

REGULAR MEETING**February 20, 2025**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of Great Parks of Hamilton County was held on this day, 1:00 p.m., at 10245 Winton Road, Cincinnati, OH 45231.

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

ROLL CALL: Present were Commissioners: Wegman, Burwinkel, Lavery, Schuster, Thompson.
 Staff: Palmeto, Henninger, Collins, Broughton Murray, Doellman, Messerschmitt, Rahe, Snow, Pate, Ridle, Herbert, Roell, Anklan, Poat, Mentzer, De Iorio, Behmer, Reddy, Creighton, Westerhof, Klug, Spencer, Ference
 Guests: Tim Cunningham

GENERAL

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS: No one requested to address the Board.
2. AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS:

Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeto notified the Board of the following:

- Chief of Guest Experiences Rachel Messerschmitt introduced new employee Chuck Pate, Golf Maintenance Technician, Little Miami Golf Center.
- Ohio Parks & Recreation Association Awards of Excellence. Great Parks received the 1st place Award of Excellence in Category 5: Marketing Innovation for the Great Parks Passport.
- First Tee – Greater Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky. Great Parks was awarded the 2024-2025 Partner of the Year at the annual Heart of First Tee Celebration.
- Great Parks' E-Commerce website went live on Friday, February 14, 2025.

Ms. Lavery expressed her excitement for the new e-commerce shopping site, and Ms. Wegman noted that some items had already been sold out.

Mr. Burwinkel noted Great Parks' excellent social media and email marketing content. He complimented the Philanthropy Division on their email about the capital projects, their 2024 accomplishments and 2025 goals.

Ms. Wegman complimented the staff and volunteers on the winter hike series and noted it was fun, and people attended regardless of the weather.

3. NEXT BOARD MEETING DATES:

Thursday	March 20, 2025	1:00 p.m.	Winton Centre
Thursday	April 17, 2025	1:00 p.m.	Winton Centre

ACTION

4. RESOLUTION #3830 – BILLS & PAYROLL RESOLUTION: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter presented the Bills & Payroll Resolution to the Board. The Board submitted one payment item for Pepper Construction Company of Ohio for the Shaker Trace Nursery Improvement project. Mr. Thompson asked about the total cost of the project. The staff led a thorough discussion, providing clarifying information on the scope of the payment item, cost of the project, construction progress, and completion date. Ms. Lavery thanked the staff for the explanation. Upon motion duly made by Lavery, seconded by Burwinkel, the Board approved the Bills & Payroll Resolution. The Roll Call vote was as follows: Mr. Burwinkel – Aye, Ms. Lavery – Aye, Ms. Wegman – Aye, Mr. Schuster – Aye, Mr. Thompson – Aye.
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Upon motion duly made by Schuster, seconded by Thompson, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Final Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 16, 2025.
6. BID TAB – BALED HAY SUPPLIER: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter presented the bid to the Board. Mr. Thompson inquired about hay storage. The staff led a thorough discussion, providing clarifying information on hay storage and pasture. Upon motion duly made by Thompson, seconded by Lavery, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the bid from Summe Farms at the price of \$10.00 per square bale and \$150.00 per round bale.
7. BID TAB – GOLF CARTS: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter and Chief of Guest Experiences Rachel Messerschmitt presented the bid to the Board. Ms. Wegman stated that she appreciated pictures of the carts and asked about their reliability. Mr. Thompson inquired about the options available on the golf carts. The staff led a thorough discussion, providing clarifying information on golf cart reliability and options versus the price of the carts. Upon motion duly made by Burwinkel, seconded by Lavery, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the bid in the amount of \$195,600.00 to Mid Ohio Golf Car, Inc. for 65 two-passenger golf carts.

8. CAPITAL PURCHASE – BASS ISLAND RESTROOM BUILDING: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter and Landscape Architect Sean Creighton presented the capital purchase to the Board. Mr. Burwinkel asked about the floodplain and what modifications are needed for the new restroom. Ms. Wegman noted that the restroom would be a great amenity and appreciated the water bottle filler. The staff led a thorough discussion, providing clarifying information on the design of the restroom and the dry floodproof panels. Upon motion duly made by Schuster, seconded by Wegman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase in the amount of \$405,000 to Romtec, Inc. for the purchase of materials and design for a restroom building.
9. CAPITAL PURCHASE – CAT SKID STEER LOADER: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter presented the capital purchase to the Board. Ms. Lavery asked about the size of the equipment and where it would be stored. The staff led a thorough discussion, providing clarifying information on how the skid steer loader will be used, transportation, and where it will be stored when not in use. Upon motion duly made by Lavery, seconded by Wegman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase of one skid steer loader from Ohio CAT. The final purchase amount will be specified in Sourcewell's contract pricing and in line with current appropriations.
10. CAPITAL PURCHASE – FORD F-350 DUMP TRUCKS: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter presented the capital purchase to the Board. Ms. Wegman asked about cooperative purchasing agreements and state contracts. The staff led a thorough discussion, providing clarifying information on state contracts, cooperative purchasing agreements, and capital purchase pricing versus bidding for the items. Upon motion duly made by Burwinkel, seconded by Thompson, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase in the amount of \$175,700 to Montrose Ford for two Ford F-350 dump trucks.
11. CAPITAL PURCHASE – FORD F-250 PICKUP TRUCKS: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter presented the bid to the Board. Upon motion duly made by Lavery, seconded by Schuster, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase in the amount of \$101,154 to Cronin Ford for two Ford F-250 pickup trucks.
12. CAPITAL PURCHASE – FORD POLICE INTERCEPTOR UTILITY HYBRID AWDs: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter, Chief of Conservation & Parks Jason Rahe, and Ranger Chief Scott Snow presented the bid to the Board. Ms. Wegman asked how the hybrid system impacts the vehicle's performance. The staff led a thorough discussion, providing clarifying information on the outfitting of the vehicles, the fuel cost savings over the vehicle lifecycle, and the pursuit mode feature. Upon motion duly made by Lavery, seconded by Wegman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase in the amount of \$250,416 to Montrose Ford for four Ford Police Interceptor Utility Hybrid AWDs.

13. CAPITAL PURCHASE – FORD MAVERICK HYBRID PICKUP TRUCKS: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter presented the bid to the Board. Ms. Lavery asked about the added weight and configuration of hybrid vehicles. The staff led a thorough discussion, providing clarifying information on the weight of hybrid vehicles versus all-electric vehicles. Upon motion duly made by Thompson, seconded by Wegman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase in the amount of \$106,242 to Montrose Ford for three Ford Maverick hybrid pickup trucks.
14. CAPITAL PURCHASE – TORO 4000 MOWER: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter presented the bid to the Board. Ms. Wegman noted the pictures of the equipment were extremely helpful. Upon motion duly made by Lavery, seconded by Wegman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase of one Toro 4000 mower from Century Equipment, A Jerry Pate Company. The final purchase amount will be specified in Sourcewell's contract pricing and in line with current appropriations.
15. CAPITAL PURCHASE – TORO 3555D FAIRWAY MOWER: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter presented the bid to the Board. Mr. Thompson asked about the service life of the mowers. The staff led a thorough discussion, providing clarifying information on the service life of the mower and the differences between a fairway mower and a general-purpose mower. Upon motion duly made by Schuster, seconded by Burwinkel, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase of one Toro 3555D fairway mower from Century Equipment, A Jerry Pate Company. The final purchase amount will be specified in Sourcewell's contract pricing and in line with current appropriations.
16. CAPITAL PURCHASE – TORO PROCORE 648S AERATORS: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter presented the bid to the Board. Upon motion duly made by Lavery, seconded by Burwinkel, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase of two Toro ProCore 648s aerators from Century Equipment, A Jerry Pate Company. The final purchase amount will be specified in Sourcewell's contract pricing and in line with current appropriations.

Ms. Wegman inquired about the effectiveness of the Flock cameras. Ranger Chief Scott Snow explained the recent successes of their use in the parks.

MONITORING REPORTS

17. ENDS PRIORITY 3: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter and Director of Programming Amy Roell presented the Ends Priority 3 report to the Board. Mr. Burwinkel offered kudos to the team for the outcomes from the interpreters and noted that they were phenomenal. He also was very complimentary of what Great Parks does for the underserved and thanked the staff for making the parks available to all community members. Ms. Wegman noted she was at the eclipse event and noted kudos to Rangers and other staff. Mr. Schuster was impressed to see how county leaders react to our staff at events like the Board Tour and was impressed with how well the staff shares information and educates the public. The staff led a thorough discussion, providing clarifying information about the variety of programs offered in 2024, the goals and purpose of the programs, and the attendees' evaluations of the programs. After a thorough discussion, the Board determined the report to be reasonable and acceptable. The Board thanked the staff for the presentation and then ordered the report filed for the record.

18. ENDS PRIORITY 4: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter and Chief of Marketing & Brand Strategy Rachel Doellman presented the Ends Priority 4 report to the Board. Mr. Thompson asked about the age range in the survey. Ms. Laverty commented on the "unsure" response in some surveys. Mr. Schuster asked about some of the trends in the data in 2019 and the specific script for the survey. Mr. Thompson asked if there was confusion on what entity operates parks in the Greater Cincinnati area and predicted that the trends in awareness will continue to increase. Ms. Wegman asked when the brand was launched to explain the survey's good results. Mr. Burwinkel noted comments he gets about people loving the new logo. The Board offered kudos to the staff. The staff led a thorough discussion, providing clarifying information about the survey structure, demographic composition, the number of survey participants, and the installation of the new entrance signs. 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. COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT TO THE BOARD: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter presented the Communication and Support report to the Board. The Board ordered the report filed for the record.

GENERAL REPORTS

20. PARK VISITATION & TRAIL USAGE REPORT: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter and Chief of Guest Experiences Rachel Messerschmitt presented the report to the Board. Ms. Wegman asked about counting new features as they are opened and noted the information is helpful. The staff led a thorough discussion, providing clarifying information on 2024 trail usage and park visitation. After a thorough discussion, the Board determined the report to be reasonable and acceptable. The Board complimented the staff on the report format and then ordered the report to be filed for the record.
21. ~~+++++~~ 2025 CAPITAL PROJECTS LIST: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter and Chief of Planning Janet Broughton Murray presented the 2025 Capital Projects report to the Board. Concerning the critical infrastructure and master plan funding sheets, Mr. Schuster asked about the increased cost of harbors and noted that sharing information about inflation in construction costs was important. Ms. Lavery noted significant increases in some critical infrastructure categories and asked about what projects fall in the "other" category. The CEO proposed including a narrative for each category to clarify what factors impact the increased project expenses. Mr. Burwinkel asked about dam and bridge maintenance costs. Mr. Burwinkel asked how the Werk Road property fits into the capital list and noted the inflation impacts on labor, construction materials, and other items. Mr. Thompson asked about the Board meeting process and timeline for consideration of a renewal levy in 2025. The staff led a thorough discussion, providing clarifying information on 2025 Capital Projects, project timelines, and project costs. After a thorough discussion, the Board determined the report to be reasonable and acceptable. The Board complimented the staff on the report format and then ordered the report to be filed for the record.

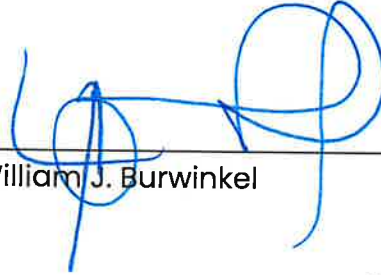
ADJOURNMENT

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 2:45 p.m.

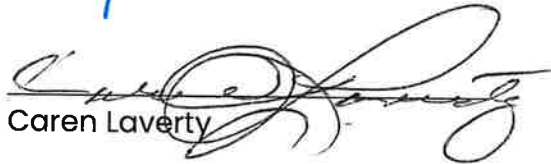
Board of Park Commissioners
Great Parks of Hamilton County



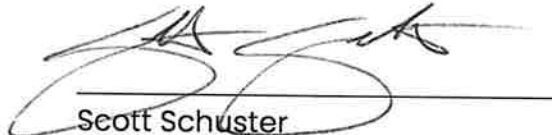
Melissa Wegman, President



William J. Burwinkel



Caren Lavery

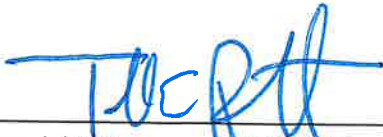


Scott Schuster



Marcus Thompson

ATTEST:



Todd Palmeto, Chief Executive Officer