

**Minutes**  
**Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority**  
**Board of Commissioners**  
**Thursday, March 10, 2022**

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A regular meeting of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Board of Commissioners was held on Thursday, March 10, 2022 at the Administrative Office.

Commissioners Present:

Jaye Quadrozzi  
Robert W. Marans  
John Paul Rea  
Stephen Pontoni  
Bill Bolin  
Bernard Parker  
Tiffany Taylor

Staff Officers Present:

Director                     Amy McMillan  
Deputy Director         Michael Lyons  
Chief of Finance         Shedreka Miller

Others:

Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone         Steve Mann

**1. Call to Order**

Commissioner Quadrozzi called the meeting to order at 1:14 p.m.

**2. Chairperson's Statement**

None.

**3. Public Participation**

None.

**4. Approval – February 10, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners approve the February 10, 2022 regular meeting minutes as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Approval – March 10, 2022 Full Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Taylor, support from Commissioner Bolin that the Board of Commissioners approve the March 10, 2022 full agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

**6. Approval – Feb. 10, 2022 Consent Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Taylor that the Board of Commissioners approve the March 10, 2022 consent agenda amended.

- a. Approval – Director's Employment Agreement Extension
- b. Approval – January / February 2022 Financial Statements
- c. Approval – February 2022 Appropriation Adjustments
- d. Report –Capital Project Fund Update
- e. Report –Major Maintenance Update
- ~~f. Approval/Resolutions – Grant Applications *(moved to regular agenda)*~~
  - ~~1. Delhi Metropark – Launch and Take-Out Improvements (MNTF grant)~~
  - ~~2. Lake St. Clair Metropark – West Boardwalk Improvements (LWCF grant)~~
  - ~~3. Stony Creek Metropark – Reflection Trail Improvements (LWCF grant)~~
  - ~~4. Stony Creek Metropark – Reflection Trail Improvements (MNTF grant)~~
- g. Purchases
  1. Report – Purchases over \$10,000
  2. Total Spend and Vendor Location

3. Beach Sifter, Lake St. Clair
4. Compact Wheel Loader, Lake Erie

Commissioner Marans requested that the approvals/resolutions for the grant applications be moved to the regular agenda.

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

## 7. Reports

### A. Administrative Department

#### 1. Presentation – Detroit Riverfront Conservancy

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Parker that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy report as presented.

Discussion: Ms. McMillan introduced Detroit Riverfront Conservancy President and CEO Mark Wallace and Director of Programming Rachel Frierson and they updated the Board on DRFC activities and programming.

Commissioner Parker said he thought there was an area for swimming in the design for the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park. Mr. Wallace said the feature was taken out of the final design due to technical challenges with the park's location on the Detroit River.

Commissioner Rea thanked Mr. Wallace and the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy for their redevelopment efforts.

Motion carried unanimously

#### 2. Approval – 2022 Major Media Buys

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners approve the major media buys from various vendors as recommended by Chief of Marketing and Communications Danielle Mauter and staff.

Discussion: Chief of Marketing and Communications Danielle Mauter updated the Board on media buys for 2022 and said there are no print buys included in this action item as they were smaller and spread out throughout the year. Social media buys were also not included as they were previously approved.

Commissioner Marans asked about the Nielsen ratings. Ms. Mauter explained how the Nielsen ratings are formulated.

Commissioner Parker reiterated the importance of mental health and nature and asked if there was a way to include how getting outside can help. Ms. Mauter said yes.

Motion carried unanimously.

### B. Departmental Updates

#### 1. Report – 2022 Deer Herd and Ecosystem Management Plan Update

Motion by Commissioner Bolin, support from Commissioner Taylor that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the 2022 Deer herd and Ecosystem Management Plan update as recommended by Chief of Natural Resources and Regulatory Compliance and staff.

Discussion: Chief of Natural Resources and Regulator Compliance Tyler Mitchell, Chief of Marketing and Communications Danielle Mauter and Chief of Interpretive Services Jennifer Jaworski and Lieutenant James Belmonte updated the Board on the 2022 deer herd and ecosystem management. Mr. Mitchell reviewed the overall program and indicated the goal for a healthy herd is 15-20 deer per square land mile as recommended by the Michigan DNR. He also reviewed the 2022 deer population density as well as the program results. Ms. Jaworski reviewed the Interpretive Services and biodata collection components of the plan including deer enclosure vegetation surveys. Ms. Mauter reviewed communication components including a staff fact sheet, letters sent to Metroparks neighbors, monitoring social media and media inquiries. Lt. Belmonte reviewed the security aspects involved with closing the parks for the deer management.

Commissioner Taylor asked why deer management was not conducted at Huron Meadows. Mr. Mitchell said there was not enough time to conduct one this year.

Commissioner Marans said that traditionally there has been resistance to deer culls and asked why there were none this year. Director McMillan said last year staff said they would take a look at best practices. A study was done and shared with the public. This year, dates for the deer management program was not shared with the public because of the serious threats that occurred in the past. Neighbors were notified and everyone received the same message and was directed to website to view the report.

Motion carried unanimously.

## 7. Reports

### B. Departmental Updates

#### 2. Report – Marketing Update

Motion by Commissioner Parker, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners receive and file monthly Marketing update as recommended by Chief of Marketing and Communications Danielle Mauter and staff.

Discussion: Chief of Marketing and Communications Danielle Mauter updated the Board on marketing efforts for the month.

Commissioner Taylor asked if information for summer camps and maple sugaring programs were on the website. Ms. Mauter said yes.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 3. Report – Planning and Development Update

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the Planning and Development Department Monthly update as recommended by Interim Chief of Planning and Development Jay Bibby and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 4. Approval/Resolutions – Grant Applications (*moved from consent agenda*)

##### a. Delhi Metropark – Launch and Take-Out Improvements (MNTF grant)

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Taylor that the Board of Commissioners That the Board of Commissioners approve a resolution to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant program for the Launch and Take-out Renovation project at Delhi Metropark as recommended by Interim Chief of Planning and Development Jay Bibby and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

##### b. Lake St. Clair Metropark – West Boardwalk Improvements (LWCF grant)

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Taylor that the Board of Commissioners approve a resolution for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant program as administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the West Boardwalk project at Lake St. Clair Metropark as recommended by Interim Chief of Planning and Development Jay Bibby and staff

Motion carried unanimously.

##### c. Stony Creek Metropark – Reflection Trail Improvements (LWCF grant)

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners approve approve a resolution for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant program as administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the Reflection Trail project at Stony Creek Metropark as recommended by Interim Chief of Planning and Development Jay Bibby and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

**d. Stony Creek Metropark – Reflection Trail Improvements (MNTF grant)**

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Taylor that the Board of Commissioners approve a resolution for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant program for the Reflection Trail project at Stony Creek Metropark as recommended by Interim Chief of Planning and Development Jay Bibby and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

**7. Reports**

**B. Departmental Updates**

**5. Report – Interpretive Services Update**

Motion by Commissioner Taylor, support from Commissioner Parker that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the monthly Interpretive Services update as recommended by Chief of Interpretive Services Jennifer Jaworski and staff.

*Discussion:* Chief of Interpretive Services Jennifer Jaworski updated the Board highlighting activities that took place in the Interpretive Services department during the month.

Motion carried unanimously.

**6. Report – DEI Update**

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Parker that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the monthly DEI report as recommended by Chief of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Artina Carter and staff.

*Discussion:* Chief of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Artina Carter updated the Board highlighting activities that took place in the DEI department during the month.

Motion carried unanimously.

**C. Financial Department**

**1. Report – Monthly Financial Review**

Motion by Commissioner Bolin, support from Commissioner Pontoni that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the monthly Financial Review as submitted by Chief of Finance Shedreka Miller and staff.

*Discussion:* Chief of Finance Shedreka Miller updated the Board and said overall that revenue was down for February 2022 compared with the same time in 2021. Expenses were .6 percent higher than this time last year.

Commissioner Pontoni said it would be helpful to see a five-year comparison since the 2020 and 2021 numbers are skewed due to the pandemic.

Commissioner Bolin asked what the difference was from 2019. Ms. Miller said a 54 percent difference.

Commissioner Bolin asked if staff was making plans to scale back if attendance goes back to normal. Ms. McMillan said staff is trying not to look too far back since this is the new normal and there is always a little give and take with attendance since it is weather driven.

Motion carried unanimously.

**D. Engineering Department**

**1. Bids – West Branch Accessible Walkway**

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Parker that the Board of Commissioners (1) award contract 509-22-562 to Peak Asphalt, Inc. in the amount of \$52,950; and (2) approve the transfer of \$17,950 from fund balance to cover the cost of the project as recommended by Chief of Engineering Services Mike Henkel and staff.

*Discussion:* Chief of Engineering Services Mike Henkel updated the Board on the project and said improvements for accessibility were identified in the Stony Creek Accessibility Transition Plan for

the West Branch picnic area. The project is a part of an ongoing system wide effort to improve accessibility. The project will provide a connection from the parking lot to the shelter, playground and restroom facility. The project also includes additional parking lot repair work at the location of accessible parking stalls.

Motion carried unanimously.

## 7. Reports

### D. Engineering Department

#### 2. Bids – Oakgrove Dog Off-Leash Fence Installation, Stony Creek

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners (1) award Contract No. 509-20-555-R to the low responsive, responsible bidder, PIBC LLC, in the amount of \$31,056; and (2) authorize a transfer from fund balance to cover the cost of the project as recommended by Chief of Engineering Services Mike Henkel and staff.

*Discussion:* Chief of Engineering Services Mike Henkel updated the Board on the project and said this is a Michigan Natural Trust Fund Grant funded project with \$38,500 earmarked for in kind services by Metroparks staff; the grant was approved at the March 2019 Board meeting. He said the concrete bullpen, water bottle/pet filling station, accessible path from the parking lot, dog waste stations, and pavement markings have been completed. The remaining fence installation was originally slated to be completed by park staff; however, a contractor is needed at this time to complete the fence installation.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 3. Bids – Fishing Pier Reconstruction, Lake St. Clair

Motion by Commissioner Taylor, support from Commissioner Bolin that the Board of Commissioners (1) approve contract 702-21-332 to the low responsive, responsible bidder Warren Contractors & Development, Inc.; and (2) approve a \$169,150 transfer from fund balance to cover the cost of the project as recommended by Chief of Engineering Services Mike Henkel and staff.

*Discussion:* Chief of Engineering Services Mike Henkel updated the Board on the project and said the project is to receive \$125,000 in donated funds and the remaining \$44,150 would be funded from fund balance. He said the project includes shoreline protection and the removal, disposal, and installation of new wood structures and decking for two fishing piers.

Motion carried unanimously.

## 8. Leadership Update

### a. Approval – Swim Program Funding and Sponsorship

Motion by Commissioner Parker, support from Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners approve (1) encumbering \$500,000 from the unassigned fund balance for the next three years for the purpose of making multi-season commitments to support Learn to Swim programs; (2) approve \$50,000 at \$25,000 each to the city of Detroit and the Wayne County Parks from the encumbered funds to support the Swim in the D 2022 program; and (3) approve up to a three-year swim program sponsorship commitment as recommended by Director Amy McMillan and staff.

*Discussion:* Director McMillan updated the Board on swim program initiatives and said she would like to renew the partnership with the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy to sponsor the Swim in the D program at Brennan Pool(s) in Rouge Park at the \$25,000 level (each). This program will serve approximately 500 kids in the summer. Swim lessons will be provided at no cost and children registered in the program will be provided with a swimsuit, swim cap, goggles, t-shirt and backpack. Ms. McMillan said that after being closed for two seasons due to the pandemic, Wayne County Parks will be re-opening Chandler Park aquatic facilities, including adding swim lessons back into the schedule. Although Chandler Park draws visitors from throughout Wayne County and beyond, its location is easily accessible for families living on the east side of the city of Detroit, reducing or eliminating transportation barriers. We request approval for the Metroparks to sponsor this Learn to Swim program at Chandler Park in an amount equal to the partnership with the city of Detroit. Combined, these two sponsorships would serve kids living on both the West Side and the East Side of the city of Detroit.

Ms. McMillan said staff would be bringing partnership agreements to the Board for approval in April with the DNR to fund a swim program at Belle Isle and she has meetings scheduled with Washtenaw and Macomb counties to discuss collaboration for swimming.

Commissioner Marans said the Swim in the D program got off to a rocky start last year and asked if there was going to be an official start date. Ms. McMillan said yes.

Commissioner Parker asked what the advantage was to encumber the \$500,000. Ms. McMillan said its more of an emotional crutch and lets potential partners know the funding is available.

Motion carried unanimously.

## **8. Leadership Update**

### **b. Approval – Juneteenth Celebration Event Partnership with Wayne County Parks**

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Taylor that the Board of Commissioners (1) authorize up to \$35,000 to co-sponsor a 2022 Juneteenth celebration event with Wayne County Parks; and (2) authorize a one-time transfer from the fund balance in an amount up to \$35,000 into account number 10-8-106-700-10.9420 (outside services) for the purposes of funding this partnership as recommended by Director Amy McMillan and staff.

*Discussion:* Ms. McMillan said the Metroparks were not in a position to plan an event in 2021 due to the timing of when the Juneteenth was made a federal holiday. This year, discussions were held on whether or not the Metroparks should hold its own event or partner with another organization. This year the Metroparks are partnering with Wayne County Parks and holding the event at Hines Park on June 18 since Father's Day is June 19.

Commissioner Bolin asked if there were plans to expand the events to all the parks. Ms. McMillan said not this year.

Commissioner Pontoni asked if we could offer an incentive to bring people to the parks such as free admission. Ms. McMillan said it could be done on a Monday, but not a Saturday or Sunday.

Motion carried unanimously.

## **9. Other Business**

Ms. McMillan thanked staff that took part in the deer management program and everyone that worked on the grant application process.

## **10. Public Participation**

None.

## **11. Commissioner Comments**

None.

## **12. Motion to Adjourn**

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shawn M. Athayde  
Recording Secretary