

**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**  
**May 17, 2018**

**MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners was held on this day at 950 Eden Park Drive. Commissioner's present: President Brad Lindner, Vice President James Goetz, Commissioner Robert D.H. Anning, Commissioner Castellini, and Commissioner Linda Lee Thomas. President Lindner called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

**MINUTES**

President Lindner requested a motion for approval of the April 19, 2018 minutes. Commissioner Castellini moved for approval and Commissioner Anning seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Commissioner Goetz nominates Brad Lindner as President and Commissioner Anning seconds the nomination. All approve through Roll-Call vote.

Commissioner Castellini nominates Robert Anning for Vice President. Robert Anning states that his term is up in a few months so he graciously declines.

Commissioner Thomas nominates James Goetz as Vice President and President Lindner seconds the nomination. All approve through Roll-Call vote.

**PARK POLICE REPORT**

There was not a police report.

**PERSONNEL: Appointment of Division Manager**

Staff recommends the Board of Park Commissioners approve the hiring of Mr. Rocky Merz as Division Manager of Business Services.

Commissioner Anning inquires how this position has been restructured.

Wade Walcutt explains that the Business Services division serves as the Park Board's central hub for our administrative functions. The division has a wide reach throughout the Park Board impacting revenue, asset management, communications, public engagement and branding. The HR components have been removed from this division to be more aligned with other city departments. This position has added additional functions to Business Services such as an internal audit component, claims management and supply purchasing.

President Lindner requested a motion for the appointment of Rocky Merz as the Division Manager of Business Services. Vice President Goetz moves for approval. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. The motion was passed by vote.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Easement for Hotel Balconies at Smale Riverfront Park**

The proposed aerial easements will overlay one park area of 15 square feet and another area of 20 square feet (easement areas #2 and #3 on the attached drawing). These are both along the north property line of the park. The City conducted an appraisal and valued the easements at a total of \$153.

President Lindner asked for a motion on the property easement for the Hotel balconies at Smale Riverfront Park. Vice President Goetz moves for approval. Commissioner Castellini seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

### **Gift Request Acceptance**

An extension of the Vietnam Memorial in Eden Park has been proposed which will create a separate but related space for quiet contemplation in a garden setting. The funding for this garden and the concept idea came from an anonymous donor. The existing memorial is primarily a hardscape of pavers forming a circular plaza that is a setting for a sculpture, with benches, a flagpole and seating. It is set within an open lawn area and is somewhat formal in design. The new space would primarily be defined by landscape that would complement the memorial while creating a more enclosed and informal space. The concept of the new space can be described as follows:

- A garden with a variety of plants of different textures, patterns, colors and fragrances
- Several benches would be set within the garden
- An accessible pathway would wind through the garden and connect to the existing memorial
- The overall design would be based on creating a sense of safety and comfort, and a place for quiet contemplation

This new garden will serve the general public and different communities of people, but it will also in particular serve those who have suffered with PTSD and will serve as a respite for them and for their families.

President Lindner requested a motion for the acceptance of the gift for the Vietnam Memorial Garden. Commissioner Anning moves for approval. Commissioner Castellini seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

## **DIRECTORS COMMENTS**

May 12, 2018 Cincinnati Parks participated in a GoLocal volunteer program and had 600+ volunteers that put in over 1800 hours.

May 18, 2018 we are hosting the Greater Cincinnati Corporate Challenge which is scheduled to have over 260 volunteers putting in over 800 hours.

May 19, 2018 we will participate in the National Park Trust Kids to Parks Day at Burnet Woods, Caldwell Nature Preserve and California Woods.

May 23, 2018 we will host a community conversation at the Clifton Recreation Center to discuss improvement opportunities at Burnet Woods.

The Joint Bank steering committee received 3 proposals for a new music venue at the Banks. The committee is recommending MEMI, a branch of the Cincinnati Symphony to receive the bid. Parks has been in brief discussion with MEMI about the potential location which would finish the base level of Smale Riverfront Park (Lot 23). Once items are more finalized the information will be brought to the Board.

### **COMMISSIONERS DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Castellini inquires if any of the work has been started from the previous approved budget adjustment.

Wade Walcutt explains that we need to wait until the contract is in place before the work can begin.

Marijane Klug explains that there has to be an ordinance for any capital work to begin. By the end of June Parks should be ready to be get contracts for these projects.

Vice President Goetz suggests that a request for each project should begin so that the process can be ready to go once the ordinance is approved.

President Lindner asks when is the deadline to submit before the next budget gets approved.

Marijane replies that June 26, 2018 is the last budget meeting but it should be completed prior to that date.

President Lindner comments on the superb work that staff did preparing Riverfront for a busy spring season. Between the National concert, the Flying Pig Marathon and the Hats Off Luncheon, the amount of work was amazing especially right after the flood.

President Lindner requests a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Anning moves for approval. Commissioner Castellini seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:49 am

**Next meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2018.**

### **SPEAKER CARDS**

Speaker – James Campbell - There has been some conversation that has taken place about the sale of property located on McMicken Ave. He feels that this two and half acres of greenspace should remain with Parks as greenspace.

Steve Schuckman explains that there has been discussion for the sale of this property. The Real Estate division holds the details about this property. Steve will help connect the speaker with Real Estate.