

Regular Board Meeting – November 18, 2020

Resolution Summary

Resolution	Description	Byers	Dalton	Doneghy	Luetke	Savage	
Resolution No. 67-20	Addition of New Capital Project Funds		2 nd		Motioned		Approved
Resolution No. 68-20	2021 Certificate of Estimated Resources		Motioned	2 nd			Approved
Resolution No. 69-20	2021 Annual Appropriation Measure			Motioned	2 nd		Approved
Resolution No. 70-20	Ratification of Schedule of Payables		2 nd		Motioned		Approved
Resolution No. 71-20	Authorization for Professional Services for Glass City Metropark and Riverwalk Development Support with Community Counselling Service Co., LLC		2 nd		Motioned		Approved
Resolution No. 72-20	Authorization to Request Funding through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Coastal Management Assistance Program		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, NOVEMBER 18, 2020, 8:30 A.M.
GLASS CITY PAVILION – GLASS CITY METROPARK

Commissioners Present:

Scott Savage, President
Fritz Byers, Vice President (attended by phone)
Lera Doneghy, Vice President
Molly Luetke, Officer
Kevin Dalton, Officer

Dave Zenk, Executive Director

Staff Present: Matt Cleland, Jill Molnar, Emily Ziegler, Joe Fausnaugh, Matt Killam, Scott Carpenter, Carrie Alexander, Allen Gallant, Jon Zvanovec, Trish Hausknecht

1. NON-RESOLUTION BOARD ITEMS

President Scott Savage called the meeting to order at 8:41 a.m.

Mr. Savage led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Savage proposed a revision to the consent agenda to add volunteer recognition as the first item. Ms. Lera Doneghy made a motion to approve the revised consent agenda and for the disposition of the minutes for the regular Board meeting held on October 21, 2020. This motion was seconded by Ms. Molly Luetke and approved.

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

Mr. Savage discussed Metroparks’ Vision Statement that was defined a few years ago, including that Metroparks Toledo will be known nationally as one of the country’s premiere park systems, and recognized as a centerpiece of the region’s appeal as a place to live, work, and visit. Mr. Savage said Metroparks has achieved that vision, and recognized the passage of the levy, the City of Toledo’s help, Mr. Allen Gallant’s assistance in obtaining funding, and Ms. Ally Effler’s work in raising corporate funding for the Riverwalk, as part of the valuable work assisting Metroparks’ efforts in implementing and accomplishing its vision. Mr. Savage also recognized Metroparks Toledo’s receipt of the 2020 Gold Medal Grand Plaque Award for Excellence in Parks and Recreation from the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (“AAPRA”) in partnership with the National Recreation and Park

Association (“NRPA”). Mr. Savage congratulated everyone involved in achieving this vision, including all of the ministries, Metroparks’ employees, the Metroparks Toledo Foundation, partners, volunteers, and every single visitor to the park district. He said he has never been a part of an organization that has achieved this type of vision, and said it is a great time to be a part of Metroparks Toledo, and he is very proud of everyone involved.

A. Presentation of the AAPRA Gold Medal Grand Plaque

Karen L. Hesser, CPRP, Chief of Operations - Five Rivers MetroParks
Mr. Brandon Grunder – Representative from Musco Lighting

B. Board Initiative Discussion – Scott Savage, Board President

Mr. Savage provided an update on Metroparks Toledo’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (“DEI”) process. He discussed Metroparks Toledo’s call to community responsibility and transparency. He said Metroparks Toledo has been intentional about diversity and inclusion over the past 20 years, and while Metroparks Toledo has accomplished quite a bit, it is important to take stock of past efforts and find ways to improve. Mr. Savage said Metroparks Toledo has an opportunity in the community to be a leader with DEI. Mr. Savage said he has asked Ms. Doneghy and Ms. Luetke to take the lead in this initiative.

Ms. Doneghy further discussed the DEI process, and began with the question “Why we are doing this?” She said DEI is a topic worth the Board’s attention first because it is the right thing to do. Ms. Doneghy stated that it is Metroparks Toledo’s responsibility to serve all residents of Lucas County. She said that, secondly, as Mr. Savage alluded, DEI is also important from a business standpoint. She said Metroparks Toledo is looking inward to make sure it is doing what is best for residents as well as park district employees and visitors. Ms. Doneghy said these efforts are essential for the park district’s success.

Ms. Luetke said they will provide additional information that will set a DEI process in motion, but she wanted to begin the discussion by offering further explanation. She said diversity means that Metroparks Toledo as an organization recognizes and represents everyone’s varied identities and differences. This includes regarding race, ethnicity, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status as well as diversity in the way individuals think and communicate. She noted that all persons are unique, and as an organization, Metroparks Toledo should use best efforts to engage, understand, and draw on a variety of perspectives. Ms. Luetke further observed that equity seeks to ensure fair treatment, equality of opportunity, and fairness so everyone has access to the places Metroparks Toledo operates and the services it provides. She said that inclusion is the goal, as it builds a culture of belonging by actively inviting the contributions and participation of all people. Ms. Luetke said this process is about exploring where Metroparks Toledo is today, and how to reach where the park district wants to go.

Ms. Luetke discussed that 2020 has been an interesting year, with a goal being to come together to look at areas that have effected Metroparks Toledo’ community. She expressed how proud she is of what Metroparks Toledo has accomplished, but believes the park district can become more intentional in the DEI space, including further addressing how staff and community members feel in the DEI space. Ms. Luetke discussed potentially forming a DEI team representative in all areas of Metroparks Toledo. She said the DEI process will also include reviewing Board Policies and Procedures, hiring practices, and programming to include more DEI opportunities; provide additional training for staff to offer suggestions regarding biases; and pledging interest in assisting minority owned businesses. Ms. Luetke said Metroparks Toledo will be working with some outside partners to help guide the park district through this process. This will include capturing data and bringing in stakeholders to assist in defining measures to ensure that this process is successful. She said DEI should be embedded in everything Metroparks Toledo does, every decision that is made, every program, and every good or service, to encourage diversity and inclusion in all opportunities to the extent possible. She said the park district is eager to accomplish this work with the first goal to provide a further update in the first quarter of 2021.

Mr. Dave Zenk stated that he appreciates all of the work from the Board of Park Commissioners and compares this to the work Metroparks Toledo has accomplished with the Ability Center. He said Metroparks has asked Mr. Allan Gallant and Ms. Felica Clark to work on this initiative from the staff perspective.

Mr. Savage stated that Metroparks is always striving to do better and be better and will do this in a way that is Metroparks Toledo worthy.

C. Matt Cleland, Deputy Director & Treasurer – Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Cleland reported that the report is similar to that of recent months for 2020. Earned revenues continue to be down due to COVID, but for the most part everything else is as expected. Even with reduced earned revenue, he said he still expects Metroparks Toledo to finish the year within its budget.

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

A. Ms. Luetke offered and moved for adoption of the following resolution, with a second by Mr. Dalton:

Resolution No. 67-20 – Addition of New Capital Project Funds

Mr. Cleland said the addition of new capital project funds is a function of the new 2021 budget. Addition of these funds requires the Board of Park Commissioners’ approval and the State Auditor’s approval. Metroparks Toledo will introduce two new funds: (1) Fund 403 for the Cannaley Treehouse Village will receive \$45,000.00 per year for Capital maintenance and improvement of the Treehouse Village in future years to ensure sustainability of the Village; (2) Fund 404 will constitute the Glass City Riverwalk fund. The park district is tracking the Glass City Riverwalk fund separately from other Metroparks Toledo capital projects because of the sheer complexity and volume of the project, which will include approximately \$150 Million in expenditures over the next ten (10) years.

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

B. Mr. Dalton offered and moved for adoption of the following resolution, with a second by Ms. Doneghy:

Resolution No. 68-20 – 2021 Certificate of Estimated Resources

Mr. Cleland reported that this is the document for the County Auditor’s office and the Budget Commission. Estimated resources are certified, and the budget then must fall within those resources. Expenditures must then fall within the budget. He said Metroparks Toledo does this with every annual budget, and it is adjusted as needed throughout the year with supplementing and amending appropriation measures. Mr. Savage noted that Metroparks Toledo is currently in the range of approximately \$60 Million in estimated resources, which has grown significantly since he started on the Board of Park Commissioners. He said that is a reflection of all the great work Metroparks Toledo has accomplished.

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

C. Ms. Doneghy offered and moved for adoption of the following resolution, with a second by Ms. Luetke:

Resolution No. 69-20 – 2021 Annual Appropriation Measure

Mr. Cleland stated that this is the budget for 2021. The link to the budget document is now on online software

that will be posted on the Metroparks Toledo website, so anyone can access this document. Historically, Metroparks Toledo has received the Government Finance Officers Association (“GFOA”) Distinguished Budget Award, and this budget will be submitted for consideration as well. This budget tool allows for easier access and greater transparency. This budget includes an 85% increase in revenue and 3.44% increase in expenditures. An increase in transfers for capital projects makes use of the significant revenue increase, with transfers up 214% over 2020. Included in this budget is an increase of seven (7) staff positions for 2021.

Mr. Savage responded that this is very detailed and transparent, and if anyone wants to see how Metroparks Toledo is spending money, it is all there. He said it gives him great confidence in the team’s ability to forecast these monies and is a very impressive document.

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

- D. Ms. Luetke offered and moved for adoption of the following resolution, with a second by Mr. Dalton:

Resolution No. 70-20 – 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.

- E. Ms. Luetke offered and moved for adoption of the following resolution, with a second by Mr. Dalton:

Resolution No. 71-20 – Authorization for Professional Services for Glass City Metropark and Riverwalk Development Support with Community Counselling Service Co., LLC

Ms. Ally Effler reported that with the passage of the levy and in the space of fundraising, Metroparks Toledo is looking to partner with a nationally well-known entity that has experience in the park fundraising space. Mr. Savage stated he anticipates that this entity will provide assistance in the best way to leverage the community’s dollars.

Ms. Luetke asked that a small amendment be made to include “subject to legal review”.

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

- F. Mr. Dalton offered and moved for adoption of the following resolution, with a second by Ms. Doneghy:

Resolution No. 72-20 – Authorization to Request Funding through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Coastal Management Assistance Program

Mr. Gallant reported that Metroparks Toledo has been successful in this area of funding and is proposing a storm water project. Mr. Savage inquired as to when the park district would hear a response, and Mr. Gallant stated within the first quarter of 2021.

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 DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Savage acknowledged correspondence from Mr. Fritz Byers because Mr. Byers was unable to attend the Board meeting in person:

“I’d like to take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate a truly momentous event in our region.

Preservation and conservation stand at the center of our mission. And our Great Lake Erie is the centerpiece of our region’s remarkable natural splendor.

Earlier this month, the Great Lakes Protection Fund honored The Blade’s Tom Henry with its 2020 Great Lakes Leadership Award for Communication Excellence.

In its statement, the GLPF noted that Tom has covered Great Lakes issues full-time longer than anyone else.

That’s true, of course, but it fails to note that he has done so, for all those years, with integrity, fairness, accuracy, diligence, commitment, and a deep knowledge of the natural world.

The result is that our community has, for decades, been thoroughly and well-informed about the wide range of values Lake Erie and its environs hold for our region, the many threats the Lake faces, and the wide range of people who are dedicating their efforts to trying to recover the Lake for ourselves and for generations to come.

We are lucky to have Tom in our community. And we are lucky to be served by a newspaper that, in a rapidly and in many ways disastrously changing media landscape, continues to understand the importance of full-time environmental coverage.

Tom, on behalf of the Metroparks Board and the entire staff of the park system, our community, the countless people in our region who celebrate our natural world, and indeed on behalf of the natural world itself, which you have served so well for so long, our deepest thanks and congratulations.”

With no further business or action to be taken, Ms. Doneghy made a motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 9:26 a.m., which was seconded by Ms. Luetke and approved.



Scott Savage, President



Attest: _____
Dave Zenk, Executive Director

DDZ/kjm
11/18/20