

Minutes
Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority
Board of Commissioners – Work Session
Thursday, December 09, 2021

A work session of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Board of Commissioners was held Dec. 9, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. The meeting was via remote attendance by commissioners and members of the public due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Commissioners Present:

Jaye Quadrozzi (Remote – San Francisco, CA)
John Paul Rea
Bernard Parker (Remote – Tucson, AZ)
Robert W. Marans
Bill Bolin (Remote – Brighton, Livingston County, MI)
Stephen Pontoni
Tiffany Taylor

Staff Officers Present:

Director	Amy McMillan
Deputy Director	Michael Lyons
Chief of Finance	Shedreka Miller

1. Call to Order

Chairman Quadrozzi called the work session to order at 11:02 a.m.

2. 2022 Budget Overview

Chief of Finance Shedreka Miller reviewed projected revenue, expenditures and use of fund balance for 2022.

Director McMillan reviewed historical trends regarding the use of fund balance and said 2022 would likely be the first time in several years the Metroparks would actually make use of the unassigned fund balance.

Ms. Miller continued to review the budget process highlighting revenue and expenses for 2022 compared to the 2021 budget, the proposed contributions to the Pension Plan and Retiree Health Care Trust, planned use of fund balance, capital projects as well as major maintenance projects.

Commissioner Marans asked what the "other" revenue for the administrative office was for. Ms. Miller said it was for grant revenue, interest income and for the sale of capital assets.

Commissioner Bolin asked if there has ever been discussion on opening new golf courses. Ms. McMillan said no and that the golf course at Wolcott and the Par 3 course at Lower Huron were closed a couple of years ago.

Commissioner Bolin asked why the courses were closed. Ms. McMillan said it was a cost issue and over time the market became saturated with both public and private courses and the Metroparks began losing money operating the courses.

Deputy Director Mike Lyons reviewed the proposed impact project for the Turtle Cove aquatic facility at Lower Huron. He said the project would add between one and three water slides and cost between \$1.3 million and \$1.6 million. If approved, the used of fund balance would increase to \$5.3 million if all three slides were approved.

Ms. McMillan said the project would be constructed at the end of the 2022 season and that it could be a revenue generator and help to maintain the Metroparks market share.

Commissioner Quadrozzi said she is in favor of this project to drive attendance.

Commissioner Parker said he believes this is a good investment and that it is good to give back to the community.

Commissioner Marans says he is generally supportive and asked if the company has designed and implemented these slides at other locations. Mr. Lyons said yes.

Commissioner Marans also said staff needs to be cognizant of safety issues.

Commissioner Bolin said he was in favor of the project.

Ms. McMillan said staff would make the update and have an updated budget ready for the 2022 budget hearing.

3. Interpretive Department Expansion (Lifelong Learning)

Chief of Interpretive Services Jennifer Jaworski and Chief of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Artina Carter reviewed Metroparks mission and vision statement, the goals and objectives for the Lifelong Learning program, the scope of the program, and the collaboration between DEI and Interpretive Services.

Ms. Jaworski reviewed the supplemental science program and said it would be geared for grades three, five and eight and that staff anticipates reaching nearly 12,000 students in 2022. Staff would be working with schools by supplementing their science programs and will not be taking over for teachers. An evaluation process would also be a component of the program, which is required for CAPRA accreditation.

Ms. Carter said there would be cultural competence training for staff to prepare them to go into a variety of communities.

Commissioner Marans said this is one of the most exciting initiatives the Metroparks has ever undertaken. He said he is happy to see the evaluation component in the program. He also said he would like to see how the students are doing 10-15 years down the road and that this program could be a model for other organizations.

Commissioner Taylor said she likes the program including the cultural training and asked if the program would actually reach 12,000 students. Ms. Jaworski said yes.

Commissioner Rea said he would like staff to explore the retainability when looking for state funding. He also suggested staff engage schools around the Metroparks to see if the program could be expanded.

Ms. McMillan said staff held several retreats over the course of the year and said one item that stuck was that the Metroparks needs to be bolder and this initiative will also the Metroparks to make a big difference.

Commissioner Parker said he is very pleased with this program. He said that he knows there is a lot of bureaucracy with the Detroit Public Schools and asked if staff considered working with a charter school. Ms. Carter said yes.

4. Public Participation

None.


5. Motion to Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners adjourn the work session.

Motion carried unanimously.

The work session adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shawn M. Athayde
Recording Secretary