

Cincinnati Parks
Board of Park Commissioners
Minutes June 28, 2018

Meeting began 9:02 am

President Lindner, Vice President Goetz, Commissioner Linda Lee Thomas, Commissioner Castellini, Commissioner Flynn were in attendance.

Terry Nestor swears in Kevin Flynn as the newly appointed Board of Parks Commissioner.

President Brad Lindner presents a motion for the approval of the May 17, 2018 minutes. Vice President Goetz moves to approve and Commissioner Castellini seconds the motion. Motion passes by unanimous vote.

Police Report

Captain Mike Neville speaks about his role as the Park liaison. There is a homeless issue at Smale Riverfront Park during the night time hours. There were some concerns at Piatt Park that were addressed. There was a shooting at McElvoy Park.

Clifton Cultural Arts Center Presentation

Leslie Mooney delivers the Clifton Cultural Arts Center proposal.

Commissioner Castellini asks when they are expected to be out of their current location.

Leslie Mooney responds August 21st.

Commissioner Castellini asks what will happen to the programming once they vacate their current location.

Leslie Mooney responds that they will take the show on the road by going to satellite locations and they will use a small location on short vine to hold some classes.

Commissioner Flynn comments that the timeline seems very aggressive and he is concerned that the funds would need to be raised before construction would begin.

Leslie Mooney understood his concern and they have a track record of raising the money prior to construction but they would like to have an idea of the location before the rest of the fundraising can begin.

President Lindner asks if the fundraising efforts would only be for construction or if it would allow for a trust to help maintain the facility once it is built.

Leslie Mooney responds that they have met with their financial team to include an operating budget as well.

Commissioner Goetz asks how the lease agreement compares to other facilities in the city.

Leslie Mooney replies that the discussion has not begun for the financial responsibility of a lease but this would be a part of the discussion if we continue.

Commissioner Thomas agrees that the timeline is aggressive and asks what their estimated date for an answer would be to stay on track.

Leslie Mooney replies that they would have liked to announce a new building before they have to vacate the current building but recognizes that this will not occur. They have secured satellite locations to hold them for approximately 2 to 3 years but beyond that it becomes more difficult to continue the momentum.

A patron comments that Mt. Storm may be a good location.

Another patron suggests a vacant hillside in the area.

President Lindner recognized the good work between staff and the community regarding this item and the process conducted. President Lindner expressed on behalf of the Board of Park Commissioners the need for staff to continue having the conversations, more public engagement and gather more information and input regarding Clifton Cultural Arts Center's (CCAC) proposal. President Lindner indicated, encouragement from the Board to further explore the item with staff was not an endorsement of the overall project. President Lindner further indicated despite CCAC's timeline and potential incurred expenses, neither would influence the Board's final decision. President Lindner requested of the Board to approve this continued conversation based on his statement.

- Commissioner Jim Goetz, replied by voicing agreement with President Lindner's previous statement. Mr. Goetz added a desire for a study to be put together for a plan for Burnet Woods, get input from people and see how the plan and input coincide.
 - o Commissioner Goetz then moved to direct staff to go forward with an overall plan, with consideration from input received from the public.
 - o Commissioner Castellini seconded the motion.
- Discussion on the motion occurred prior to a vote, initiated by Commissioner Thomas
 - o Commissioner Thomas indicated we need to be open to all options, including future / yet to be determined options. Commissioner Thomas continued with we have a responsibility and obligation to include our input on what the vision is to be as well.
 - o President Lindner commented Commissioner Thomas's remarks could be incorporated into the motion.
 - o Commissioner Castellini commented as an aside from the motion, expressed the need to determine the funding amount required to improve the level of maintenance and care of Burnet Woods.
- The vote on Commissioner Goetz's motion was passed 5-0

NEW BUSINESS

FY 2019 PRIVATE ENDOWMENTS PROPOSED BUDGET

The proposed PE budget for FY 2019 is \$1,433,153. After reviewing the 2019 revenue forecasts, the existing proposed expenditures, the last two years of spending patterns, and surplus balances, staff is recommending that the Board consider increasing the proposed FY 2019 PE budget from the FY 2018 PE budget of \$1,289,585 by \$143,568 to \$1,433,153, for an overall increase of 10.02%. Tables 2 and 3 provide details concerning the FY 2019 PE Funds by program service and fund. Table 4 provides the FY 2019 budget worksheets. In addition, in FY 2019, staff is recommending that the Board of Park Commissioners increase their distribution percentage from their nine private endowment funds from 3.5% to 5% of a twelve quarter market value average. As you know, the Board of Park Commissioners has utilized a 3.5% distribution of a 12 quarter market value average since 2000. This percentage can go as high as 5%. The additional funding distributed will be used to enhance the Park Board's communication & marketing which will in turn generate more patrons of our parks and programs and may generate more revenue. The Park Boards estimated revenues for FY 2019 have been calculated at the 5% distribution rate.

President Lindner requests a motion for the approval of the proposed FY2019 Private Endowment Operating Budget. Commissioner Flynn moves for approval. Commissioner Castellini seconds the motion. Motion passes by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Castellini requests a motion to transfer surplus funds from the PNC Commissioners operating account back to the principal of the endowment accounts they originated from as follows:

- \$325,000 from the Bettman surplus balance to the Bettman endowment fund managed by the PNC Advisors
- \$425,000 from Geier surplus balance back to Geier endowment fund account managed by Opus Capital
- \$350,000 of the Hauck Fountain Square surplus balance back to the Hauck Fountain Square endowment managed by Fifth Third as trustee of that fund pending their approval.

President Lindner seconds the motion. Motion passes by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Flynn asks if there is an investment committee that helps manage the endowments to make sure that we are investing these funds effectively.

Marijane Klug replies that we do have an investment advisory team and a consultant through Messer that sends monthly statements with benchmarks.

Directors Comments

Director Walcutt welcomes Commissioner Flynn to the Board of Park Commissioners.

Director Walcutt thanks all the supporters who appeared, wrote letters and made phone calls to help with the budget hearings.

Director Walcutt reminds the Board of the Westwood Town Hall groundbreaking.

In addition, we have the Mt. Airy Bike Trail groundbreaking

Urban Forestry Board has reviewed a risk management plan that will be brought to the Board in July

City Council has approved all the most recent budget adjustment. The money is in place and we are ready to get to work.

We will also have a modified plan for fee waiver as it relates to event production for the July meeting. We recognize that we do not want to prevent any group from producing an event for community enjoyment. The plan will still involve a permit process, management of the event and proper event procedures. This plan will only provide an opportunity for any financial roadblock to be removed for these events to occur.

July is National Park and Recreation month and we will participate in the celebration to demonstrate how Parks and Recreation can benefit the community. The theme is a Lifetime of Discovery and you will see many initiatives that involve perspective

President Lindner recognized Helen Black and her passing. She was a giant for environmental and natural world and she impacted many landscapes and people.

President Lindner moves to adjourn the meeting. 11:50 pm.

Speakers

Phil Herrick– Excited of the possibility for the CCAC to be located in Burnet Woods. He believes that a park should be nature and the arts together.

Michael Burrill – Architect - he supports the relocation of CCAC in Burnet Woods and knows the design can be completed in an environmentally friendly manner that would meet the needs of CCAC and nature. This would bring more people to Burnet Woods.

Stanley Hedeem – Supports keeping Burnet Woods in its current state. He announces that a petition has been passed around with over 1,000 signatures opposed to any construction. The Park is an educational asset to the City and feels that the Camping and Education Foundation should not construct a new building however use the underutilized nature center already in Burnet Woods.

Tim Mara – He feels that these proposals are a good thing in the wrong place. To use park woods for this purpose is setting a dangerous precedent. According the zoning ordinance 1416.101 parks are to be preserved, protect and enhance natural environment.

Mitchell Livingston – Supports the relocation of CCAC to Burnet Woods in order to build relationships in this wonderful city.

Mauk McKillip - Great supporter of the natural environment. I support the mission to utilize our parks and relocate CCAC to Burnet Woods.

Randy Johnson – Director of the Cincinnati Wildflower Association – Society is dedicated to preserving green spaces. We oppose the development in Burnet Woods.

Marcia McLaughlin – Resident – opposes the relocation of CCAC at Burnet Woods – She would like to see the park receive more attention.

Kathleen Carr – CCAC is a good organization but should Parks allow building a private building on public land. We need more people in the park and it needs to be maintained but we need to help the find new ways to help accomplish this.

Andy Furey – Resident – The perception of Burnet Woods is that it is not safe. The purpose of the park is to observe nature, educational programming and to encourage exercise. I feel that a partnership like CCAC would accomplish the goals by creating a safer environment, more utilization and exposure to nature and educational programming.

Michael Miller – Burnet Woods is an important birding location according to the Audubon Society. The canopy is crucial for the birds to gain their food. He is in favor of putting things offsite and using the park but it needs to be done within reason.

Abby Moran – Resident – Supports continuing the conversation in order to find the right balance for Burnet Woods. It would be great to bring all together in natural spaces and enjoying art.

Gwen Marshall- Distributed a report showing the current environmental condition of Burnet Woods. Opposed to any development in Burnet Woods and feels the Park Board needs to take the stand to preserve and prohibit any development.

Ann Oliver – Resident –Belongs to the Audubon Society and is opposed to any development in Burnet Woods. The community received this land and we deserve the respect to maintain it.

Cindy Herrick – Cofounder of Clifton Cultural Arts Center - We have come to ask to continue the conversation. Ask that the community of Clifton allows the conversation to continue so that we can address all the concerns.

Joe Huber – Encourages Parks to look at options for the Clifton Cultural Arts Center to allow the revitalization of Burnet Woods. A strategic plan can be a win- win for the arts and nature.

Jack Martin – I support the Clifton Cultural Arts Center in Burnet Woods. He would like to see the park used by thousands.

Cynthia Duval – Resident – Uses the park every day and she would love to see more people in the park but she does not feel that this is the right arena for the Clifton Cultural Arts Center. She proposes to close two of the access points to make the park safer for park goers.

Sean Mullaney – Resident – He would love to see the discussion to continue so that the environmental habitat can grow and the Clifton Cultural Arts Center can exist in Burnet Woods.

Buddy Goose – Continue the conversation because it is the perfect place for the Clifton Cultural Arts Center.

John Twachtman – He likes to see the passion for Burnet Woods and agrees that some roads should be closed off. The Clifton Cultural Arts Center would bring more people to the park and it would increase the feeling of being safe.

Mary Jo Vesper – Supports continuing the conversation for the Clifton Cultural Arts Center to develop in Burnet Woods the conversation. There are some environmental challenges to overcome but the conversation should continue to include art and nature.

Sean Kelley – Urges for the conversation to continue. The kids have not been heard so he is representing the children and suggests that the kids are asked what they want to see in the park.

Cathy Springfield – We need to continue the conversation but does not want to see another building in Burnet Woods. Suggest using the existing nature center.

Sander Vinks – Wonderful opportunity to bring the Arts to nature.

Carol Mundy – Burnet Woods is a living laboratory. Burnet Woods needs some TLC but it does not need more pavement and concrete.

Pat Olding– The CCAC is an amazing community asset and Burnet Woods would be benefit from this program. She requests that the conversation continues.

Cedric Michael Fox – As an art educator he is always looking for ways to bring the nature into art and is for the CCAC developing in Burnet Woods.

Sam Bedree– He wants Burnet Woods to stay in its natural state as a wetland.

Vivian Wagner – Burnet Woods is too small to for a Cultural Arts Center to absorb the disruption. Burnet Woods is the only City Park that is recognized by the Audubon society.

Daniel Gist – Burnet Woods is an area for a unique place for the water shed and against disruption.

Patron- He is an Artist and a supporter of city of Cincinnati. The building is too large for the disruption. There are other options.

Rama Uattum – Going to Burnet Woods is going to home and the woods offers its own program.

President Lindner is encouraged by the passion for Burnet Woods and he would like to see the passion continue. Unfortunately we do not have a lot of money and it may take some volunteers to make Burnet Woods a better place.