

Regular Board Meeting – May 31, 2017

RESOLUTION SUMMARY

Resolution	Description	Byers	Doneghy	Savage	
Resolution No. 41-17	Contract Increase Approval, Metroparks Belt House Site Improvements, 5602 Swan Creek Drive, Toledo, Ohio 43614	Motioned		2 nd	Approved
Resolution No. 42-17	Authorization to request funding through the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (“TMACOG”) for Ohio Statewide Urban Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (“CMAQ”) Project - Riverside East	Motioned		2 nd	Approved
Resolution No. 43-17	Authorization to request funding through the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (“TMACOG”) for Ohio Statewide Urban Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (“CMAQ”) Project - Swan Creek	Motioned		2 nd	Approved
Resolution No. 44-17	Authorization to request funding through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, for “Rod and Reel” Grant	Motioned		2 nd	Approved
Resolution No. 45-17	Ratification of Schedule of Payables	Motioned		2 nd	Approved
Resolution No. 46-17	Request Approval of Amendment of the 2017 Certificate of Estimated Resources and Appropriations Measure	Motioned		2 nd	Approved

The mission of Metroparks of the Toledo Area is to conserve the region's natural resources by creating, developing, improving, protecting, and promoting clean, safe, and natural parks and open spaces for the benefit, enjoyment, education, and general welfare of the public.



Board Minutes

METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF THE TOLEDO AREA

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2017, 8:30 A.M.

SECOR ROOM – SECOR METROPARK

Commissioners Present:

Scott Savage, President
Fritz Byers, Vice President

Not in attendance: Lera Doneghy, Vice President

David D. Zenk, Executive Director
David Smigelski, Legal Counsel

Staff present: Matt Cleland, Jill Molnar, Scott Carpenter, Sherri Romanski, Emily Ziegler, Tim Schetter, Jon Zvanovec, Trish Hausknecht, Allen Gallant, Felica Clark, and approximately 30 additional staff members attending in support of retiring Ranger Tom Shumaker, who was recognized by the Board of Park Commissioners

1. NON-RESOLUTION BOARD ITEMS

President Scott Savage called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

Mr. Savage led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Savage presented a Metroparks Toledo plaque to retiring ranger Tom Shumaker.

2. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Fritz Byers made a motion for approval of the consent agenda, as well as the disposition of the minutes for the regular Board meeting held on April 26, 2017. This motion was seconded by Mr. Scott Savage and approved.

3. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS FROM DIRECTOR AND EMPLOYEES OF THE DISTRICT FOR BOARD REVIEW

Mrs. Jenny Goldberg and Mrs. Heather Gallant, Aly Sterling Philanthropy– Metroparks Toledo Foundation Report

Mrs. Goldberg reviewed the process that Aly Sterling Philanthropy utilized to begin the development of Metroparks Toledo Foundation, as well as Metroparks' Board.

Numerous themes emerged from Aly Sterling Philanthropy's fact-finding, which included interviewing 32 stakeholders one-on-one. These themes included how receptive stakeholders are to Metroparks as a whole, but

also how important Metroparks is to overall mental health and well-being. Additionally, it is apparent that Metroparks needs to be clear with how it spends taxpayer monies and private donation monies.

Mr. Byers thanked Mrs. Goldberg and Mrs. Gallant for their hard work on the report. He stated that this is a high-level report, that it is an extraordinary piece of work, and that it meets the aspects of Metroparks' mission and vision. Mr. Byers said that he spent a good deal of time reviewing the report and that the range of questions and the range of thoughtfulness were overwhelming. Even in the areas where Metroparks could do better, *e.g.*, communicating and reaching out more into the community, the report has outlined ways to make those improvements. Mr. Byers stated that all of this good will in the community, and Metroparks' lack of fundraising in the past, provides the Metroparks Toledo Foundation with a very clear roadmap for success.

Mr. Byers believes Metroparks has one or two priorities moving forward. He recognized that Metroparks is not simply seeking an early fundraising win to establish success and inquired how Metroparks can prioritize its efforts while staying connected with donors by knowing their interests. He asked how Aly's group interprets this process.

Mrs. Goldberg responded that when the Metroparks Toledo Foundation starts to formally meet with past donors, it will hear what their interests and inclinations are, and that will guide the Foundation's prioritization. Donors in this community are savvy and look upon the organization to define what its projects should be. It is a balancing act. The organizations that identify "here is a priority now" have a much better approach than those asking "what are your interests."

Mr. Byers also stated that, while this may be an invitation for later discussion, many items resonated with him, and the opportunity to engage with the philanthropic community is exciting for him. Metroparks' approach is slightly unusual in that it will be engaging donors who are also currently paying taxes, particularly now moving into a levy year. Often Mr. Byers hears that Metroparks needs to stay out of the fundraising space, because it receives taxpayer monies. Mr. Byers would like to observe, as Metroparks moves toward the levy, what Metroparks' message is and to be clear and congruent throughout this process. He will value Aly Sterling Philanthropy's guidance during this time. Mrs. Goldberg responded that ultimately the key is communication and honoring those who only want to donate via their tax dollars. Mrs. Gallant noted that there are other local organizations in Metroparks' situation engaging in fundraising at the same time they are collecting tax dollars (*e.g.*, the Toledo Lucas County Public Library and the Toledo Zoo & Aquarium).

Mr. Savage asked if any of Metroparks' staff would like to add to this. Mrs. Felicia Clark said it was an eye-opening experience going through this process. Mrs. Trish Hausknecht said that it is key that all staff members have aided in the development of the Foundation. Mr. Savage agreed that it is reflective of what the staff has accomplished, and now Metroparks needs to harness this information and begin leveraging it. Mr. Savage said that Metroparks is beginning the creation of the Foundation board by putting together a list of effective community leaders to grow the fundraising process.

Mr. Savage inquired whether there are examples of other park districts that have been successful over time with similar fundraising. Mrs. Goldberg responded that, in Aly Sterling Philanthropy's research, there are not many park systems with a strong fundraising program, but it is starting to become more common. She said that the Metroparks Toledo Foundation has an opportunity to be the benchmark. Mr. Zenk said that Johnny Appleseed Metropark in Lima, Ohio, is fundraising over \$1M annually.

Mr. Zenk indicated that this plan is leveraging all aspects of Metroparks' planning. Metroparks' goal is to take individuals' involvement, for example, from attending a program, to volunteering, to becoming a donor, to becoming a Legacy donor. As Metroparks' staff is hearing about these plans, more and more staff members are becoming engaged.

In Mr. Savage's experience, the organizations successful in fundraising are the ones that are fully engaged.

A. Sherri Romanski, Comptroller – Treasurer's Report

General fund report – expenses far exceed revenue for the month of April, but year-to-date Metroparks is on target. Local governmental funding has been trending lower, as it did last year, and it is not certain if this

will square up by the end of the year. This year is a state budget year, so the exact allocation is not known at this time. More information should be available by Metroparks' July board meeting. Utilities are still running high but will hopefully be close to budget by the end of the year. Mr. Byers commented how wonderful the format is on this report.

All fund report – everything is in line with more activity expected in the coming months for seasonal items, such as programming.

Fund advances report – no changes.

Outstanding debt report – nothing to report, last payment was made in May.

Investment ledger: two new CDs were purchased with the proceeds from the sale of one CD and cash in the money market account.

Then and now report – only one item needs board certification.

4. BOARD APPROVAL OF CONTRACTS, DEEDS, AGREEMENTS, ETC.

- A. Mr. Byers offered and moved for adoption of the following resolution, with a second by Mr. Savage:

Resolution No. 41-17 – Contract Increase Approval, Metroparks Belt House Site Improvements, 5602 Swan Creek Drive, Toledo, Ohio 43614

Mr. Jon Zvanovec has requested an increase to cover the costs of the water lines. Metroparks has not exceeded the ten percent (10%) contingency and may not even need it, so this is precautionary. Mr. Byers asked if this was unknown and discovered with the under cuts. Mr. Zvanovec responded that was correct.

After discussion and upon unanimous vote the resolution was declared duly adopted and recorded in the appendix to these minutes.

- B. Mr. Byers offered and moved for adoption of the following resolution, with a second by Mr. Savage:

Resolution No. 42-17 – Authorization to request funding through the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (“TMACOG”) for Ohio Statewide Urban Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (“CMAQ”) Project - Riverside East

Mr. Allen Gallant stated that this is the first time Metroparks has sought this sort of grant. The project is \$1.2M, and Metroparks is requesting seventy-nine percent (79%), noting that this project has been on the watch list.

Mr. Byers asked for clarification that these are federal dollars applied through the State. Mr. Gallant reported that yes, TMACOG distributes the funds, and that they are already allocated and will not have to go through any additional application process.

Mr. Zenk asked when the funds would be available. Mr. Gallant reported that funding would be available in 2020.

Mr. Savage inquired as to the requirements regarding the match. Mr. Gallant responded that there is a twenty percent (20%) requirement; however, Metroparks chose to go with a twenty-one percent (21%) match to earn additional points in the scoring process.

After discussion and upon unanimous vote the resolution was declared duly adopted and recorded in the appendix to these minutes.

- C. Mr. Byers offered and moved for adoption of the following resolution, with a second by Mr. Savage:

Resolution No. 43-17 – Authorization to request funding through the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (“TMACOG”) for Ohio Statewide Urban Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (“CMAQ”) Project - Swan Creek

Mr. Gallant reported that this is very similar to the previous resolution. He went on to report that this is a little over a mile of trail, and the goal is to take pedestrian traffic off of the roadways and improve connectivity.

After discussion and upon unanimous vote the resolution was declared duly adopted and recorded in the appendix to these minutes.

- D. Mr. Byers offered and moved for adoption of the following resolution, with a second by Mr. Savage:

Resolution No. 44-17 – Authorization to request funding through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (“ODNR”), Division of Wildlife, for “Rod and Reel” Grant

Mr. Gallant reported that Metroparks plans to purchase 128 fishing poles for Connection Camps at Pearson. Once purchased, these items will be Metroparks’ property and will be used in the future.

After discussion and upon unanimous vote the resolution was declared duly adopted and recorded in the appendix to these minutes.

- E. Mr. Byers offered and moved for adoption of the following resolution, with a second by Mr. Savage:

Resolution No. 45-17 – Ratification of Schedule of Payables

After discussion and upon unanimous vote the resolution was declared duly adopted and recorded in the appendix to these minutes.

- F. Mr. Byers offered and moved for adoption of the following resolution, with a second by Mr. Savage:

Resolution No. 46-17 – Request Approval of Amendment of the 2017 Certificate of Estimated Resources and Appropriations Measure

Mr. Cleland reported this is to obtain authority to make the budget available for the monies received from a grant Mr. Joseph Fausnaugh received.

After discussion and upon unanimous vote the resolution was declared duly adopted and recorded in the appendix to these minutes.

5. BOARD INITIATED TOPICS AND DISCUSSION

A Lucas County Citizen, Tonda, addressed the Board of Park Commissioners regarding concerns along the new trail by Glendale (Chessie Circle Trail). She provided background information regarding issues with construction that she states began in November 2016, and said she had several other questions for the Board. Mr. Savage inquired as to the best way to answer these questions. She asked if they could be answered via e-mail. Metroparks will respond to Tonda’s request.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:54 a.m., President Scott Savage made a motion to recess into executive session to consider the items that qualify for consideration in executive session. Mr. Zenk stated that the purpose of the executive session was to discuss the purchase of property and pending or imminent court action pursuant to Ohio R.C. §121.22(G)(2) and (3). Mr. Savage asked if there was any discussion and reported, under Ohio R.C. §121.22, that a roll call vote on this motion is necessary. Ms. Jill Molnar conducted a roll call vote of the commissioners.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Byers – Yes

Mr. Savage – Yes

Ms. Jill Molnar reported, upon roll call vote, that the motion passed, and the Board recessed into executive session.

With no action taken, the Board adjourned executive session at 11:02 a.m.

Mr. Byers made a motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 11:03 a.m., which was seconded by Mr. Savage and approved.

Scott Savage, President

Attest: _____
David D. Zenk, Executive Director

DDZ/kjm
5/31/2017