

Minutes
Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority
Board of Commissioners – Work Session
Thursday, March 14, 2019

A work session of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Board of Commissioners' was held on Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 9:30 am at the Administrative Office.

Commissioners Present:	Timothy J. McCarthy Robert W. Marans Jaye Quadrozzi Bernard Parker Kurt L. Heise Steve Williams John Paul Rea
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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 work session to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. 2019 Grant Applications to Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Discussion: Director McMillan said staff wanted to review the grant application strategy prior to the public hearing. She also recognized staff that have been working on the grant applications.

Nina Kelly, chief of planning and development, reviewed the projects that staff would be making grant applications for through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. She said there were five projects in total – one each at Oakwoods, Lake Erie, Stony Creek, Kensington and Hudson Mills Metroparks.

Ms. Kelly said two projects had grant requests for prepared with two different amounts in case the requests with the high grant amounts (and lower matching funds) were not approved. This would give staff the ability to submit alternative grant requests with a lower grant amount (and higher matching funds) without having to come back to the Board for approval.

Commissioner Marans asked what the turnaround was in order to submit a lower grant requests. Ms. Kelly said approximately two weeks.

Commissioner Parker asked which projects had the two different requests. Ms. Kelly said the projects at Kensington and Hudson Mills Metroparks.

Commissioner Rea asked how the grants are packaged and ranked with the DNR, MNRTF, etc. Ms. McMillan said staff is asking the DNR, through the lobbyist, to prioritize projects by county or district and not as a system as a whole. Staff wants to be able to

use the median income by county since it varies greatly within the five counties in which the Metroparks operates. She said the parks have different demographics and act differently depending on the day of the week. Weekday visitation is generally different than weekend visitation.

Ms. Kelly said it is possible that all five projects could get grant funding.

Commissioner Marans asked if this approach has been done before. Ms. Kelly said no.

Ms. McMillan said the MNRTF board makes the decision for those grants and the DNR director makes a recommendation on funding for the LWCF grants. The grant process is very political with requests for MNRTF grants and staff is trying to be strategic and make the decision process as easy as possible.

Commissioner McCarthy asked who makes the decisions for the Land and Water Fund. Ms. McMillan said the DNR director makes the recommendation and the legislature makes the decision by appropriating dollars to be spent, which can be a long process. She said these would be 2021 projects since staff would most likely not find out if grant funding was approved until December 2020.

Ms. Kelly continued to explain the projects and reviewed concept drawings.

Ms. McMillan asked to explain how the planning process worked. Ms. Kelly said staff is assigned tasks, staff seeks comments from the public and various groups will review for ADA compliance.

Commissioner Marans asked what groups staff reached out to. Ms. Kelly said ARC groups in Wayne County, PEAK, Got Ability Sports, Billie Vickers who is part of the accessibility team for the DMR and MI Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Commissioner Parker asked what the requested amount was for the boat launch. Ms. Kelly said \$300,000 and this was one of the projects that had two grant requests.

Commissioner Quadrozzi thanked staff for doing this project and said the west boat launch at Kensington needed a lot of upgrades.

Ms. McMillan asked Ms. Kelly to explain the posting process. Ms. Kelly said staff coordinates a call with the DNR. In addition to the required posting in the newspaper, information was placed at the Dexter library, on the Metroparks' website, on social media and press releases were sent to 150 media outlets. She said feedback was also requested from the public.

Ms. Kelly reviewed the off-leash dog park project and grant request. She said it would be located at the Oak Grove picnic area, that it's open and would be a passive use area. Ms. Kelly said the area would have a walkway, bullpen area, bottle filling stations, plantings, an area for large dogs and one for small dogs. The areas would also be rotated for turn management. The grant ask was for \$50,000 and the total project amount is \$138,000.

Commissioner McCarthy said a lot of seniors go to dog parks and asked if more benches could be added in the grassy areas. Ms. Kelly said in the concept drawings, benches were

placed on concrete for ADA accessibility. Rustic benches could be added and staff would work with the Foundation for funding support.

Commissioner McCarthy asked if there were any other dog parks in the Metroparks system. Ms. Kelly said no; however, Indian Springs has been identified as a park for an off-leash dog area.

Commissioner Marans asked if there was interest for dog parks at other parks. Ms. Kelly said yes, staff at Kensington, Indian Springs and Stony Creek have expressed interest. She also said local agencies are supportive of off-leash areas as well.

Commissioner Parker asked what the timeframe was for the project. Ms. Kelly said the MNRTF would make a grant decision at the end of the year, then staff would work on a contract with the DNR, which would then go to the Board for approval. The project would most likely be a 2021 project.

Commissioner Parker said he would like the project included in the budget even if it does not receive grant funding.

3. Public Participation

None.

4. Motion to Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Heise, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners' adjourn the work session.

Motion carried unanimously.

The work session adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shawn M. Athayde
Recording Secretary