

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
September 20, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners was held on this day at 950 Eden Park Drive. Commissioners present: President Brad Lindner, Vice President James Goetz, and Commissioner Thomas. President Lindner called the meeting to order at approximately 9 A.M.

Commissioner Castellini arrived later in the meeting. Commissioner Kevin Flynn was excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Lindner motioned for approval of the August 16, 2018 minutes. Commissioner Thomas drew attention to three corrections: Asking to add a last name to a person mentioned during the Board of Visitors Introduction; asking for a dollar amount to be included in the PE Budget Adjustment - Grant Acceptance of Tom Jones section; and a name correction on the last page. Vice President James Goetz moved for approval and Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. The motion was passed by vote.

PARK POLICE REPORT

Captain Mike Neville wished everyone good morning, then presented a report. He stated Piatt Park presents challenges of attracting people who don't behave how they should in a park. Park employees, downtown resident councils are enthusiastic and helpful in trying to come up with a solution. E-scooters also present a challenge. Captain Neville has utilized what the courts have directed in regard to homeless encampments and applied them to people sleeping in parks.

Vice President James Goetz inquired about the City Council Ordinance regarding E-Scooters and if that applies to Parks. Captain Neville clarified it does include parks as they are located within the City. They've designated certain bike paths that can have E-scooters on them, but outside of that E-scooter users cannot ride them. E-scooters arrived out of nowhere. With a lot of park insight progress has been made, but it remains a challenge.

The Board thanked Captain Neville for his report.

SPEAKER REQUEST

Speaker Cynthia Duvall of Preserve Burnet Woods organization asked about the status of the Burnet Woods Proposals and whether there was a consensus from the other Park Community Councils (CPAC), and if an environmental assessment had been approved?

Vice President Goetz replied that there was helpful input from CPAC.

Director Wade Walcutt answered that no decisions have been made regarding Burnett Woods proposals, and no environmental studies have been approved.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Dave Gamstetter, Interim Division Manager, introduced The Urban Forestry Advisory Board (UFAB). The UFAB is a mix of volunteer and City of Cincinnati staff who work with urban forestry staff to advise the Park Director on planning, promotion, and guidance of the urban forestry program. Present were members Vice-Chair Reno Runck, Community Representatives Paul Gallager and Caryl Cooley Fullman.

Dave Gamstetter recognized the UFAB for their contribution of time, knowledge, and talents to the success of the Urban Forestry Program.

President Lindner thanked the UFAB for their efforts and asked about their biggest challenges or opportunities.

The UFAB responded it was a pleasure.

President Linder asked how long they've been engaged in the program.

It was clarified that UFAB has existed since Urban Forestry began in 1988. Dave also stated a couple of members have been on and off throughout the years. Paul has been on the UFAB for around ten years, and Caryl is a recent addition. Paul commented that Parks staff and the Park Board have been a pleasure to work with.

The Park Board thanked the UFAB, and the UFAB thanked the Park Board on behalf of the absent UFAB members.

STAFF APPOINTMENTS

The Board was asked to approve the hiring of Kevin Manual and Gregory Peck Jr. as full-time laborers for West District. Both presently serve as seasonal employees.

The Board was asked to approve Steven Crooms as a Service Crew Leader for Mt. Airy Forest. He was ranked number one on the Central Human Resources promotional list for this position.

The Board was asked to approve Matt Williams as Truck Driver. He was ranked number one on the Central Human Resources promotional list for this position.

The Board was asked to approve Damian Tyree and Alex Robinson as Florists for Krohn Conservatory and Central Parkway respectively. Out of 39 qualified applicants Park Board staff interviewed 12. Damian Tyree and Alex Robinson ranked in the top.

President Linder motioned to accept all new hires and Vice President Goetz seconded the motion. The motion was passed by vote.

Commissioner Thomas asked if any of the appointees were present; none were.

Vice President Goetz clarified commented that the Park Board receives the staff reports, including new hires, in advance and reviews recommended appointments before the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

PLAYHOUSE IN THE PARK

Steve Schuckman stated the board has the report from the Playhouse design team before them. The Playhouse design plans are advanced enough to share to the Board, and the Playhouse design team is seeking approval for variances in the expansion plan.

Blake Robison, Artistic Director of Playhouse in the Park is seeking endorsement of the conceptual design for the new mainstage theater facility replacing the aging Marx Theater. Playhouse is also seeking approval for three variances. Marx Theater, built in 1968 is the oldest unrenovated theater in the country. Playhouse needs an improvement in stage technology and an improvement in physical accessibility. Playhouse desires to integrate its experience with the surrounding Park.

Tom Aarons with the design firm BHDP walked the Board through plan drawings. He described the driver behind the designs is taking Playhouse in the Park and turning it into a park in the playhouse. BHDP seeks to match the key design principles of Eden Park and integrate them in the Playhouse in the Park's expansion design. The placement of the new Marx Theater, to the north, is driven by the need to keep the current theater operational while the new one is being built. An outdoor plaza will be added when the old Marx Theater is torn down as well as a new service drive to the west and a new pedestrian walk way to the east. BHDP evaluated all trees on site and are looking to maintain a 150-year-old Elm tree on the property.

Tom Aarons showed conceptual renderings for the southside stairway from Mt. Adams with a new glass lobby, a view from parking of the shelter house, the drive up to Playhouse in the Park, and various views from multiple directions showing how the expansion will exist in the park landscape. Floor plans show Playhouse in the Park is aiming to limit stairs to an aging patronage. A view of the retaining walls was also discussed.

Commissioner Castellini arrived.

The Playhouse project seeks approval for a variance in the height of retaining wall. Eight feet is the standard height and the design calls for heights close to twenty feet. The additional height helps save the 150-foot tree and allows the fire department to have easier access.

Approval is also sought for a variance in the height of the building and permission to excavate further than a depth of eight feet.

All variance requests will be made to the zoning department, but since the Park Board owns the land they're seeking Park Board approval as well.

Tom Aarons also showed a physical model of the design plans to the Board.

Blake Robison presented an official copy of the request letter to the Board.

Commissioner Castellini inquired how the retaining walls are constructed, and how they'll be drained.

The retaining walls will be a concrete product stamped to look like stone. Drainage will be at the top along the edge and just below the surface area.

Steve Schuckman stated the Park Board in April in 2017 asked that as a policy for every tree removed two trees be planted. This will occur with this project and Parks will drive the size and placement of the trees.

Vice President Goetz commented the approach of being the park inside the theater, and the emphasis on bringing the park experience to the patrons was great. Goetz loves the new pathway for park goers to use. Goetz also inquired about the shelter house.

Steve Schuckman clarified the Park shelter house was built in the late 19th century. Blake Robison stated many patrons who attend the Playhouse in the Park love the shelter house.

Vice President Goetz agreed he loves that an original park's facility is still being used and is a part of the future plans. Goetz asked if the City of Cincinnati still owns the Playhouse in the Park building.

Steve Schuckman clarified it's a lease and the City owns the building and the land.

Vice President Goetz also appreciates that The Playhouse in the Park team has brought these plans to the Board ahead of time, even though they're not finalized.

Blake Robison estimated final design plans will be ready for the January 2019 Park Board Meeting.

Commissioner Thomas echoed Vice President Goetz's comments on park in the house concept and asked if there are plans to have an outside place for patrons.

Robison stated there are plans containing an entrance plaza with grass and seating outside.

Commissioner Thomas inquired about a letter of support from the Mt. Adams community.

Playhouse in the Park representatives answered they have been meeting with the Business Association and the Residents Association of Mt. Adams and will continue to meet with those groups.

Commissioner Thomas asked if will there be more parking.

It was clarified that due to cost parking is not a part of the current plan. The approach to the building is more accessible and friendly.

President Linder wanted clarification on the location of the new real estate the Park Board is leasing to the Playhouse.

Steve Schuckman referenced attachments from April; the lease expands to the road, and expands on both sides of the previous lease, but stops before it gets to the Cincinnati Recreation Commission's pool.

Commissioner Castellini stated there's a parking problem and asked about future solutions.

Blake Robison mentioned there's been some talk of buses by the arts community in the area. All ideas for the future are on the table.

It was clarified the retaining wall won't be seen by the public much at all, and only service crew would most likely see it. Commissioner Castellini was relieved.

Vice President James Goetz made a motion that the Board support the Playhouse's requests for variances. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. The motion was passed by vote.

DEER MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Dave Gamstetter introduced Robert Rack to discuss the Clifton Deer Management Program, the state Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) extended the study for two more years.

Robert Rack spoke on behalf of the leadership group of Cliftondeer.org, a project that studying the use of surgical sterilization to reduce over abundant deer herds in semi open urban areas. Robert Rack was there with three other leadership members.

Robert Rack gave a brief history of the origin of the program. In 2014, the Park Board planned to expand the deer bow hunting program to parts of Clifton. People objected, then Parks Director Willie Carden proposed a collaboration to explore non-lethal alternatives to reduce herds, it had to be approved by the ODNR Wildlife Division and not require any tax dollars. Cliftondeer.org focused on surgical sterilization since they found it more likely to reduce the deer population. The Park Board at the time approved the proposal.

Cliftondeer.org contracted White Buffalo Inc. a wildlife population control company from Connecticut to complete a five-year study. ODNR granted a three-year permit with renewal if the study went well, and they recently granted the renewal so Cliftondeer.org thought it appropriate to present an update.

The premise of the study is female deer live their entire lives within one square mile. If that's true, and few deer migrate to the area then surgical sterilization should shrink the deer population as deer die of natural causes. Fertility experts say if 95% of female deer are sterilized in the area then the deer population will shrink 10% or more a year.

For the last 3 years in late fall, the White Buffalo team led by Dr. Anthony DeNicola lead a 5 to 6-day night field operation to capture female deer. Deer are darted by radio transmitter tranquilizer

darts. Deer are driven to a surgical center. A 20-minute sterilization surgery is performed, similar to spaying a dog or a cat. The tagged doe is given a long acting antibiotic and pain reliever and returned near where darted.

White Buffalo used 4 different scientific counting methods. Started with 99 deer in the study area; 2 years later there were 81 deer, 19% fewer. 91% of does have been sterilized, and Cliftondeer.org is optimistic the numbers will continue to decrease.

Robert Rack went on to discuss the future. The study is showing to be effective, but the cost needs work. In the first three years \$95,000 was raised by individual donors and foundations. Roughly 90% went to White Buffalo Inc. field operations, annual population surveys, and reporting to Parks and ODNR. The only way to bring these costs down is to obtain a local volunteer group to retain White Buffalo's responsibilities. Cliftondeer.org has applied for and received grants to train local volunteers in the darting and capture process and partnering with a Northside Vet Clinic to train their surgeons in the surgical procedure. If these operations can be done by volunteers, costs will dramatically go down in the future.

Commissioner Castellini asked if there was any progress in the contraceptive method instead of the surgical method?

Robert Rack assured there has been progress in contraceptive methods. It would be optimal if a contraceptive method advanced to a point where a deer could be treated one time. Currently it still requires multiple darting incidents, resulting in a higher failure rate. Cliftondeer.org still has the view that if the goal is to bring deer populations down, the surgical method is still the best option.

Castellini asked if the doe is still attractive to bucks after sterilization; if not then would bucks migrate elsewhere as result.

It was summarized by the team that a firm answer cannot be given on that matter, but they haven't witnessed a massive migration of male deer. It was noted buck migration typically results from an increase in testosterone. Older bucks tend to kick out younger bucks from an area. A potential advantage may be less chasing activity and therefore a decrease in vehicle deer collisions. There hasn't been a study on this assumption though.

President Linder inquired if they are 4% away from their 95% doe sterilization target, would they sit back and monitor?

Robert Rack presumes there will be some migration and the 5% of non-sterilized deer will have young female deer.

Vice President Goetz asked what the target population level is.

The team is still concluding what population target is best for ecological purposes. They're also looking for Cincinnati Park staff opinion on the matter.

Vice President Goetz also commented that he is just outside the study area, and he's noticed an increase of deer on his property, so he thought migration may be coming into play.

Robert stated Park's flyover studies showed a dramatic increase in deer population in the years before the study started and suggested perhaps the increase in deer in that area confirms those studies from years past.

Castellini asked about the fundraising, if it was \$40,000 a year to keep it going.

People have been very enthusiastic about supporting it. If volunteers who are interested in the activity and passionate about the cause take over costs would go way down.

Linder asked if there was an estimated cost for running the program. Also, who are the most credible volunteers to obtain?

It's hard to come up with a future cost at this moment. The White Buffalo team is important to replace with volunteers.

Commissioner Thomas wanted clarification on an earlier suggestion that the challenge to find female deer goes up when more of the doe population is sterilized.

Robert Rack agreed that there are some female deer that continue to evade them every year. The group has even named a couple of them Thelma and Louise.

He transitioned to mention it's a labor of love that has gotten some good publicity for the Parks. The Discovery channel did a 6-minute video on the process and the Cliftondeer.org group has been invited to speak at some events. Robert Rack thanked everyone and the Board in turn also thanked the Cliftondeer.org team.

SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Rocky Merz instructed the Board to reference to their packets. He described how events use Park spaces via a special use permit. Park Board Rule 29 governs this process, it makes us aware of the event, provides for fees, permits and clean up.

The Park Board has a fee waiver process for civic minded events, contributing to the general well-being of the city. Due to the importance of this program, the revenue and the community benefit Parks staff reviewed the process to ensure it was being applied consistently. It was determined the fee-waiver process had room for improvement. Parks wants to take the one-page process and make it more transparent, consistent, and fair.

As a remedy, Rocky Merz described a proposed sponsorship program, allowing groups to apply for sponsorship for their event. In order to be eligible, the event must be in one of five categories: athletic/sport events, educational programs, cultural/art programs, fundraiser programs, and community service. Events that are prohibited include: events fundraising for profit, events promoting religious and political causes. These are not complete lists, just highlights. The event

must also provide benefits for Parks. The event must be free and open to the public. The event cannot discriminate on age, sex, sexual orientation, race or creed. If a program is selected for sponsorship based on the waived amount those event organizers are required to perform volunteer hours on behalf of parks, which will be tracked by the volunteer coordinator.

Commissioner Castellini asked if those volunteer hours could be done during the event, if volunteers stayed after the event to help clean up.

Rocky responded it can be done that way, but we also want to encourage volunteers to come back to Parks and would be managed by the volunteer coordinator.

Commissioner Thomas asked about time frames, and if there's consequences if event organizers didn't put in the volunteer hours.

It was clarified that event organizers wouldn't have to pay the money back, but completion of volunteer hours would be tracked, so if the grouped held another event Parks would know they didn't complete their previous hours. A 6-month time frame is the recommended time frame for completing volunteer hours.

Rocky proceeded to describe how Parks will have the choice to co-brand the event with event organizers and be an event sponsor of the event.

Under this proposal, events must be 501C3's in order to be considered. A pre-event budget as well as a post-event budget would be provided. Once the application is received, it will be reviewed by a review committee composed of park and city staff along with outside event expertise. The Park Director will have final say.

In terms of awarding sponsorship, it cannot exceed 25% of total program costs of the event. No one event can receive more than \$2,000 per event, with a \$5,500 cap per year.

Parks Staff plans to take steps to ensure there isn't a big dip in revenue. Specifically, the criteria needed to apply is more consistent and detailed. Based on the budget at any point Staff can correct and slow down or make adjustments. Additionally, the Park Foundation and United Way have agreed to provide funding. Finally, there will be a post budget report to track revenue and the success of the program. This sponsorship program would be separate from the permit process, events still have to obtain a permit.

In order to make this new process happen, Staff is asking the Board to vote to approve adding section H to Park Board Rule 29 as written in the Staff report.

Commissioner Castellini commented that fees could be completely waived in the past.

Rocky Merz responded that events could be completely waived under this proposal and that often happened in the past, the issue was the criteria that established the waiver wasn't very clear and was left to the discretion of a park employee.

Commissioner Castellini stated she understood the problems, but with this new program it seems only 25% of a fee can be waived.

Rocky explained if one's total event costs were \$10,000 the most Parks can waive is \$2,500 of the event organizers total costs.

President Linder joined in to add that this goes above and beyond the fee, subsidizing or sponsoring their costs.

Rocky added that it would be other services we provide like clean up and staffing.

Commissioner Castellini asked if the services of clean up and staffing were already included in the permit fee?

Rocky answered yes clean up and staffing are a part of that fee. He added we as Parks could waive 100% of our complete costs for a particular event.

Commissioner Castellini asked why we need to go into sponsorships for the event organizers' costs and added she didn't understand.

Rocky Merz responded it was intended as a limit on the top end of all total event costs borne by the event organizer.

Vice President Goetz agreed with Commissioner Castellini this was confusing. He added the purpose and background deals with the event fee waiver process. Is the intent of this program to address how we approve the fee waiver? The disconnect is we say we have an issue on how we are approving fee waivers, but this policy addresses something different. This policy is how the Park Board is going to give money to organizations that plan an event. Rather than addressing the process of fee reduction, which is a reduction in Parks revenue, this policy talks about how we can give money out in support events not only in our parks. Goetz wanted clarification if his statement was true. Goetz commented the adjusted policy should have said "which are held within Cincinnati Parks."

Commissioner Thomas agreed she was confused. She stated that if a 501C3 came to Parks to throw an event then there's a fee to be paid to Parks. She thought this process was to allow event organizers to apply for a fee reduction or waiver. She clarified we should only be concerned with the amount of Parks fees to be waived, then asked if that is not what Parks is trying to do.

Rocky Merz agreed this is the intent, and this was good feedback because it shows the need to have the policy language be clearer. The intent is not to cut checks to organizations, but rather to provide support in the form of waived fees.

President Linder sought clarification that this was about reducing revenue inflow and not about using general funds to support event activities.

Rocky Merz clarified that a reduction or complete waiver of Parks fees is representative of Parks sponsoring an event. It was agreed we're looking to stay revenue neutral with the help of United Way and Parks Foundation.

Commissioner Castellini added the 25% makes it unclear. She asked if it was possible to completely waive a fee.

Rocky Merz answered yes. The 25% language was intended to be a cap on the top end.

Castellini says the language doesn't make that clear.

Vice President Goetz asked if we have permits that cost more than \$2,000. It was answered that we do have event permits that exceed \$2,000. Vice President Goetz added the language makes it seem like money is going out from Parks.

Director Walcutt concluded we got ahead of ourselves, but the intent is to allow a reduction in fee, and by doing that there must be a clear and transparent process. The language may have gotten confusing because we were anticipating groups and organizations asking us to also help out with some of their incurred expenses in addition to Cincinnati Park's permit fees. As of today, with the comments provided our intent is to provide a better process for fee reductions.

Commissioner Castellini asked to please simplify it and Commissioner Thomas added maybe those are two separate things, to put it all together may be confusing. Thomas likes that it's very specific about who is eligible and making that known to the public. One of the problems before was not everyone was aware they had opportunity for reduction.

Walcutt said Staff will have an update for the October Board Meeting. Rocky Merz, Jenny Mobley and team have revamped the website, and this is something that can be on the website, so it is clear to the public.

Rocky Merz thanked the Board for the discussion and feedback and added the timing is great because the event season is winding down. Comments from the Board are on point and there is agreement that the purpose is to provide clear criteria and boundaries, which is the intent.

FORT WASHINGTON WAY PLANTERS

Dave Gamstetter described the Fort Washington Way planters were installed as part of the Fort Washington Way project approximately 18 years ago. Initially the City funded to maintain those planters, around ten years ago the greenspace took budget cuts, and Fort Washington Way planter budget was cut. Parks gets \$7,000 a year from City Garden's Fund, which buys plants for the summer display and uses volunteers to replant them.

Over time, the Fort Washington Way Planters' drains have become clogged with sediment and the irrigation system is having problems. The Board is being asked to approve moving Private Endowment funds to hire a contractor to reopen the drains and fix the irrigation system.

President Linder asked how many planters there are, and it was clarified that there are 3 per bridge.

Commissioner Thomas asked how old the planters are, and it was clarified they are 17 years old. She also inquired if this will be an on-going issue. Dave Gamstetter answered getting the drains fixed should make them good for 15 more years.

Vice President Goetz mentioned the last report showed there's \$112,000 in the City Garden Fund for Fort Washington Way. He feels this issue is exactly what that money was set aside for.

President Linder asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Thomas seconded. The motion was approved by vote.

In-Kind Services Acceptance

Rocky Merz stated that Park spaces should be clean and beautiful, and signage is implemented to assist in maintaining a welcoming environment. Recently, a dog urine problem in Piatt Park was discussed, because it damages the floral landscape. Also, Eden Park Twin Lakes signage has become cluttered.

LPK, a nationally known marketing firm located near Piatt Park is interested in helping Parks by re-envisioning a messaging strategy to make signage positive and engaging as opposed to directive and negative. This as framework can also be used for other signs in Cincinnati Parks.

LPK has offered to donate these messaging services, valued at approx. \$35,000. Parks will have final say on signage and design. Consistent with current practice, Parks will print and install them as needed.

To move forward, there is a state of Ohio accounting requirement that such gifts need to be formally accepted. We're asking the Park Board to accept the gift. If approved, we will submit for City Council approval.

President Linder wanted clarification that LPK was coming up with a new approach and that Parks will participate. Rocky pointed out the style and look will remain the same. Linder clarified that this means only the verbiage will be different.

Director Walcutt added the total amount of signs will be affected. He added residents near Twin Lakes discussed the challenge of what geese and ducks leave behind because of park visitors. Suggestions of adding signage resulted in realizing that signage already existed. LPK's input is about reducing the quantity and improving the quality of Park's signs. Wade Walcutt also agreed the tone of the signs was important to change as well.

Vice President James Goetz mentioned LPK is a talented group, but he wants to make sure our institutional signage won't be affected.

Rocky clarified this has to do with rule signs.

President Linder motioned to approve in-kind services from LPK. Commissioners Thomas and Goetz seconded. Motion was passed by vote.

WASHINGTON PARK BUDGET

Director Wade Walcutt stated we know our parks create an economic impact to the City, they enhance the quality of life and are great social equalizers. Washington Park and Ziegler Park are prime examples of those benefits. The redevelopment of areas around these parks has had a huge economic impact. Both parks are examples of when it is appropriate to seek outside collaboration. Thanks to 3CDC and our collaboration with them those two parks have been successful.

Staff has been dialoguing with 3CDC staff to discuss what was working well and what wasn't. Through that dialogue one of the challenges identified was having eyes on the park to decrease negative activity. The Park Board and 3CDC both hire seasonal staff. This presents challenges with coordination and communication. On the Park Board end there have been challenges with things such as City wide hiring freezes affecting staffing levels Washington Park and Ziegler Park. In year two of Ziegler there is no slowing down of attendance, and Washington Park was recently voted the best park in Ohio.

Based on the challenge of having Parks Staff present, Staff recommends taking \$50,000 in a personnel line item, and making it available for 3CDC for the purposes of hiring staff for Washington Park and Ziegler Park. In addition, Staff recommends \$50,000 set aside in a horticulture line item be used for the same purpose because the wear and tear expected on the landscape has not come to fruition.

Under this scenario, 3CDC would invoice Parks for hiring staff for Washington Park and Ziegler Park. Parks paying 3CDC it would require City Council to pass an ordinance because personnel dollars are being moved to non-personnel dollars by paying 3CDC.

Commissioner Thomas wanted clarification that the personnel dollars being used to pay 3CDC are for hiring personnel, with 3CDC completing the process of hiring. Also, since 3CDC would be invoicing Parks it's not considered personnel even though it is for personnel?

Wade Walcutt confirmed this was correct.

President Linder wanted clarification that the wear and tear on plant material at Ziegler Park is better than what was anticipated so we're shifting that funding to personnel issues. He also wanted to know what happens when wear and tear does become an issue in the future.

Wade Walcutt said there is still funding available in the horticulture line and it will not be depleted. Secondly, that's a real issue that faces every park. There is a budgeted amount for horticulture in every park. Sometimes more is needed than planned.

Commissioner Castellini asked if this was a year to year commitment.

Wade Walcutt responded that the intent is to this presented concept and applying it to future annual budgets.

Commissioner Castellini stated she thinks this is a great resolution to what was a problem.

President Linder asked if we have a motion to accept the transfer of funds and partnership with 3CDC as it relates to Washington Park and Ziegler Park. Commissioner Castellini motioned. Vice President Goetz Seconded. Motion was passed by vote.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Director Wade Walcutt wanted to make the Board aware that several employees will be going to Indianapolis next week to participate in a great professional development opportunity with the National Recreation Park Association. It's a conference that travels around the country, and Cincinnati Parks is fortunate this year that it is within driving distance allowing more staff to attend.

Wade Walcutt invited the Executive Director of the Park Foundation, Jennifer Spieser to speak for the purposes of making an announcement. Ms. Spieser announced she received notice from the Duke Energy Foundation that the Foundation will receive \$10,000 next year for the 2019 ReLEAF Program. The Foundation worked with Dave Gamstetter and team to make this happen.

There is a grant ceremony on Thursday September 27, 2019. Wade Walcutt and the Foundation Board President, will be there. Duke representatives are sending out invites to the Park Board as well.

Commissioner Castellini asked for the news to be repeated, it was clarified it's for the ReLEAF Program.

President Linder asked where the trees will be planted.

Jennifer Spieser described the program, run by the Park Board for 15 years, provides an application for city residents to apply and get a free tree in their neighborhood. Trees have to be planted in the City's right away.

Wade Walcutt invited the Board to check out the revamped Cincinnati Parks website www.cincinnati-parks.com. He stated staff spent a lot of time researching and getting feedback from residents, to identify and more clearly present the information visitors are most interested in finding. Additionally, Staff has received great feedback and comments regarding the volunteerism section now featured on the home page. Staff is also regularly showcasing volunteers and staff on the site in addition to other enhancements.

Wade Walcutt added the Fund 430 ordinance implementing the Park Foundation MOU and setting up the new Private Endowment fund architecture will go to the City Council for approval on Monday October 1st 2018.

Rocky Merz interjected that Council cancelled the meeting on the October 1st, and instead it will be October 8th 2018.

Commissioner Castellini asked for the number again, which is Fund 430. She wanted clarification on the PNC bank account.

Wade Walcutt said when this is executed Staff will start to flip the switch and implement the changes. Approval of this ordinance allows Staff to finalize the new process.

Commissioner Thomas asked if the first step is in Budget Committee. Wade Walcutt thought it had already been referred to the Budget Committee. Rocky Merz added it will be in the committee on October 8th, if approved there it will be approved by the full council on October 10th.

Vice President James Goetz stated for clarity that this ordinance establishes a City restricted fund account (430) so when the Park Board wishes to make expenditures, money will be transferred out of the PNC account into this fund allowing disbursement of funds.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Castellini mentioned the Cincinnati Magazine article titled Taking Sides, and she recommended everyone read it. She congratulated Jennifer Spieser and Wade Walcutt for handling the subject so well. She also recommended Wade Walcutt talk about their future trip to Washington D.C.

Wade Walcutt said on October 3rd he, Vice President Goetz, Commissioner Castellini, the Board President Kathy Caldemeyer will be meeting with consultants in Washington D.C. They will meet with two representatives of Congress, two representatives from the Senate, and the Army Corps of Engineers. Parks will be thanking them for their support of Smale Riverfront Park, and to garner support to complete the overall project that is Smale Riverfront Park. It is not often that for every federal dollar donated has leveraged \$6 dollars in profit. The Army Corps of engineers are typically an organization dedicated to levies, locks, and dams. Smale is a big part of this because we are looking for a hard cap on the Ohio River's edge to prevent erosion in Smale Riverfront Park. Wade Walcutt is very appreciative of everyone's time.

Commissioner Castellini added the Corps of Army Engineers really likes Parks, and need to be reminded of the project.

President Linder asked if there were any other comments, there were none.

Next Park Board meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2018.

President Lindner motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Castellini moved for approval. Commissioners voted to approve.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 am

ATTEST:



PRESIDENT



DIRECTOR

