

**Minutes**  
**Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority**  
**Board of Commissioners**  
**Thursday, June 13, 2019**

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A regular meeting of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Board of Commissioners was held on Thursday, June 13, 2019, at 10:30 a.m. at Lake St. Clair Metropark.

Commissioners Present:

Timothy J. McCarthy  
Robert W. Marans (arrived at 10:43am)  
Bernard Parker  
John Paul Rea  
Steve Williams  
Kurt Heise

Staff Officers:

Director  
Deputy Director  
Chief of Finance

Amy McMillan  
David Kirbach  
Rebecca Franchock

Other Attendees:

Miller Canfield  
Miller Canfield  
Factory Detroit

Steve Mann  
Ron Liscombe  
Mark Lantz

Absent:

Commissioner

Jaye Quadrozzi

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Chairman's Statement**

None.

**3. Public Participation**

Toni Spears, Dexter, said when the logo was revised five years ago, it was needed. There was a substantial investment with the new logo and collateral material – signs, vehicle logos, pathway markers, etc. Ms. Spears asked with such a large investment that comes with a logo change if it was justifiable at this time.

**4. Approval – May 9, 2019 Regular Meeting and Closed Session Minutes**

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Parker that the Board of Commissioners' approve the May 9, 2019 Regular Meeting and Closed Session minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Approval – June 13, 2019 Full Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Heise, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners approve the June 13, 2019 agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Approval – June 13, 2019 Consent Agenda**
  - a. Approval – May 2019 Financial Statements
  - b. Approval – May 2019 Appropriation Adjustments
  - c. Approval – 2019/2020 Tax Levy Report
  - d. Approval – Director Salary Increase
  - e. Report – Purchases Over \$10,000
  - f. Purchases
    1. Diesel Work Tractor, Indian Springs Metropark

Motion carried unanimously.

## 7. Reports

### A. Administrative Department

#### 1. Approval – Rebranded Metroparks Logo

*Discussion:* Commissioner McCarthy said two commissioners were not at the May meeting and asked Mark Lantz with Factory Detroit to give a quick recap regarding the new proposed logo and rationale for the change.

Mr. Lantz said one of the main reasons to change the logo was for technical reasons and that it is hard to work with computers, phones and digital media. He reviewed the two proposed logos (one with two crescents, one with Heron) and said either were good choices would work well electronically.

Commissioner Rea asked about the phase-in approach and how would flagship items be replaced. Ms. McMillan said when a sign needed to be replaced, that's when the new logo would be phased in. Print material, digital material, advertising and the website would be changed now. Anything that is being designed or constructed would feature the new logo. Anything at the end of its usage would then be replaced.

Commissioner Marans arrived at 10:43 a.m.

Commissioner Heise asked about the timeframe for a full transition and cited an example from Wayne County. Ms. McMillan said it she expected it to take years to complete the entire change over.

Commissioner Rea asked the new logo will integrate with the new branding material. Mr. Lantz said the logo has bright, eye-catching colors and that it's launching a fresh face for the Metroparks.

Commissioner Parker asked if there was a tagline. Mr. Lantz said there is a sort of punchy tagline that says, "They're you're Metroparks, come out and use them."

Commissioner Williams asked if the current logo may be confusing with the similar colors as Oakland County and there are several Metroparks throughout the country, how would the new branding distinguish the Huron-Clinton Metroparks from the rest. Mr. Lantz said there would be times to use the Huron-Clinton portion and other times not to use it.

Mr. Lantz aired three commercials currently in production that would go into rotation on television once finished. One for animals, one for trails and one for recreation.

Commissioner Marans said pickleball is growing in popularity and he didn't see it in the ads. Mr. Lantz said it was in the commercial highlighting recreation.

Commissioner McCarthy said if there was interest in changing the logo to make a motion for either option one (two crescents) or option two (Heron).

Commissioner Williams asked if the color would always change and include the Huron-Clinton portion. Mr. Lantz said yes, the color is flexible and would change depending on the season.

Commissioner Parker made a motion to change the logo to option one (two crescents).

No second.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to change the logo to option two (Heron).

No second.

Motion by Commissioner Heise, support from Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners' table the logo change until such a time when an alternative logo design can be provided for approval.

Commissioner Parker asked what the timeframe was to see alternative logos. Ms. McMillan suggested coming back to the Board with alternatives at the July or August meeting.

Commissioner Heise said as the motion maker he doesn't see this as an indefinite postponement and that the Board would like to see alternative designs.

Commissioners McCarthy and Parker vote no.

Motion carried.

## **7. Reports**

### **A. Administrative Department**

#### **2. Report – Marketing update**

Motion by Commissioner Heise, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners' receive and file the Marketing Update as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **3. Report – Attendance Trends**

Motion by Commissioner Parker, support from Commissioner Williams that the Board of Commissioners' receive and file the Attendance Trends report as presented by Director McMillan and staff.

*Discussion:* Ms. McMillan reviewed attendance trends and said it also ties into financial planning and the CAPRA accreditation process. She said staff typically looks at attendance trends one month at a time and the data presented focuses on vehicle entries. Staff will have better data after polling is done later this summer.

Ms. McMillan said between 2009 – 2018 changes in attendance range from a high of three million vehicles to a low of 2.7 million vehicles. She said to some respect, cost plays a part in attendance as costs go up, attendance goes down and then levels off. Ms. McMillan then reviewed total vehicles entries by year, by park, by number of annual permits sold, number of daily permits sold and number of combo permits sold with Oakland County.

Commissioner Marans asked if Dexter-Huron and Delhi were combined with Hudson Mills. Ms. McMillan said yes.

Commissioner Marans asked why the data was only going back to 2009. Ms. McMillan said the data is looking at 10-year trends.

Commissioner Parker asked when the permit prices increased. Ms. McMillan said in 2012, 2014 and 2016.

Commissioner McCarthy said the data was interesting since 2009 and 2010 was after the Great Recession.

Ms. McMillan continued to review the percentage of annual permits sold by year and reviewed vehicle entries compared to Oakland County.

Commissioner Marans asked if staff polled other agencies such as Washtenaw County. Ms. McMillan said no that she was looking for data from agencies that tolled.

Commissioner Marans said it was good data and ask Chief of Finance Rebecca Franchock if the data is in an easily searchable format. Ms. Franchock said it could be done, but not in an easy format.

Commissioner Parker asked if staff can pull attendance trends for special events. Ms. McMillan said yes.

Commissioner Parker asked if staff can determine attendance trends based on weather. Ms. McMillan said staff is working toward that goal.

Motion carried unanimously.

## **7. Reports**

### **B. Finance Department**

#### **1. Report – Monthly Capital Projects Fund Update**

Motion by Commissioner Parker, support from Commissioner Williams that the Board of Commissioners' receive and file the monthly Capital Projects Fund update as recommended by Chief of Finance Rebecca Franchock and staff.

Discussion: Ms. Franchock said the first project in the newly created Capital Projects Fund was completed.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **2. Report – 2018 Audited Financial Statements**

Motion by Commissioner Heise, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners' receive and file the report on the 2018 Audited Financial Statements as recommended by Chief of Finance Rebecca Franchock and staff.

Discussion: Ms. Franchock introduced Alan Panter with Yeo & Yeo. Mr. Panter reviewed the 2018 audited financial statements and said the Metroparks were given an unmodified (clean) opinion. He reviewed the balance sheet, fund balance and expenditures.

Commissioner Parker asked if there was a comparison for line items from last year. Mr. Panter said it was listed in the statistical section.

Motion carried unanimously.

## 7. Reports

### B. Finance Department

#### 3. Report – Five-Year Financial Forecast

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Williams that the Board of Commissioners' receive and file the Five-Year Financial Forecast report as recommended by Chief of Finance Rebecca Franchock and staff.

*Discussion:* Ms. Franchock reviewed the history (traditional five-year plan), introduced the new financial forecast model and said the forecast focuses on operations and not capital projects. She said a committee approach was used to review the information that went into the forecast and included staff from the entire Metroparks system. Ms. Franchock said the forecast includes revenue, expenditures, surplus, deficit and trends. She reviewed the unassigned fund balance and three different scenarios that could affect the fund balance.

Commissioner McCarthy said this is a bigger topic for discussion and should be the topic of a work session.

Ms. McMillan said she would work on scheduling one, possibly two work sessions.

Commissioner Marans said the starting point should be the three scenarios for the fund balance and capital projects.

Commissioner Parker said he would like to see another alternative to using fund balance.

Motion carried unanimously.

### C. Planning Department

#### 1. Approval – Coastal Management Grant Application Resolution, Lake Erie Metropark

Motion by Commissioner Parker, support from Commissioner Williams that the Board of Commissioners' approve the resolution for the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Coastal Management grant application for the development of a shoreline restoration plan at Lake Erie Metropark, as recommended by Chief of Planning and Development Nina Kelly and staff.

*Discussion:* Ms. Kelly updated the Board on the project and said the proposed project is to develop a plan for expanding the shoreline softening efforts that have been completed or are currently underway along the coastline of Lake Erie Metropark as part of the Coastal Management Program's *Coastal Healthy Habitat, Waters, and Communities Initiative*. Specifically, the planning process would result in the development of the design and associated cost estimate for shoreline restoration in the areas identified in the attached image, an estimated total of 2,800 linear feet. Additionally, staff would be seeking an opportunity for designing and installing interpretive signage along the shoreline and coastal wetland areas. Public engagement opportunities would be incorporated into the planning process.

Motion carried unanimously.

### D. Natural Resources Department

#### 1. Approval – Ecological Restoration and Invasive Plant Management Agreement

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Heise that the Board of Commissioners' approve the Ecological Restoration and Invasive Plant Management Agreement between the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority and The

Nature Conservancy as recommended by Chief of Natural Resources and Regulatory Compliance Ryan J. Colliton and staff.

*Discussion:* Mr. Colliton updated the Board on the project, and that Metroparks staff has worked with The Nature Conservancy on many projects over the past several years, including restoration and invasive species control efforts at Lower Huron, Willow, Oakwoods and Lake Erie. The Nature Conservancy would like to continue this partnership with the Metroparks to restore and maintain rare habitats in the Oak Openings Ecoregion.

Motion carried unanimously.

## **7. Reports**

### **D. Natural Resources Department**

#### **2. Bids – Lake Erie Coastal Restoration Project Management**

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Williams that the Board of Commissioners' award RFP 2019-37 to the low responsive, responsible bidder, GEI Consultants of Michigan in the amount of \$174,500 as recommended by Chief of Natural Resources and Environmental Compliance Ryan Colliton and staff.

*Discussion:* Mr. Colliton updated the Board and said the project will enhance fish and wildlife habitat and create resilient coastal wetlands through the dredging of channels and pools in the Coastal Marshes at Erie Metropark. He said the recommended vendor, GEI, will develop monitoring protocols based on schedule and professionally excepted standards, provide design for shoreline and marsh restoration based on environmental factors such as wave action, fluctuating water levels and site appropriate vegetation. GEI will also oversee all aspects of implementation with a targeted completion date of Sept. 30, 2021.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **3. Report – PFAS Testing Results on the Huron River**

Motion by Commissioner Heise, support from Commissioner Williams that the Board of Commissioners' receive and file the report on PFAS Testing on the Huron River as recommended by Ryan J. Colliton, Chief of Natural Resources and Regulatory Compliance and staff.

*Discussion:* Mr. Colliton updated the Board on previous PFAS sampling from Norton Creek and provided updated test results conducted on April 30.

Commissioner Heise asked if the downward trend has anything to do with all the rain. Mr. Colliton said no, it's from the elimination of the contamination source.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **E. Engineering Department**

#### **1. Bids – Asphalt Replacement, Wolcott Mill Metropark Farm Center**

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Parker that the Board of Commissioners' award Contract No. 713-19-051 to the low responsive, responsible bidder, Astec Asphalt, Inc. in the amount of \$ \$42,690.50 as recommended by Chief of Engineering Services Mike Henkel and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

**8. Closed Session**

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners adjourn the regular meeting and enter into a closed session for the purpose of consulting with attorney(s) to discuss material, which is exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute, this is a permissible purpose for a closed session pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Voting yes: Marans, Heise, Rea, Williams, Parker, McCarthy  
Voting no: None  
Absent: Quadrozzi

Motion carried unanimously.

The regular meeting adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

Commissioner McCarthy reconvened the regular meeting at 12:55 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Parker that the Board of Commissioners' accept the Sunoco settlement agreement and amended and restated easement agreement.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Heise, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners' amend the Metroparks Rules and Regulations by adding Section 29 – Marijuana that reads as follows:

*“The property of the Metroparks constitutes “public property” under Initiated Law 2018-01. No person may smoke, consume, cultivate, distribute, process, sell, or display marijuana within the boundaries of any park. No person may distribute, sell, or display marijuana accessories within the boundaries of any park.”*

Motion carried unanimously.

**9. Election of Board Officers**

Motion by Commissioner Heise, support from Commissioner Parker that the Board of Commissioners' approve a slate of officers.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Heise, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners' nominate a slate comprised of Bob Marans – Chair, Jaye Quadrozzi – Vice Chair, Bernard Parker – Treasurer and Steve Williams – Secretary.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Heise, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners' approve the nomination slate of Board Officers.

Motion carried unanimously.

**10. Other Business**

None.

**11. Staff Leadership Update**

None.

**12. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Rea encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming Sprint and Splash event to be held at Lake St. Clair Metropark.

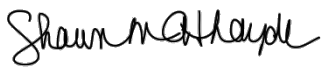
Commissioner Williams thanked staff for their continued hard work.

**13. Motion to Adjourn**

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shawn M. Athayde  
Recording Secretary