

**Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority
Board of Commission Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Board of Commissioners was held on Thursday, January 11, 2024 at Huron-Clinton Metroparks Administrative Office.

Commissioners Present:

John Paul Rea
William Bolin
Stephen Pontoni
Tiffany Taylor
Robert W. Marans

Staff Officers Present:

Director
Deputy Director
Chief of Finance

Amy McMillan
Michael Lyons
Shedreka Miller

Commissioners Absent:

Jaye Quadrozzi
Bernard Parker

Others:

Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone

Steve Mann

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Rea called the meeting to order at 1:01pm.

2. Chairman's Statement

Commissioner Rea reminded everyone they can submit Director performance reviews to Chairman Parker, these will be reviewed in the February meeting.

3. Public Participation

None.

4. Approval – December 14, 2023 Regular Meeting, Closed Session, Public Hearing Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Pontoni that the Board of Commissioners approve the closed session and regular meeting minutes as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval – January 11, 2024 Full Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Bolin, support for Commissioner Pontoni that the Board of Commissioners approve the full agenda as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

6. Approval – January 11, 2024 Consent Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Bolin that the Board of Commissioners approve the consent agenda as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda

7. Reports

A. Administrative Department

1. Report - Engineering Year-End Report

Discussion: Chief of Engineering Mike Henkel presented the Engineering Year-End Report.

Commissioner Marans commented on the longevity of the staff and asked how we find out when a facility requires updated or issues. Chief of Engineering Mike Henkel responded staff are in constant communication with park staff and district superintendents.

Commissioner Rea asked how conversations are evolving as our updates are not only impacting the parks, but also the communities. Chief of Engineering Mike Henkel responded we are constantly reaching out with the townships on how we can always improve utilities.

Motion by Commissioner Talyor, support from Commissioner Bolin that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the Engineering Year-End Report as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Report - Golf Year-End Report

Discussion: Deputy Director, Mike Lyons presented the Golf Year-End Report.

Commissioner Pontoni asked about the possibility of offering Metroparks branded apparel. Deputy Director, Mike Lyons responded we are looking into it as demand has gone up.

Commissioner Marans asked about the history of the possibility of closing Hudson Mills golf course. Mike responded it was due to a survey recommendation from a third party. We are glad to see it remain open.

Commissioner Bolin asked why the courses were closed so early this year. Deputy Director, Mike Lyons responded using the land so late is damaging to the ground and will impact the courses in the long-term.

Commissioner Rea commented on the possibility of the Metroparks offering youth golf programming.

Motion by Commissioner Pontoni, support from Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the Golf Year-End Report.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Report - Marketing Spotlight

Discussion: Chief of Marketing and Communications, Danielle Mauter presented the Marketing Spotlight.

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Bolin that the Board of Commissioners receive and file Marketing Spotlight.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval – Marketing Plan

Discussion: Chief of Marketing and Communications, Danielle Mauter presented the Marketing Plan.

Commissioner Taylor commented on the executive positioning and the possibility of bringing others along with partnership.

Commissioner Taylor brought up the opportunity of working with small businesses and community colleges. Commissioner Taylor asked the “park etiquette” wording be addressed. Chief of Marketing and Communications, Danielle Mauter responded the team is working on the wording and stated the word “etiquette” is only used internally.

Commissioner Bolin asked if there has been any analysis why there was 20% drop from Detroit area. Director McMillan commented that the city of Detroit has done a great job improving their local city parks, so the public doesn't have to travel as far. We celebrate the fact that communities are investing locally.

Commissioner Rea commented it is great to see that the parks are being thought more of a destination for items like special events or interpretive programming.

Commissioner Bolin asked if we have bus routes to and from the parks. Director McMillan commented that we have a partnership with SMART. It is in a pilot phase at a regional level. Commissioner Bolin asked how the pilot went, Director McMillan commented that the report will be coming soon. Commissioner Rea commented that his involvement has been great and the upcoming possibilities with the nonmotorized transportation.

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Taylor that the Board of Commissioners approve the Marketing Plan as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Report - Southern District Year-End Report

Discussion: Southern District Superintendent, Jeff Linn presented the Southern District Year-End Report.

Commissioner Marans asked what is happening with the old office building at Lower Huron. Southern District Superintendent, Jeff Linn responded it is still standing and is used for the maintenance department.

Commissioner Rea commented on the great use of the bonus program.

Motion by Commissioner Pontoni, support from Commissioner Bolin that the Board of Commissioners approve the consent agenda as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Report - Eastern District Year-End Report

Discussion: Eastern District Superintendent, Gary Hopp presented the Eastern District Year-End Report.

Commissioner Rea commented it is great to see the pet friendly events increasing.

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Pontoni that the Board of Commissioners approve the consent agenda as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Report - Western District Year-End Report

Discussion: Western District Superintendent, Jim O'Brian presented the Western District Year-End Report.

Commissioner Pontoni asked about the possibility of bringing back fireworks at Dexter Mills. Director McMillan responded the overall attendance was not consistently great and we do not plan to bring them back to Dexter Mills, the focus on fireworks will be at Kensington for the Western District. An additional factor is the park entrance, Kensington has more point of entries.

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Bolin that the Board of Commissioners approve the consent agenda as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Public Participation

None.

9. Other Business

None.

10. Leadership Update

Director McMillan commented on the great presentations today and it reminded the board of commissioner how much we are investing in infrastructure every single year, including small maintenance and major capital. Director McMillan stated that the updates from today are an entire Metroparks effort. Thank you for your support all year long.

11. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Marans stated that there are considerable differences across the three districts, particularly in the cross-country events. Asked how the districts can cross train and share learnings how to improve which may include more marketing.

12. Motion to Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Micaela Vasquez".

Micaela Vasquez
Recording Secretary