

Minutes
Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority
Board of Commissioners
Thursday, September 10, 2015

The regular meeting of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Board of Commissioners was held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 10, 2015 at Willow Metropark at the Food Bar.

Commissioners Present: Timothy J. McCarthy
Robert W. Marans

John E. La Belle
Bernard Parker

Staff Officers:
Director George Phifer
Controller Rebecca Franchock

Absent:
Commissioner John C. Hertel
Commissioner Jaye Quadrozzi

Other Attendees:
Steve Mann with Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, PLC
Ron Liscombe with Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, PLC
Mark Robinson with Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio

Vice Chairman McCarthy called the Sept. 10, 2015 meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

1. Chairman's Statement

Vice Chairman McCarthy said he would be chairing the meeting since Commissioner Hertel was not able to make the meeting. He also said the parks had a good August and Labor Day weekend and thanked staff for all the hard work. Commissioner McCarthy also said there is a Foundation donor event on Sept. 24 and encouraged all of the commissioners to attend.

2. Public Comments

None

3. Minutes – Aug. 13, 2015 Regular Meeting and Closed Session

Motion by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Parker that the Board of Commissioners' approve the Aug. 13, 2105 regular meeting and closed session minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval – Sept. 10, 2015 Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners' approve the amended Sept. 10, 2015 agenda with the removal of item (5-d) Approval – Professional Services Agreement, Wolcott Mill Historic Center Parking Lot Development.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval – Aug. 13, 2015 Consent Agenda

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

- a. Financial Statements and Payment Register (Vouchers) – August 2015

- b. Purchases
 - 1. Computer Network Storage, Administrative Office and Indian Springs
- c. Update – Purchases over \$10,000
- d. Approval – Professional Services Agreement, North Branch of the Clinton River Habitat Restoration, Wolcott Mill Metropark
- e. Bids – Boat Dry Storage Lot Construction, Stony Creek Metropark
- f. Bids – Service Garage EPDM Roof Repairs, Kensington Metropark
- g. Bids – Farm Barn Siding Replacement, Kensington Metropark
- h. Update – Service Yard AST Installation/UST Removal, Hudson Mills Metropark
- i. Approval – Hawk Watch Interpretive Kiosk, Lake Erie Metropark
- j. Update – MMRMA Member Self Insured Retention Fund Payment

Motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda

6. Legislative Report

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

Discussion: Legislative Consultant George Carr said the Legislature reconvened after Labor Day. The focus in both the House and Senate is funding for the transportation plans. Nonspecific general fund diversions to transportation have been now require cuts in core programs if implemented without new non-road revenue. Mr. Carr also said the budget is rebounding from the recession but business tax credits are being cashed in reducing revenues over \$500 million per year. Cost sharing under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) will begin next year with the state contribution beginning in 2017. The Health Insurance Claims Assessment (HICA Tax), a high tax on health insurers to fund the Medicaid match for federal funds, is due to end in 2018. HCMA pays the HICA tax through Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Commissioner Parker asked if the Metroparks received any state funding. Mr. Carr said no; however, the state can place indirect taxes on other items such as health care etc.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

A. Lake St. Clair Metropark

1. Report – West Beachfront/Playground Development Project

Motion by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners' receive and file West Beachfront/Playground Redevelopment Report as recommended by Manager of Planning Nina Kelly and staff.

Discussion: Manager of Planning Nina Kelly gave a brief overview about the project, stating funding was allocated in two different budget areas and that the project would be budgeted for again in 2016. Ms. Kelly then introduced Mark Robinson with Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio (JHLE) who presented the design concept for the project and reviewed the proposed design concept.

Commissioner Marans asked if the proposed design met the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requirements. Mr. Robinson said yes, the design is completely ADA compliant and swings are handicap accessible.

Commissioner Marans also asked if there was a supervisory aspect to the proposed plans and if park staff would be onsite to supervise children in the area. Manager of

Assets and Development Mike Brahm-Henkel said park operations and maintenance staffs were included in the design process and a park staffer person would regularly patrol the area.

Commissioner Marrocco asked if there would be a dedicated staffer in the play area to supervise. Director Phifer said a seasonal Public Service Attendant (PSA) would make regular patrols of the area as part of their daily duties.

Commissioner Marrocco asked if there were lifeguards at the beaches. Director Phifer said no. Commissioner Marrocco said he wanted lifeguards at the swim areas.

Commissioner Parker asked if the area was going to be fenced. Mr. Robinson said no. Commissioner Parker said she feels there should be a fence around the area. Director Phifer said staff would look into adding fencing to the design.

Commissioner Parker asked if the playground was close to the water and if there would be any issues with erosion. Mr. Robinson said the playground was 200 feet or more away from the water and that erosion would not be an issue.

Commissioner La Belle asked if there was funding in the budget for this project. Controller Rebecca Franchock said yes.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

A. Lake St. Clair Metropark

2. Approval – Property Donation

Motion by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Parker that the Board of Commissioners' (1) approve staff to initiate an environmental investigation for the property; (2) authorize the appropriate funding from the Committed Fund Balance-Land to Lake St. Clair Land Acquisition Account; and (3) direct staff to continue discussions with the property owner and report back to the Board as recommended by Natural Resources and Environmental Compliance Manager Paul Muelle and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Kensington Metropark

1. Bids – Splash-N-Blast Rubber Surface Replacement

Motion by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners' (1) approve award of Contract No. 704-15-326 to the low responsive, responsible bidder, SlideCare, LLC in the amount of \$155,762; and (2) transfer \$160,000 from the Unallocated Major Maintenance account for Indian Springs to Kensington as recommended by Manager of Assets and Development Mike Brahm-Henkel and staff.

Discussion: Manager of Assets and Development Mike Brahm-Henkel reviewed the project with the Board and passed out to the Board a sample of the proposed replacement product. Mr. Brahm-Henkel also said the toys would be repainted, as they are faded.

Commissioner Marans asked when the tiles were installed. Mr. Brahm-Henkel said in 2008. Mr. Brahm-Henkel also said the new product has a five-year warranty.

Commissioner Marrocco asked if the Kensington replacement was to be completed this year, Indian Springs in the fall of 2016 and then Lake St. Clair in 2017. Mr. Brahm-

Henkel said yes and that it would also allow staff to see how the product is working as it will be three years into the warranty.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Other Business

1. Approval – Volunteer Services Supervisor

Motion by Commissioner La Belle, supported by Commissioner Marrocco that the Board of Commissioners' approve and appoint the hiring of Katie Kowalski as the Metroparks' Volunteer Services Supervisor as recommended by Director Phifer.

Discussion: Director Phifer updated the Board on the Volunteer Services Supervisor interviews and background of the candidate he is recommending for the position.

Commissioner Marans said part of the rationale for the position was a cost savings effort and asked what the rationale was for the position and how the position would be evaluated in terms of return on investment. Director Phifer said the applicant provided examples of her accomplishments and understood the position would be evaluated for effectiveness.

Commissioner Marans asked that an evaluation be completed within 18 months.

Commissioner Marrocco said he agreed with Commissioner Marans regarding an evaluation. He also said people tend to become more invested and involved with organizations when they volunteer.

Commissioner Parker said he would like to see regular reports (i.e. activity assessments) on a monthly basis. He also said he believes the action should be receive and file and not approval.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion regarding scheduling a Board Study Session

Motion by Commissioner Parker have staff schedule a special Board meeting to determine the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Commissioners and staff before the November regular Board meeting.

Discussion: Commissioner Marans said it's important and if we have to hold a meeting on the weekend or at night then they (the Board) should schedule a meeting.

Commissioner Marrocco said they tried to do this in the past and it is difficult to schedule due to scheduling.

Vote on item:

Ayes – Commissioners Parker and Marans

Nays – Commissioners Marrocco, La Belle and McCarthy

Motion failed.

9. Staff Officer Update

Director Phifer said the improved weather in July and August resulted in good numbers for the parks. Labor Day numbers were strong as well. He also thanked staff for the hard work that is being done in the parks. He also said he would continue working closely with and communicating with, the Board in order to address the needs of the organization as a whole.

10. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Marrocco said disc golf was down and that foot golf seemed to be the new phase and if disc golf was on the decline. Director Phifer said disc golf has brought in almost

\$11,000 in revenue this year; however, disc golfers have more options now than before and staff is monitoring its trends. He also said foot golf was added at the Par 3 courses this year and can be played at the same time with regular golfers, is cost effective and can be converted back to a regular course.

Commissioner McCarthy asked if the same hole used for foot golf. Director Phifer said no, foot golf uses a different hole and is larger.

11. Motion to Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Marans supported by Commissioner Marrocco that the Board of Commissioners' adjourn the regular meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shawn M. Athayde
Recording Secretary