

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
December 6, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

A special 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 Jim Goetz, Commissioner Susan Castellini, and Commissioner Kevin Flynn. President Lindner called the meeting to order at 12:00 P.M.

Ballet/Neyer Agreement

Commissioner Flynn recused himself from the discussion. Interim Director Kish presented terms for the Second Amendment to the Property Swap and Development Agreement between the City of Cincinnati and 625 Eden Park Drive, LLC (Neyer affiliate) as well as language for the Agreement between the City of Cincinnati and Cincinnati Ballet.

Vice President Goetz asked if the payment from Neyer for the Future Park Project, not to exceed \$100,000, was intended as a fixed sum. Ms. Kish confirmed, and Luke Blocher verified small tweaks to the language can still be made. Mr. Blocher explained if the Board approved actions described in the document presented, that would be sufficient for legal purposes. Mr. Goetz expressed his appreciation for the work of staff and cooperation of partners.

Vice President Goetz motioned to approve the two proposed agreements as presented. Commissioner Castellini seconded. The motion passed by vote.

Commissioner Flynn reentered the meeting.

2021 Urban Forestry Special Assessment

Interim Director Kish introduced Crystal Courtney to present information on the Urban Forestry Assessment, which will be presented for board action at the next regular meeting of the Board.

Crystal Courtney, Supervisor of Urban Forestry presented background on the Urban Forestry Assessment, which funds planting, care, and maintenance of street trees, as well as procedures within the year-long administrative process.

Matt DiBona, Senior GIS Analyst presented how assessment data is collected, how it was historically managed, some of the challenges identified in the past year, and the proposal for managing assessment data as well as overcoming challenges, moving forward. There was discussion regarding the source of data within the Cincinnati Area Geographic Information System (CAGIS) and manual errors resulting from the historic/standard assessment model.

The assessment process for condominiums was discussed. Commissioner Flynn expressed concern regarding the accuracy of the current assessment procedure, which determines the rate condo owners are charged based on front footage of the condominium building. There was further discussion regarding possible methods for assessing condominiums and the accuracy of

data in CAGIS. Mr. DiBona continued with the presentation, describing potential future challenges including changes to right-of-way.

Ms. Courtney presented next steps to the Board regarding the assessment process, undetermined rights-of-way, and coordinating with Department of Transportation and Engineering.

Commissioner Flynn asked if the City pays the assessment for County, State, and Federal property because the City cannot legally assess government entities. Christine Zimmer suggested this may be the reason but she was uncertain. Mr. DiBona clarified funding comes from the general fund, but not Parks' budget. The assessment for parkways was also discussed, and Ms. Courtney clarified this also does not come out of Parks' budget.

Vice President Goetz asked if there would be any question as to the new methodology for the assessment. Ms. Courtney answered no, the only clarification needed is the undetermined right-of-way. The relationship with and responsibility of the Hamilton County Auditor was discussed. There was discussion regarding the frequency of the assessment increase.

President Lindner asked what influence Parks has to increase urban tree canopy. Ms. Courtney explained a portion of the Urban Tree Canopy assessment grant is dedicated to planting and Parks will partner with a non-profit and Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to plant trees. There was further discussion regarding the role of ODOT in planting trees within the right-of-way.

ADJOURNMENT

President Lindner announced the next regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners will be December 19, 2019. Vice President Goetz motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Castellini seconded. Motion passed by vote.

Meeting adjourned at 12:47 P.M.

ATTEST:



PRESIDENT



DIRECTOR