there were any environmental concerns; Brahm-Henkel said no. Commissioner Hertel asked if Commissioner Marrocco was good with the project moving forward; Commissioner Marrocco replied yes. Commissioner Marrocco also asked if Kensington was the only park with oil and gas wells and the amount of royalties HCMA was receiving. Brahm-Henkel said Kensington is currently the only park with wells and that revenue has steadily been declining over the years and that HCMA has received approximately \$13 million in revenue to date.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Reports

D. Hudson Mills Metropark

1. Approval – Washtenaw County Border-to-Border Trail, Letter of Intent

Motion by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Quadrozzi that the Board of Commissioners' approve the Letter of Intent for the Washtenaw County Border-to-Border (B2B) Trail at the Huron-Clinton Metroparks as recommended by Manager of Planning David Struck and staff.

Discussion: Manager of Planning David Struck reviewed the project details to date and the next steps in the project with the Board. Commissioner Marans said that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission (WCPRC) plans to apply for a MNRT grant to fund a major portion of the project. Marans also said this trail area is a key element of the governor's Iron Belle Trail initiative and he is glad the project is moving forward. Commissioner Quadrozzi asked how long the Livingston to Wayne portion was; Struck replied 35 miles.

Motion carried unanimously.

E. Administrative Office

1. Report – Development Activities

Motion by Commissioner Quadrozzi, supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners' receive and file the Development Activities Report as recommended by Development Director Molly Bell.

Discussion: Director of Development Molly Bell reviewed development activities to date, discussed financials, reviewed goals for the year, and updated the Board on relationship building efforts with organizations such as The Ford Fund, Four-County Foundation and 3M. Commissioner McCarthy inquired if we (HCMA) had permission to use Metroparks information on other organizational websites; Bell replied yes. Commissioner La Belle asked if we were offering the same options to other organizations; Bell said yes for groups that have donated to the parks such as REI and 3M.

Commissioner McCarthy complimented Ms. Bell's efforts on having the benches inventoried at Kensington. He said it was a large project completed with volunteers during the winter months. Commissioner Marans suggested having a dedicated spot on the website in order for people to search for their plaques and locations within the parks.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval – Development Support Specialist Position

Motion by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners' (1) approve the funding for a Development Support Specialist and; (2) approve the transfer of funds from Lake St. Clair Operations to the Development department to cover the wages for the position as recommended by Director of Development Molly Bell.

Discussion: Commissioner McCarthy said it is important to have a support person in order to handle the fulfillment process, which gives Ms. Bell the opportunity to focus on creating relationships and bringing in donations and grants.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Reports

E. Administrative Office

3. Report – 2014 Financial Statement Review

No action was taken by the Board.

Discussion: Controller Franchock reviewed the 2014 financials for the Board highlighting revenue, expenditures and the Fund Balance.

Commissioner Marrocco asked if the golf services managers were full-time or part-time positions; Franchock replied that they are part-time positions in 2015.

Commissioner Marrocco also asked staff to look into purchasing an additional “Rip Slide” for Hudson Mills instead of moving the slide from Lake Erie. Deputy Director Phifer said staff would look into an additional slide purchase.

Commissioner Marrocco also commented on food service operations along with revenue and expenditures associated with self-operating the food service operation.

Commissioner Marans asked what the Fund Balance was prior to 2010. Controller Franchock said the Fund Balance has increased since 2008.

Commissioner Quadrozzi suggested staff think about raising shelter rental pricing during this year’s budget process.

Commissioner Quadrozzi also would like to see a comparable analysis on what other parks are charging for golf and aquatic facilities compared to the Metroparks.

Commissioner Hertel suggested forming a committee comprised of staff and commissioners to investigate the option of property divestiture for parcels of land HCMA does not intend to develop since selling property would help increase the Fund Balance.

Commissioner La Belle said the Board and staff needs to focus on the Five-Year-Plan, thinking about the future as well as maintaining the Fund Balance and Reserve.

Commissioner Marans inquired if there is a list of identified parcels that have no plans for development. Paul Muelle, natural resources and environmental compliance manager said there is a list of identified parcels. Commissioner Marans asked staff send the list to commissioners.

4. Approval – Underground Storage Tank Coverage

Removed from the agenda at the request of Commissioner Marrocco.

5. Update – Building Blocks, IT Road Map

Postponed until the April meeting.

6. Update – Building Blocks, Capital Development (Five-Year-Plan)

Postponed until April meeting

9. Staff Officer Report

- a. Deputy Director Phifer introduced Jim Pershing, southern district park superintendent who invited staff and commissioners to attend the annual employee recognition dinner, which was being held on Saturday, March 14.
- b. Controller Franchock said there was one additional item in the financials to better explain revenues, expenditures and changes in the Fund Balance.

10. Other Business

None

11. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Hertel reiterated it was good to have Commissioner Lester back.

Commissioner Lester said he appreciated all the well wishes.

Commissioner Quadrozzi thanked staff at Stony Creek for the added amenities to the restrooms and thanked staff for looking at alternatives to increase revenue.

Commissioner Marrocco wanted the appointment of a new director on the April agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner Lester that the Board of Commissioners' approve staff adding the director's appointment to the April 9, 2015 meeting agenda.

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Motion to Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shawn M. Athayde
Recording Secretary