

REGULAR MEETING**March 21, 2024**

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, Laverty, Schuster, Thompson
Staff: Palmeto, Henninger, Collins, Carleton, deJesus, Doellman, Messerschmitt, Rahe, Snow, Lovins, De Iorio, Arnold, Merrill, Stanley, Spencer, Roselle, Bird, Busofsky, Bruce, Dearing, Ference
Guests: Susan Luken

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 Marketing & Brand Strategy Rachel Doellman introduced new employee Janine De Iorio, Director of Marketing & Communications.
- Chief of Conservation & Parks Jason Rahe introduced newly promoted employee Steve Lovins, Certified Master Mechanic.
- Chief of Human Resources Molly deJesus obtained the National Diversity Council Certified Diversity Professional (NDCCDP) certification from the National Diversity Council.
- Great Parks has been selected as one of Mathew 25 Ministries' 2024 Green Giving Partner for exceptional corporate responsibility and environmental stewardship.
- Sam Arnold has been elected to the Greater Cincinnati PGA Hall of Fame for his significant contribution to the game of golf in Cincinnati through his service, playing ability, and contributions to his facility and fellow professionals.
- Sharon Woods Golf Course was named the 2023 Best Golf Course in the Cincinnati area by the Cincinnati's Best Community's Choice Awards for the second year in a row.

Mr. Burwinkel stated six park levies were on the March ballot statewide, and five passed. Mr. Burwinkel is excited that the total eclipse event will bring new people to the parks, and they will help support our next levy. He thanked the Glenwood Gardens Nature Niche staff for assembling the Total Eclipse of the Park merchandise display.

Ms. Laverty inquired if the eclipse merchandise was available online. She complimented the staff for their hard work securing the Farmer Family Foundation's \$3 million grant and was pleased that the Capital Campaign has raised over \$19 million.

Ms. Wegman said the outside of Winton Centre looks nice with the new mulch, and the flowers are gorgeous. She thanked the staff for their hard work and said she looked forward to spring.

Mr. Thompson inquired if Great Parks was waving the motor vehicle permit requirements at Miami Whitewater Forest for the eclipse event. Permits will not be required for vehicle entry but will be sold at the event.

3. NEXT BOARD MEETING DATES:

Thursday	April 18, 2024	1:00 p.m.	Winton Centre
Thursday	May 16, 2024	1:00 p.m.	Winton Centre

ACTION

- 4. RESOLUTION #3797 – BILLS & PAYROLL RESOLUTION: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmetter and Ranger Chief Scott Snow presented the Bills & Payroll Resolution to the Board. The Board submitted one payment item for review: Flock Safety for automated license plate readers. The staff led a thorough discussion, providing clarifying information on the scope of the payment item, the type of data captured by the Flock Safety system, and how the Ranger department utilizes the data. Upon motion duly made by Laverty, seconded by Wegman, the Board approved the Bills & Payroll Resolution. The Roll Call vote was as follows: Mr. Burwinkel – Aye, Ms. Laverty – Aye, Ms. Wegman – Aye, Mr. Schuster – Aye, Mr. Thompson – Aye.
- 5. RESOLUTION #3798 – THEN & NOW RESOLUTION: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmetter presented the Then and Now Resolution to the Board. Ms. Wegman stated that the Board appreciates the staff's accountability. Upon motion duly made by Schuster, seconded by Thompson, the Board approved the Then & Now Resolution. The Roll Call vote was as follows: Ms. Laverty – Aye, Ms. Wegman – Aye, Mr. Schuster – Aye, Mr. Thompson – Aye, Mr. Burwinkel – Aye.
- 6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmetter noted a typographical error correction in the Tentative Minutes. Upon motion duly made by Laverty, seconded by Burwinkel, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Final Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 15, 2024.

7. CAPITAL PURCHASE – HEAVY DUTY UTILITY VEHICLE: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter presented the capital purchase to the Board. The staff led a thorough discussion, providing clarifying information on the life cycle of the equipment and the equipment cost, which was 22% off MSRP. Ms. Laverty commented that she appreciated the pictures of the equipment. Upon motion duly made by Laverty, seconded by Wegman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase of one heavy duty utility vehicle 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.
8. CAPITAL PURCHASE – TURF AERATOR: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter presented the capital purchase to the Board. Upon motion duly made by Schuster, seconded by Thompson, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase of one turf aerator 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.
9. CAPITAL PURCHASE – GREENS MOWER: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter presented the capital purchase to the Board. The staff led a thorough discussion, providing clarifying information on the auctioning of the used equipment. Upon motion duly made by Burwinkel, seconded by Thompson, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase of one greens 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.
10. CAPITAL PURCHASE – ROUGH AREA MOWER: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter presented the capital purchase to the Board. Mr. Thompson inquired if the equipment gets moved around to other golf courses. Ms. Wegman stated that she learned from the Chief Executive Officer that the mowers were optioned specifically for certain courses and terrain. The staff led a thorough discussion, providing clarifying information on the time inefficiencies of sharing equipment, but stated that equipment could be transported to another location for an urgent need. Upon motion duly made by Schuster, seconded by Wegman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase of one rough area 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.
11. CAPITAL PURCHASE – FAIRWAY MOWER: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter presented the capital purchase to the Board. Upon motion duly made by Thompson, seconded by Laverty, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase of one 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.

12. CAPITAL PURCHASE – FAIRWAY MOWER: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter presented the capital purchase to the Board. Upon motion duly made by Laverty, seconded by Wegman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase of one 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.
13. CAPITAL PURCHASE – FAIRWAY MOWERS: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter presented the capital purchase to the Board. Upon motion duly made by Laverty, seconded by Burwinkel, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase of two fairway mowers 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.
14. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT – WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter and Chief of Human Resources Molly deJesus presented the professional services contract to the Board. Ms. Wegman asked if the Board could meet some of the Groundwork Team. Ms. Wegman noted that she asked the CEO to assemble a list of highlighted events for the Board to attend. Mr. Burwinkel inquired about the age and demographics of the students and transportation for them. The staff led a thorough discussion, providing clarifying information on the number of program participants, their ages, and the selection process, focusing on selecting participants from underrepresented areas in the green industry. Upon motion duly made by Burwinkel, seconded by Wegman, and unanimously carried, the Board awarded a professional services contract in the amount of \$54,000 to Groundwork Ohio River Valley for workforce development services.

MONITORING REPORTS

15. ENDS PRIORITY 1: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter and Director of Natural Resources Jessica Spencer presented the Ends Priority 1 report to the Board. Mr. Thompson inquired about the increase in wetlands due to the Sharon Lake dredging project. Ms. Wegman complimented the staff on controlling the honeysuckle and tree of heaven at Embshoff Woods Nature Preserve. 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.
16. TREATMENT OF GUESTS: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter, Ranger Chief Scott Snow, and Director of Guest Relations Rachel Dearing presented the Treatment of Guests report to the Board. Ms. Laverty inquired about the increase in the number of animal complaint calls and also commented on general increases in theft in areas outside the parks. Mr. Burwinkel asked if the aided cases category included mutual aid calls. He also inquired about how marijuana legalization has changed law

enforcement practices. Ms. Wegman commented that proactive law enforcement makes a difference and commented on the cooperative spirit of law enforcement throughout the county. Mr. Burwinkel asked about Ranger staffing levels. Ms. Lavery asked if Guest Relations also receives positive feedback from individuals. Mr. Shuster wondered if there was a general Great Parks email. After a thorough discussion, the Board determined the report to be reasonable and acceptable. The Board then ordered the report filed for the record.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Lavery and seconded by Schuster to go into Executive Session at 2:20 p.m. to consider the sale or other disposition of property and to consider the employment and compensation of public employees. The Roll Call vote was as follows: Ms. Wegman – Aye, Mr. Schuster – Aye, Mr. Thompson – Aye, Mr. Burwinkel – Aye, Ms. Lavery – Aye.

Following the Executive Session, a motion was made by Lavery and seconded by Wegman to reconvene the Regular Meeting at 3:20 p.m. The Roll Call vote was as follows: Mr. Schuster – Aye, Mr. Thompson – Aye, Mr. Burwinkel – Aye, Ms. Lavery – Aye, Ms. Wegman – Aye.

ACTION

17. COMPENSATION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES: Upon motion duly made by Lavery, seconded by Wegman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Great Parks of Hamilton County and Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association Collective Bargaining Agreement on behalf of the full-time Park Rangers for the period of January 2024 through December 2026 and authorized the CEO and his designees to execute the necessary documents.
18. LAND ITEM: Upon motion duly made by Lavery, seconded by Thompson, and unanimously carried, the Board authorized the CEO and his designees to negotiate a land acquisition proposal and execute the necessary documents for a 36-acre parcel in the west region of Hamilton County.
19. LAND ITEM: Upon motion duly made by Lavery, seconded by Wegman, and unanimously carried, the Board authorized the CEO and his designees to negotiate a land acquisition proposal and execute the necessary documents for a less than 1-acre parcel in the east region of Hamilton County.

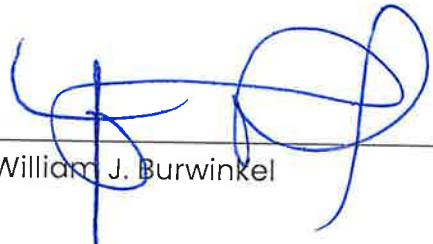
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further matters to come before the Board, a motion was made by Burwinkel, seconded by Wegman, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Board of Park Commissioners
Great Parks of Hamilton County




Melissa Wegman, President



William J. Burwinkel



Caren Laverty



Scott Schuster



Marcus Thompson

ATTEST:



Todd Palmeter, Chief Executive Officer