

Minutes
Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority
Board of Commissioners
Thursday, July 11, 2019

A regular meeting of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Board of Commissioners was held on Thursday, July 11, 2019, at 10:30 a.m. at Oakwoods Metropark.

Commissioners Present:	Robert W. Marans Jaye Quadrozzi Timothy J. McCarthy Bernard Parker John Paul Rea Steve Williams (arrived at 10:57am) Kurt Heise
Staff Officers: Director Chief of Finance	Amy McMillan Rebecca Franchock
Other Attendees: Miller Canfield Detroit Riverfront Conservancy City of Novi	Steve Mann Mark Wallace, Matt Cullen Victor Cardenas
Absent: Deputy Director	David Kirbach

1. Call to Order

Chairman Marans called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

2. Chairman's Statement

Commissioner Marans thanked Commissioner McCarthy for his two years serving as Chair during a tumultuous time at the Metroparks.

3. Public Participation

None.

4. Approval – June 13, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Quadrozzi, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners' approve the June 13, 2019 Work Session, Regular meeting and Closed Session minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval – July 11, 2019 Full Agenda

Motion by Commissioner McCarthy, support from Commissioner Quadrozzi that the Board of Commissioners approve the July 11, 2019 agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Approval – July 11, 2019 Consent Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Heise that the Board of Commissioners approve the July 11, 2019 consent agenda as presented.

- a. Approval – June 2019 Financial Statements
- b. Approval – June 2019 Appropriation Adjustments
- c. Report – Marketing Update
- d. Report – Monthly Capital Project Fund Update
- e. Report – Purchases Over \$10,000

Motion carried unanimously.

While the Board waited for the representatives from the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy to arrive, Commissioner Marans requested to change the order of the agenda. There were no objections.

**The Board advanced this item on the agenda.*

8. Presentation – City of Novi, Grand River Corridor Improvement Authority Tax Capture*

Discussion: Victor Cardenas, assistant city manager for the city of Novi presented information on a Corridor Improvement Authority – Grand River Avenue. He explained the coverage area for the CIA and provided what the anticipate total tax capture would be for the Metroparks over a 19-year period, which would be slightly more than \$18 million or \$220,000 per year.

No action taken.

**The Board advanced this item on the agenda.*

9. Reports

B. Planning Department

2. Approval – Border to Border Trail Alignment, Delhi Metropark*

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Williams that the Board of Commissioners' approve the conceptual realignment of the Border-to-Border Trail through Delhi Metropark as recommended by Chief of Planning and Development Nina Kelly and staff.

Discussion: Ms. Kelly updated the Board on the project and explained the requested changes, which would better connect the different parts of Delhi Metropark. She said Skip's Canoe Livery would move to East Delhi and will have better parking and amenities.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Presentation – Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, Matt Cullen, Mark Wallace

Discussion: Director Amy McMillan introduced Matt Cullen, Detroit Riverfront Conservancy chairperson and Mark Wallace, Detroit Riverfront Conservancy president and CEO. She said over the course of the past year, staff from both organizations have worked together on different opportunities to serve the city of Detroit.

Mr. Cullen updated the Board on projects the Riverfront Conservancy is currently working on and said they have made great progress in recent years on the eastern portion of the riverfront. He said they cleaned up the Dequindre Cut area near the Renaissance Center and are currently working to develop the western riverfront and creating a gathering place for visitors.

Commissioner Williams arrived at 10:57 a.m.

Mr. Wallace updated the Board on programming, visitor demographics at riverfront events and projects that are in the works as well as partnership opportunities between the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy and the Metroparks.

Commissioner Rea thanked both Mr. Wallace and Mr. Cullen for the overview and said a partnership would be a valued added opportunity for not only our organizations, but the city of Detroit as well.

Commissioner Parker said this is an outstanding development in Detroit and he is pleased to see the Metroparks are looking at ways to partner and explore more opportunities.

Commissioner Heise asked if there were communications with Wayne County to connect to Hines Park. Mr. Wallace said they have been spending a lot of time to find ways to connect with other points within Wayne County.

Commissioner Marans said a key player in a partnership is the Ralph C. Wilson Foundation and they are interested in connectivity. He said the Metroparks are trying to connect our parks to the greenway system and there is the potential to link our greenway system, the riverfront and county parks in

Washtenaw and Macomb counties. He also said programming and compatibility will be mutually beneficial to both organizations.

No action taken.

9. Reports

A. Administrative Department

1. Report – Research Survey Questions, EPIC-MRA

Motion by Commissioner McCarthy, support from Commissioner Williams that the Board of Commissioners' approve moving forward with the research survey subject to tweaking questions for the research poll to be conducted by EPIC-MRA as recommended by Director Amy McMillan and staff.

Discussion: Ms. McMillan introduced John Cavanaugh with Epic-MRA and said he would review the process in which the survey will be conducted and to review a draft of the survey questions. Staff sought a broad group of participants to develop the questions and included Public Sector Consultants, Truscott Rossman as well as Muchmore, Harrington and Smalley.

Mr. Cavanaugh reviewed how the survey would be conducted and the proposed survey questions. He said they will survey enough respondents to have valid data throughout all five counties. They will over sample respondents in each county to have good data results with 1500 interviews across the entire system.

Commissioner Parker asked what the time length for the survey was. Mr. Cavanaugh said it was a 15-minute interview. He also said staff would monitor interviewers to make sure there was a variety of people sampled (i.e. men and women).

Commissioner Heise asked what the timeframe was to complete the survey. Mr. Cavanaugh said once they receive the OK, it would take approximately two to three weeks to complete.

Commissioner Heise asked if it made more sense to do the survey in the fall since a lot of people are not available in the summer. Mr. Cavanaugh said it most likely will not make a difference since the topic at hand may make it better to survey now.

Commissioner Heise asked what the landline to mobile phone ratio was. Mr. Cavanaugh said it was hard to gauge since many people have portable lines, meaning you could call a home number and it will ring on a mobile phone.

Commissioner Marans asked if the 1500 questions were a guaranteed amount. Mr. Cavanaugh said yes.

Commissioner Marans said he was concerned about the overall length of the survey and that it may need to be shortened, or staff may need to provide an incentive to respond.

Commissioner Marans asked how the data would be analyzed and that it should be done by the three districts. Mr. Cavanaugh said they should be able to break it down by district since zip codes would be collected.

Ms. McMillan asked if the Board approved moving forward today, when should results be ready. Mr. Cavanaugh said most likely by the second week in August. He also asked if the results were needed by a certain timeframe. Ms. McMillan said accuracy is important and there will be a meeting in September to discuss the budget and that the survey information will play an important role in budget discussions.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Reports

A. Administrative Department

2. Approval – Appointment to Pension Committee and Retiree Health Care Board

Motion by Commissioner McCarthy, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners' appoint Commissioner Heise as the "at large" Board member to the Authority's

Pension Committee and Health Care Trust Board of Trustees as recommended by Director Amy McMillan and staff.

Discussion: Steve Mann, legal counsel for the Metroparks reviewed the plan documents for the Pension Committee and Retiree Health Care Trust Board of Trustees regarding the appointed members (seven members total) and included the Metroparks chairperson and two at large members. With the change in leadership, Commissioner Marans takes over as chairperson, which leaves a vacancy for the at-large position. The term on the Pension Committee and Retiree Health Trust Board is a six-year term. Commissioner Quadrozzi retains one of the at-large positions.

Commissioner Heise said he would fill the vacancy if appointed.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Reports

B. Planning Department

1. Approval – ITC Utility Easement Revisions, Wolcott Mill Metropark

Motion by Commissioner McCarthy, support from Commissioner Quadrozzi that the Board of Commissioners' approve the revised utility easements with ITC Holdings Corporation at Wolcott Mill Metropark as recommended by Chief of Planning and Development Nina Kelly and staff.

Discussion: Chief of Planning and Development Nina Kelly explained the process regarding updated the easements with ITC at Wolcott. She said the amended easements would reduce acreage by 383 acres and spells out natural resources best practices.

Commissioner Williams asked if the Metroparks paid for the survey work. Ms. Kelly said no.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval – Resolution for Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant, Lower Huron Metropark

Motion by Commissioner Williams, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners' approve the resolution and authorize staff to execute the project agreement for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant for the Lower Huron North Fishing Site Improvements project as recommended by Chief of Planning and Development Nina Kelly and staff.

Discussion: Ms. Kelly updated the Board on the project, conceptual design and requested approval for the resolution.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Natural Resources Department

1. Approval – Ecological Restoration and Invasive Plant Management Agreement

Motion by Commissioner Quadrozzi, support from Commissioner Heise that the Board of Commissioners' approve the Collaborative Partnership Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with the Audubon Great Lakes as recommended by Chief of Natural Resources and Regulatory Compliance Ryan J. Colliton and staff.

Discussion: Chief of Natural Resources and Regulatory Compliance Ryan Colliton updated the Board on the MOU with Audubon Great Lakes and said it was similar to the MOU with the Huron Valley Audubon Society at Lake St. Clair Metropark.

Commissioner McCarthy asked how obtrusive the towers were. Mr. Colliton said the towers can be up to six-feet tall; however, staff tries to be cognizant of height and location.

Commissioner Parker asked if staff received data through this partnership. Mr. Colliton said yes.

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Other Business

None.

11. Staff Leadership Update

Ms. McMillan introduced Janet Vandewinkle, grant writer and recreation programs coordinator for the Metroparks.

Ms. Vandewinkle updated the Board on a new program in partnership with Detroit Public Schools. She said staff is planning physical education field trips for 3,520 Detroit Public School students from 26 schools; the curriculum will focus on paddling sports, hiking and winter sports for fifth graders to high school students during the upcoming school year. Metroparks staff is currently working on identifying sponsors for lunches and that Detroit Public Schools has a grant to cover transportation costs.

Commissioner Parker said hopefully staff can identify sponsors for the lunches.

Commissioner Marans asked why Washtenaw County parks were not on the list. Ms. Vandewinkle said staff was still working out the logistics.

Commissioner Marans suggesting contacting the University of Michigan Detroit Center as they are trying to do similar things on a different level, but there may be an opportunity to do things collaboratively.

Ms. McMillan said it is important to connect with high school kids as potential employees. She said Artina Sadler, chief of diversity, equity and inclusion has been doing surveys with incoming seasonal employees and one of the questions on the survey is "how did you find out about the Metroparks as a place to work." More than half of the of the people that work for the Metroparks find out about jobs at the Metroparks from friends and family. As we discuss diversity in the work place and expanding employment opportunities throughout the region, if we don't see the diversity in the workplace now, having more direct contact with more students and people throughout the region will be helpful for us in the future.

Ms. McMillan thanked staff for all the hard work during the fireworks. She thanked staff that did pre-fireworks tours with her and she said she learned a lot about operations and the golf courses. Ms. McMillan also thanked the Lake Erie Metropark staff members for posting birthday wishes on the sign at the front of the park.

Ms. McMillan said Stony Creek had a really great turnout for fireworks and that the park had to be closed twice because of the number of people coming into the park.

Ms. McMillan addressed the incident that took place at Lake Erie Metropark and said the internal police investigation is currently underway and she will keep everyone in the loop as the investigation proceeds.

For the August meeting, she said there will be a marketing update, additional ideas for logos will be shared, Artina Sadler, chief of diversity, equity and inclusion will be providing the climate survey results and plans for moving forward. Preliminary results from the research survey should also be available for the August meeting.

12. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Rea said during the past four months there have been a series of conversations with a group that negotiates events at Wolcott for an event called The Old Skool Classic. He said it is a large scale cross country/community event that has taken place for approximately the last seven years. Mr. Rea said the event has grown organically over the years and brings approximately 4,500 people to Wolcott for the event. He said through the conversations, there is the opportunity to develop a one-year pilot program for this event (held in September). Right now, there is a hand-shake deal with the group where they will be paying the tolling fee and provide volunteers for the event. Mr. Rea said he would like the Board to give Amy the latitude to work with the group in order to continue the partnership and good will with Ray Township.

Commissioner Quadrozzi asked if the group does collect the tolling fee when they come into the park. Mr. Rea said there have been a number of ways the group has done it.

Commissioner Quadrozzi said she understands it, historically, when people come into the park for this event, they do not pay the tolling fee. Commissioner Rea said that the people that come to the park just for this event historically gave a donation, which the Metroparks did not receive. This year, people that come to the park for this event will pay the tolling fee. Also, the event promoters used to charge by person in each car, this year the flat fee will be \$20 per car for the event. Cars that come into the park that are not attending the event will be able to enter if they have already an annual pass.

Commissioner Quadrozzi asked what we need to do with this group for the one-year agreement. Ms. McMillan said staff has a very defined special events process and this event falls outside of the scope of that process. Staff hopes that by trying a one-year agreement, it will give the group an opportunity to revamp their business model.

Commissioner Heise asked if this was a fundraiser. Commissioner Rea said the proceeds go to the school district.

Ms. McMillan said the special event process will be an agenda item in August to give Board members an idea of how the process works and how it affects revenue in a positive way.

Commissioner Quadrozzi said she doesn't have any objections as long as the group knows this is for one-time and for transparency and a fairness standpoint, all groups should be treated the same.

Commissioner Parker had a question on the fee structure and if one person was in the car it was one price and if several people were in the car it was a different price. Commissioner Rea said collecting the fees was not clear and the amount the Metroparks received was in question. Moving forward there will be an explicit set of rules and regulations for tolling, all volunteers adhere to the protocol the Metroparks have in place and there will be complete transparency.

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Williams that the Board of Commissioners authorize Director McMillan to move forward with a one-year agreement with the Old Skool Classic organizers.

Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Heise said he was attending the Michigan Philharmonic at Kensington on July 13 and hoped to see everyone there.

Commissioner Williams said he heard the new radio commercials and that a friend of his has a daughter that works at Lake St. Clair and really likes working at the park.

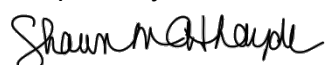
Commissioner Parker would like the financial statements moved to the regular agenda in order to review trends.

13. Motion to Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shawn M. Athayde
Recording Secretary