

Minutes
Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority
Board of Commissioners
Thursday, January 13, 2022

A regular meeting of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Board of Commissioners was held on Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022 at the Administrative Office.

Commissioners Present:	Jaye Quadrozzi Robert W. Marans John Paul Rea Stephen Pontoni Bill Bolin
Staff Officers Present:	
Director	Amy McMillan
Deputy Director	Michael Lyons
Chief of Finance	Shedreka Miller
Absent:	
Commissioner	Bernard Parker
Commissioner	Tiffany Taylor
Others:	
Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone	Steve Mann

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Quadrozzi called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. Chairperson's Statement

Commissioner Quadrozzi says she appreciates everyone's flexibility with the uncertainty with remote meetings.

3. Public Participation

None.

4. Approval – Dec. 9, 2021 Work Session, Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Bolin that the Board of Commissioners approve the Work Session, Budget Hearing and Regular meeting minutes as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval – Jan. 13, 2022 Full Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners approve the Jan. 13, 2022 full agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Approval – Jan. 13, 2022 Consent Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners approve the Jan. 13, 2022 consent agenda as presented:

- a. Approval – DTE Electrical Line Easement, Willow Park Office Building
- b. Purchases
 1. Report – Purchases over \$10,000
 2. Total Spend and Vendor Location
 3. Snow Groomer, Huron Meadows
 4. Police Vehicles
 5. Golf Carts

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

A. Administrative Department

1. Approval – Research Study for Metroparks Climate Action Plan

Discussion: Director McMillan updated the Board and said that as part of the 2021 DEI Speaker Series, Dr. Elizabeth (Bess) Perry from Michigan State University spoke on climate change and the role public park systems play in preserving the environment through stewardship of ecosystems. Her presentation enumerated the benefits of engaging community partners, visitors, and local residents (including non-visitors), along with an emphasis on diversity, equity and inclusion. She said Dr. Perry's presentation sparked a considerable conversation with the Board and staff about the benefits of working with her to develop a researched-based climate plan specific to the Metroparks. The Board continued this discussion at its October retreat, developing a goal of creating a sustainable environment that could become a model of other regional park systems across the United States.

Ms. McMillan introduced Dr. Perry, who then reviewed the proposed Climate Action Plan for the Metroparks. She said it was a three-phase program consisting of context alignment, community alignment and capacity building. Dr. Perry also reviewed timelines and budget amounts.

Commissioner Marans asked how Dr. Perry planned to interact with staff and the Board. Dr. Perry said initial sessions are critical and that some focus groups should be internal.

Commissioner Marans suggested a small staff/board subcommittee to help refine the project.

Commissioner Marans also said the Metroparks was getting ready to launch a new survey for the Five-Year-Recreation Plan survey. Dr. Perry said it would be helpful to have overlapping questions.

Motion by Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners approve a contract in the amount of \$168,993 (Option A) for a research study conducted by Dr. Elizabeth Perry for a Metroparks Climate Action Plan as requested by Director Amy McMillan and staff.

Commissioner Bolin said he's not convinced this is an endeavor the Metroparks needs to do at this time and would like more background information. He said he wants assurances this project isn't a way to funnel money to DEI initiatives. Dr. Perry said she understands his concerns. She said we would most likely never have exact data for the locations surrounding the Metroparks; however, there are well-known, long-standing scientific programs with robust climate change models. Part of the research will be to look at southeast Michigan and how climate change affects this area of the country.

Commissioner Bolin said he has lived with climate change his entire life, and, as a teenager, he remembers the concern was global cooling and not global warming and that the climate is constantly shifting. He said he is not convinced with the rhetoric and doesn't believe the studies are unbiased. Dr. Perry said this is a worthwhile conversation to have with focus groups as the climate is changing and how we can best prepare for the changes.

Commissioner Pontoni said regardless of all the other issues if we (the Board) can prevent the golf courses from flooding every summer.

Commissioner Rea said looking at this from a global perspective, there are 13 parks and 25,000 acres. The Board can be better stewards looking at the context of connectivity and the natural features in the parks. He said the Board has discussed the changing levels of the Great Lakes and its implications on everything from Lake Erie to Lake St. Clair and the multitude of studies and assessments that the Metroparks have done through partnerships with our resources, Commissioners and state agencies. Mr. Rea said the Metroparks has limited resources, and this study is a good investment.

Commissioner Quadrozzi said she agrees with everything Commissioner Rea said. She said she would like the longer time frame (option B) to hear what the experts say.

Commissioner Bolin asked from a macro perspective what the differences in ground temperature, snowfall levels etc., over a justifiable period (i.e., 25 years) to show there is a large enough shift or change in the microclimate to warrant this type of study. He said he would like to see more raw data to justify the expense.

Commissioner Marans asked why Director McMillan chose the shorter timeline. Ms. McMillan said to complete the project this year.

Commissioner Marans said he was thinking about conversations from the retreat and the more rapid change that may indirectly have to do with climate change is economic such as the auto industry going to more electric vehicles. Ms. McMillan said the Metroparks are looking into electric charging stations throughout the park system.

Commissioner Bolin suggested earmarking the \$168,000 for charging stations and changing the golf cart fleet to electric.

Commissioner Pontoni asked the difference between the 12-month study and the 18-month study. Dr. Perry said the compressed timeframe would have shorter focus groups while the 18-month study would involve a deeper dive and more collaboration.

Motion failed for lack of support.

Commissioner Quadrozzi called for a renewed motion.

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners approve a contract in the amount of \$168,993 (Option A) with a timeline of Feb. 1, 2022 – Aug. 31, 2023 for a research study conducted by Dr. Elizabeth Perry for a Metroparks Climate Action Plan as requested by Director Amy McMillan and staff.

Commissioners Pontoni and Bolin voted no.

Motion failed.

Commissioner Quadrozzi opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Pontoni said he didn't understand the value to the project for an extra six months, and that's why he voted no.

Commissioner Quadrozzi explained her thought process on why she voted yes for the longer timeframe for the project.

Commissioner Bolin said he feels this is a waste of money at this time and would prefer to see an action plan from staff with justifiable reasons for this expenditure.

Commissioner Pontoni made a motion to reconsider the 18-month plan.

Steve Mann, Metroparks legal counsel, said the Board could not make a motion on the 18-month plan as it was already voted down. He said the Board could make a motion to reconsider one of the other plans, which has to be done by one of the commissioners that voted no.

Motion by Commissioner Pontoni, support from Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners reconsider the prior vote.

Roll Call Vote:

Voting yes: Quadrozzi, Marans, Rea, Pontoni

Voting no: Bolin

Absent: Parker, Taylor

Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Bolin to table the item.

Motion failed for lack of support.

Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners approve a contract in the amount of \$161,735 (Option B) with a timeline of Feb. 1 – Dec. 31, 2022 for a research study conducted by Dr. Elizabeth Perry for a Metroparks Climate Action Plan as requested by Director Amy McMillan and staff.

Roll Call Vote:

Voting yes: Quadrozzi, Marans, Rea, Pontoni
Voting no: Bolin
Absent: Parker, Taylor

Motion carried.

7. Reports

A. Administrative Department

2. Report – 2021 Overview, District Park Superintendents

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Bolin that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the 2021 Overview as presented by the District Park Superintendents.

Discussion: Western District Superintendent Jeff Brown, Eastern District Superintendent Gary Hopp and Southern District Superintendent Jeff Linn updated the Board on the park accomplishments for 2022.

Commissioner Marans asked if rowing occurred on Kent Lake or river. Mr. Brown said Kent Lake.

Commissioner Quadrozzi said she was happy to see an increase in water activities and congratulated everyone on a great year.

Commissioner Rea said he was thrilled with the increase in revenue for 2021.

Director McMillan thanked staff for all their hard work during the past year.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Report – Cross-Departmental Data Review

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Bolin that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the Cross-Departmental Data Review as presented by Chief of Marketing and Communications Danielle Mauter, Chief of Information Technology Robert Rudolph and Interim Chief of Planning and Development Jason Bibby and staff.

Discussion: Chief of Marketing and Communications Danielle Mauter, Chief of Information Technology Robert Rudolph and Interim Chief of Planning and Development Jason Bibby updated the Board on Activities that took place in 2021 highlighting the RecTrac POS system rollout, permit scans, equity analysis and marketing efforts.

Commissioner Marans said it was a good presentation and said he didn't see any radio stations in Washtenaw County on the list of stations in which the Metroparks did advertising. Ms. Mauter said most of the stations have audiences in Washtenaw County.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval – 2022 Marketing Plan

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Bolin that the Board of Commissioners approve the 2022 Marketing Plan as recommended by Chief of Marketing and Communications Danielle Mauter and staff.

Discussion: Chief of Marketing and Communications Danielle Mauter presented the 2022 Marketing Plan to the Board highlighting goals and objections for the upcoming year.

Motion carried unanimously.

Director McMillan said in the interest of time, the Board can choose to move items to the February Board meeting and concentrate on action items that require a quorum vote by the Board (four members).

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners approve moving the following items to the February 2022 meeting: 7-A-5: DEI Update, 7-B-1: Planning and Development Update, 7-B-2: Interpretive Services Update, 7-B-3: Natural Resources Update.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

A. Administrative Department

5. Report – DEI Update

Moved to Feb. 10. 2022 meeting.

6. Approval – Mobile Outreach Vehicles

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Bolin that the Board of Commissioners (1) approve the purchase of two (2) 2022 Ford Expeditions for a total amount of \$87,270 from Jack Demmer Ford of Wayne, Michigan, the low responsive, responsible bidder for ITB 2021-047; and (2) approve the transfer of \$87,270 from the Park Operations budget to the Capital Equipment budget as recommended by Senior Buyer Heidi Dziak, Chief of Interpretive Services Jennifer Jaworski, Chief of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Artina Carter and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Department Updates

1. Report – Planning and Development Update

Moved to Feb. 10, 2022 meeting.

2. Report – Interpretive Services Update

Moved to Feb. 10, 2022 meeting.

3. Report – Natural Resources Update

Moved to Feb. 10, 2022 meeting.

C. Planning and Development

1. Approval/Resolution – EDA Grant, Lake St. Clair North Marina

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Bolin that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution for the grant application through the Economic Development Administration (EDA) Travel, Tourism & Outdoor Recreation Program for renovations of the North Marina at Lake St. Clair Metropark as recommended by Interim Chief of Planning and Development Jay Bibby and staff.

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners approve item 7-C-2: Kensington Five-Year Master Plan Update to the February 2022 meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Planning and Development

2. Approval – Kensington Five-Year Master Plan Update

Moved to Feb. 10, 2022 meeting.

7. Reports

D. Engineering Department

1. Bids – Rapid View Site Development, Hudson Mills

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Bolin that the Board of Commissioners (1) award Contract No. 508-20-218 to the low responsive, responsible bidder, Erie Construction, LLC., in the amount of \$598,731.00; and (2) approve the transfer of \$144,931 from the fund balance to cover the cost of the project as recommended by Chief of Engineering Services Mike Henkel and staff.

Discussion: Chief of Engineering Services Mike Henkel updated the Board on the project and said at the March 2019 meeting, the Board approved the grant resolution for the Rapids View development. The project involves the development of the Rapids View picnic and launch site to comprise: (1) new upper parking lot and designated trailer parking spaces; (2) new turnaround drop-off for paddlers and redeveloped lower parking lot; (3) accessible launch improvements; (4) accessible picnic area and river overlook; and (5) an accessible vault latrine restroom. Mr. Henkel said the project is identified in the Hudson Mills Metropark Master Plan and in the system-wide Five-Year Community Recreation Plan adopted by the Board in September 2017.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval – Design Services, Huron River Erosion Remediation/Habitat Restoration

Motion by Commissioner Bolin, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners approve the proposal for design services from Hubble Roth and Clark in the amount of \$29,780 as recommended by Chief of Engineering Services Mike Henkel and staff.

Discussion: Chief of Engineering Services Mike Henkel updated the Board on the project and said Due to high water flows, a section of bank along the Huron River in Willow Metropark at the Big Bend picnic site has eroded. If the erosion continues it will compromise the existing bike trail and potentially the sanitary sewer line.

The design work in this phase includes habitat and bank stabilization to mitigate future degradation. Design elements to be implemented may include wooded toe structures, soil lifts, live stakes, coir blocks or similar naturalized bank stabilization techniques.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Leadership Update

a. Purchasing Policies, Procurement Guidelines, Exceptions, and Dollar Thresholds

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Bolin that the Board of Commissioners approve the following amendment to Metroparks Purchasing Policies, Procurement Guidelines, Exceptions, and Dollar Thresholds as requested by Director Amy McMillan and staff.

In the event that a lack of quorum would result in the delay of the purchases of competitively bid goods and or services, which could result in such goods or services being unavailable in a timely manner such that projects and/or programs may experience delays or unavailability due to supply chain issues, the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners and the Metroparks Director may authorize an award of a contract up to \$200,000 for the purchase of supplies, materials, equipment, services or construction. Any such purchases shall be reported to the Metroparks Commissioners at the next meeting of the Board of Commissioners at which a quorum is present.

Discussion: Director McMillan asked the Board to approve amendments to the Purchasing Policy due to the pandemic and supply chain issues.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Mission, Vision, Core Value Statements

Motion by Commissioner Bolin, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners approve the revised Core Values Statements as recommended by Director Amy McMillan and staff.

Discussion: Director McMillan said the Board approved the updated Mission and Vision Statements at the Nov. 11, 2021 Board meeting. She said the Board requested amendments to the Core Values to include specific reference(s) to access, financial stability/accountability, commitments to constituents, employees, and natural resources, which were added.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Leadership Update

c. Legal Counsel Memorandum – Duck Hunting at the Metroparks

Director McMillan said Miller Canfield provided a legal opinion regarding duck hunting at the Metroparks. Click here to read the memo: [Miller Canfield Memorandum on duck hunting](#).

9. Other Business

None.

10. Public Participation

None.

11. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Quadrozzi said we (the Board) need to finish Director McMillan's annual review prior to the Feb. 10, 2022 meeting.

12. Motion to Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Bolin that the Board of Commissioners adjourn the regular meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shawn M. Athayde
Recording Secretary