

REGULAR MEETING**October 17, 2024**

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 Melissa Wegman opened the meeting and led the Board and staff in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Present were Commissioners: Wegman, Lavery, Schuster, Thompson
Staff: Palmeto, Henninger, Collins, Carleton, Broughton Murray, deJesus, Doellman, Messerschmitt, Rahe, Snow, Lanz, Bell, Bird, Hake, Hodapp, Baggett, Helmes, Creighton, Melvin, Anklan, Ference

GENERAL

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS: No one requested to address the Board.
2. NEXT BOARD MEETING DATES:

Thursday	November 21, 2024	1:00 p.m.	Winton Centre
Thursday	December 19, 2024	1:00 p.m.	Winton Centre

ACTION

3. RESOLUTION #3814 – BILLS & PAYROLL RESOLUTION: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeto presented the Bills & Payroll Resolution to the Board. Upon motion duly made by Lavery, seconded by Schuster, the Board approved the Bills & Payroll Resolution. The Roll Call vote was as follows: Ms. Lavery – Aye, Ms. Wegman – Aye, Mr. Schuster – Aye, Mr. Thompson – Aye.
4. RESOLUTION # 3815 – OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PRELIMINARY LEGISLATION FOR GLENWOOD GARDENS TO WINTON WOODS SHARED USE TRAIL: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeto presented the Resolution to the Board. Upon motion duly made by Lavery, seconded by Thompson, the Board authorized the CEO and his designees to execute the required documents to participate with ODOT in the construction of a shared-use trail connecting the Winton Woods trail network to Carlsbad Road, Springfield Pike, and the West Fork Mill Creek Greenway at Glenwood Gardens. The Roll Call vote was as follows: Ms. Wegman – Aye, Mr. Schuster – Aye, Mr. Thompson – Aye, Ms. Lavery – Aye.

5. RESOLUTION #3816 – RESOLUTION TO DISCONTINUE OFFERING THE PROGRAM OF DEFERRED COMPENSATION PROVIDED BY THE OHIO COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT PLAN (OCERP) (FORMERLY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF OHIO (CCAO) DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter presented the Resolution to the Board. Ms. Lavery commented on how deferred compensation funds can be disbursed to staff at retirement. The staff led a thorough discussion, providing clarifying information on the resolution. Upon motion duly made by Thompson, seconded by Lavery, the Board approved the resolution to discontinue offering the program of Deferred Compensation provided by the Ohio County Employees Retirement Plan (OCERP), formerly the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO). The Roll Call vote was as follows: Mr. Schuster – Aye, Mr. Thompson – Aye, Ms. Lavery – Aye, Ms. Wegman – Aye.
6. RESOLUTION #3817 – RESOLUTION REPEALING RESOLUTION # 1629 ENACTED ON OCTOBER 18, 1990 TO ADOPT THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF OHIO MODEL SECTION 125 CAFETERIA /FLEXIBLE BENEFIT PROGRAM: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter presented the Resolution to the Board. Upon motion duly made by Schuster, seconded by Lavery, the Board approved the resolution repealing Resolution #1629 enacted on October 18, 1990 to adopt the County Commissioners Association of Ohio Model Section 125 Cafeteria/Flexible Benefit Program. The Roll Call vote was as follows: Mr. Thompson – Aye, Ms. Lavery – Aye, Ms. Wegman – Aye, Mr. Schuster – Aye.
7. RESOLUTION #3818 – RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE EQUITABLE DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN AS AN INVESTMENT OPTION FOR GREAT PARKS EMPLOYEES: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter presented the Resolution to the Board. Upon motion duly made by Thompson, seconded by Wegman, the Board approved the resolution to adopt the Equitable Deferred Compensation Plan as an investment option for Great Parks employees. The Roll Call vote was as follows: Ms. Lavery – Aye, Ms. Wegman – Aye, Mr. Schuster – Aye, Mr. Thompson – Aye.
8. RESOLUTION #3819 – BUDGET ADJUSTMENT: Chief Financial Officer Andrew Collins presented the Budget Adjustment Resolution to the Board. Upon motion duly made by Lavery, seconded by Wegman, the Board approved the budget adjustment as presented in the resolution. The Roll Call vote was as follows: Ms. Wegman – Aye, Mr. Schuster – Aye, Mr. Thompson – Aye, Ms. Lavery – Aye.
9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Upon motion duly made by Schuster, seconded by Lavery, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Final Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 19, 2024. Mr. Thompson abstained from voting on this motion.

10. BID TAB – BASS ISLAND LITTLE MIAMI RIVER ACCESS TREE CLEARING: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmetter presented the bid to the Board. Upon motion duly made by Lavery, seconded by Thompson, and unanimously carried, the Board awarded a contract in the amount of \$147,997 to Russell Tree Experts Ltd. for the Bass Island Little Miami River Access Tree Clearing.
11. BID TAB – WINTON WOODS CAMPGROUND EXPANSION: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmetter and Landscape Architect Ed Melvin presented the bid to the Board. Ms. Lavery and Mr. Schuster noted the large range from the lowest to the highest bid. Mr. Thompson mentioned that contractors will often bid high on projects to keep their names in mind. Ms. Wegman asked if John P Tumlin & Sons Ltd. has done work for Great Parks in the past. The staff led a thorough discussion, providing clarifying information on the complex underground utility work needed on the project and the project timeline. Upon motion duly made by Lavery, seconded by Wegman, and unanimously carried, the Board awarded a contract in the amount of \$780,701.01 to John P. Tumlin & Sons, Ltd. for the Winton Woods Campground Expansion project.
12. BID TAB – WINTON WOODS CAMPGROUND SHOWER FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmetter and Landscape Architect Ed Melvin presented the bid to the Board. Upon motion duly made by Thompson, seconded by Lavery, and unanimously carried, the Board awarded a contract in the amount of \$433,200 to AKJ Construction Corp for the Winton Woods Campground Shower Facility Improvements project.
13. CAPITAL PURCHASE – WINTON WOODS KESTREL POINT SHELTER REPLACEMENT: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmetter and Chief of Conservation & Parks Jason Rahe presented the bid to the Board. Ms. Lavery inquired about the life cycle of shelters. Mr. Schuster asked about the type of roof on this shelter and how we acknowledge the completion of our smaller projects. The staff led a thorough discussion, providing clarifying information on shelter roofing, social media, and marketing, and the approval of the US Army Corp of Engineers before starting a project at Winton Woods. Upon motion duly made by Schuster, seconded by Wegman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase in the amount of \$128,248 to DWA Recreation, Inc. for the Winton Woods Kestrel Point Shelter Replacement.
14. CINCINNATI BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY LLC TELECOMMUNICATIONS & DATA CONTRACT ADDENDUM: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmetter presented the addendum to the Board. Upon motion duly made by Lavery, seconded by Thompson, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the addendum as noted to the existing contract with Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company LLC.

MONITORING REPORTS

15. **FINANCIAL CONDITION & ACTIVITIES:** Chief Financial Officer Andrew Collins presented the Financial Condition & Activities report to the Board. Ms. Lavery noted that the golf courses are doing well and above their revenue projections. Ms. Wegman congratulated the staff for no then-and-now incidences in the third quarter. After a thorough discussion, the Board determined the report to be reasonable and acceptable. The Board then ordered the report filed for the record.
16. **COMPENSATION & BENEFITS:** Chief of Human Resources Molly deJesus presented the Compensation & Benefits report to the Board. 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

17. **BENEFITS BROKER SERVICES SELF-INSURANCE ANALYSIS:** Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmetter and Chief of Human Resources Molly deJesus presented the Benefits Broker Services Self-Insurance Analysis to the Board. Ms. Wegman thanked the staff for their due diligence throughout the evaluation process for selecting health care benefits. After a thorough discussion, the Board determined the report to be reasonable and acceptable. The Board then ordered the report filed for the record.
18. **PHILANTHROPY DIVISION REPORT:** Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmetter and Chief of Philanthropy Tom Carleton presented the Philanthropy Division report to the Board. Mr. Schuster inquired about the fundraising goals of the Root Ball and focusing on funding future projects. Ms. Wegman asked if the Root Ball funds were matched. She also commented that the food at the event was great and complimented the staff on hosting a fun event. After a thorough discussion, the Board determined the report to be reasonable and acceptable. The Board then ordered the report filed for the record.
19. **PURCHASING CARD COMPLIANCE OFFICER:** Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmetter presented the Purchasing Card Compliance Officer report to the Board, reporting compliance. The Board ordered the report filed for the record.

20. BOARD TOUR DISCUSSION

Ms. Wegman commented that it was her first visit to Otto Armleder Memorial Park, Withrow Nature Preserve, and Lake Isabella. Ms. Wegman was complimentary of the new passport program. She commented on the connections between people on the tour and how people enjoyed attending the event because of Great Parks' reputation. She said she learned a lot on the tour and had a great day. Ms. Wegman also commented that having guests from the Farmer and Gardner Foundations on the tour was great.

Mr. Schuster noted that the best part of the tour was that the staff were passionate about what Great Parks does. He shared that the communities we serve view new projects positively. He was pleasantly surprised to see all the latest projects around the parks. Mr. Schuster also noted that spending time with other philanthropists on the tour helped share the size and scope of the impact of the parks. He also stated that it was important to have political leaders understand what we contribute to the region.

Ms. Lavery noted that she has never been part of an organization with so much enthusiasm. She said it was the first time she had visited Withrow Nature Preserve, and it was interesting to learn about where to plant trees from an expert. Lastly, she thanked the staff for a great tour.

Mr. Thompson commented that he often goes to Withrow Nature Preserve with his family and loves to explore there. He was complimentary of how the staff has hit their stride and has watched the team mature on many levels. He shared that he is cheering the staff on in this growth during his tenure.

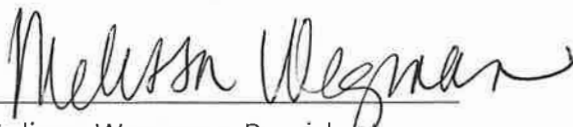
Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmetter thanked the Board for the opportunity to showcase some Great Parks amenities, programs, and conservation projects. He also thanked the staff for their hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm in creating an outstanding experience for the Board and guests.

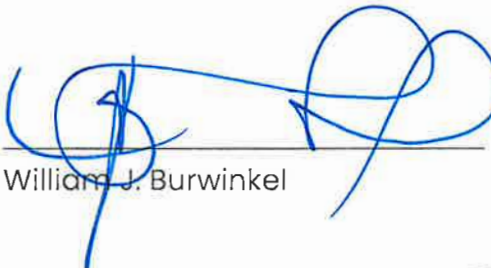
The Board ordered the report filed for the record.

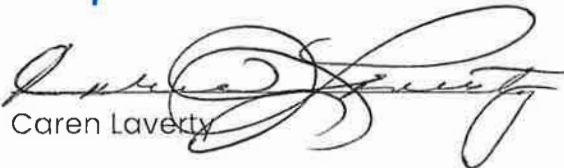
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further matters to come before the Board, a motion was made by Lavery, seconded by Wegman, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:17 p.m.

Board of Park Commissioners
Great Parks of Hamilton County



Melissa Wegman, President

William J. Burwinkel

Caren Lavery

Scott Schuster

Marcus Thompson

ATTEST:



Todd Palmet, Chief Executive Officer