

REGULAR MEETING**October 19, 2023**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of Great Parks of Hamilton County was held on this day, 3:00 p.m., at 10245 Winton Road, Cincinnati, OH 45231.

Board President Caren Laverty opened the meeting and led the Board, staff, and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Present were Commissioners: Laverty, Abrams, Burwinkel, Thompson, Wegman
Staff: Palmeter, Henninger, Collins, Carleton, de Jesus, Doellman, Messerschmitt, Rahe, Snow, Zelek, Busofsky, Lampert, Melvin, Sonnenberg, Ference
Guests: Susan Luken

GENERAL

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS: No one requested to address the Board.
2. AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS: No awards or recognitions were presented to the Board.
3. NEXT BOARD MEETING DATES:

Thursday	November 16, 2023	2:00 p.m.	Winton Centre*
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Thursday	December 14, 2023	1:00 p.m.	Winton Centre
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*The November 16, 2023, meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. to accommodate the National Philanthropy Day luncheon.

ACTION

4. RESOLUTION #3779 – BILLS & PAYROLL RESOLUTION: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter presented the Bills & Payroll Resolution to the Board. The Board submitted one payment item for review: Tri-State Trails for the Mill Creek Triangle Feasibility Study. The staff led a thorough discussion, providing clarifying information on the scope of the payment item. Upon motion duly made by Abrams, seconded by Burwinkel, the Board approved the Bills & Payroll Resolution. The Roll Call vote was as follows: Mr. Abrams – Aye, Mr. Burwinkel – Aye, Ms. Laverty – Aye, Mr. Thompson – Aye, Ms. Wegman – Aye.
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Upon motion duly made by Burwinkel, seconded by Thompson, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Final Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 21, 2023.

6. BID TAB – FORESTRY MULCHING: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter and Chief of Conservation & Parks Jason Rahe presented the bid to the Board. The staff led a thorough discussion, providing clarifying information on the purpose of forestry mulching, honeysuckle remediation, reuse of woody material, and dialogue about the use of contractors or staff for this service. Upon motion duly made by Thompson, seconded by Wegman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the bids in the amount of \$65,123.10 to Williams Creek Management and \$25,747.68 to Opterra Solutions for Forestry Mulching.
7. BID TAB – SHARON WOODS GOLF COURSE IRRIGATION SYSTEM REPLACEMENT PHASE 3: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter presented the bid to the Board. Upon motion duly made by Abrams, seconded by Wegman, and unanimously carried, the Board awarded a contract in the amount of \$2,449,211.82 to George E. Ley Company for the Sharon Woods Golf Course Irrigation System Replacement Phase 3 project.
8. PROFESSIONAL DESIGN SERVICES CONTRACT – SHARON WOODS HARBOR REVITALIZATION: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter presented the professional design services contract to the Board. Upon motion duly made by Wegman, seconded by Abrams, and unanimously carried, the Board awarded a professional design services contract in the amount of \$777,600.00 to emersion DESIGN LLC for the Sharon Woods Harbor Revitalization project.
9. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT – WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter presented the professional services contract to the Board. The staff led a thorough discussion, providing clarifying information on the number of program participants and labor and vehicle leasing expenses. Upon motion duly made by Wegman, seconded by Thompson, and unanimously carried, the Board awarded a professional services contract in the amount of \$54,000.00 to Groundwork Ohio River Valley for workforce development services.

MONITORING REPORTS

10. FINANCIAL CONDITION & ACTIVITIES: Chief Financial Officer Andrew Collins presented the Financial Condition & Activities report to the Board. The staff led a thorough discussion, providing clarifying information on subfunds, earned revenue, and investment holdings. Ms. Laverty commented on the revenue from Adventure Outpost and Athletics departments. After a thorough discussion, the Board determined the report to be reasonable and acceptable. The Board then ordered the report filed for the record.

11. COMPENSATION & BENEFITS: Chief of Human Resources Molly deJesus presented the Compensation & Benefits report to the Board. Ms. Wegman commented on the cost of living, inflation, and regional nature of the data. After a thorough discussion, the Board determined the report to be reasonable and acceptable. The Board then ordered the report filed for the record.

GENERAL REPORTS

12. PHILANTHROPY DIVISION REPORT: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter and Chief of Philanthropy Tom Carleton presented the Philanthropy Division report to the Board. Mr. Thompson inquired about the Rootball sponsorship goals and asked for the final Rootball fundraising numbers. Mr. Burwinkel inquired about the capital campaign goals. Ms. Lavery liked the new quarterly report strategy and asked that future reports include the amount pledged to the campaign. After a thorough discussion, the Board determined the report to be reasonable and acceptable. The Board then ordered the report filed for the record.
13. PURCHASING CARD COMPLIANCE OFFICER: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter presented the Purchasing Card Compliance Officer report to the Board, reporting compliance. The Board ordered the report filed for the record.
14. BOARD TOUR DISCUSSION:

Ms. Lavery said it was a fantastic tour and acknowledged how important it is to see Board meeting actions in person. She enjoyed the wildlife identification and would be interested in viewing a prescribed burn. Ms. Lavery was very impressed with the knowledge and dedication of the staff and the diversity of sites visited, including Werk Road and Fernbank. Ms. Lavery thanked everyone involved in the planning and execution of the Board Tour.

Ms. Wegman said that her first tour was amazing. She found the diversity of equipment and its maintenance impressive. Ms. Wegman commented that the staff was very engaged and passionate. Ms. Wegman said she has learned much in her short time on the board, and kudos to everyone.

Mr. Thompson thanked the staff for all their hard work – it's remarkable but not unusual. Mr Thompson said he enjoyed seeing the fleet and equipment and how it's used and was happy to see that the staff is well equipped and has the tools to succeed.

Mr. Burwinkel thanked the team for educating the Board, which helps the Commissioners spread the word about all the amazing things Great Parks offers. He said the staff are professional and knowledgeable. Mr. Burwinkel appreciated seeing all the guests, including Ms. Luken, who attended from the Probate Court and expressed his appreciation for Judge Winkler. He was also glad to see so many community influencers in attendance on the tour.

Mr. Abrams was thankful to the staff for their effort to pull together all the equipment for display. He discussed the ATV and its importance for law enforcement patrolling difficult terrain. Mr. Abrams was glad to see some of the equipment purchases the Board has approved in past meetings.

Ms. Wegman commented on her discussion with staff about engaging elementary students on the Werk Road property. She was excited about the new brand and park and all the symbolism the Great Parks acorn logo embodies in opening this new park.

All Board members thanked the staff for their hard work planning and executing the tour.

Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter thanked the Board for the opportunity to showcase some Great Parks amenities, programs, and conservation projects. He also thanked the staff for preparing the interactive stops, presentations, and lunch.

The Board ordered the report filed for the record.

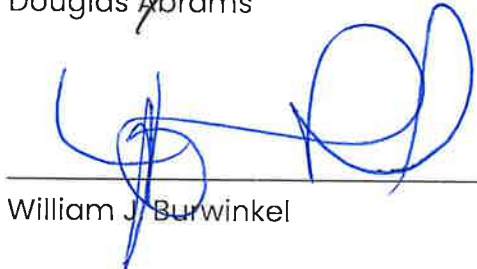
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further matters to come before the Board, a motion was made by Wegman, seconded by Abrams, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Board of Park Commissioners
Great Parks of Hamilton County


Caren Laverty, President


Douglas Abrams


William J. Burwinkel

Absent

Marcus Thompson


Melissa Wegman

ATTEST:


Todd Palmeter, Chief Executive Officer