

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
November 19, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners was held on this day remotely by video conference. Commissioners present: President Brad Lindner, Vice President Jim Goetz, Commissioner Susan Castellini, Commissioner Kevin Flynn, and Commissioner Linda Lee Thomas. President Lindner called the meeting to order at 12:05 P.M. Attendance was confirmed by roll call.

Acknowledgement of Public Comments

President Lindner announced the Board received and reviewed public comments via email, and that they will be published with the meeting minutes on Cincinnati Parks' website.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Castellini motioned to approve the October 15, 2020 meeting minutes. Commissioner Flynn seconded. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

RETIREMENT RECOGNITION

Deputy Director Jenny Mobley presented the retirement recognition of Ms. Andrea Schepmann. Ms. Mobley described Ms. Schepmann's 35-year career with the City, primarily her vital contribution to the development and success of Krohn Conservatory, for which she had been Regional Manager since 2007. She asked the Board to join staff in congratulating and thanking Ms. Schepmann for her dedicated service to the Cincinnati community.

Ms. Schepmann thanked the Board for the recognition and expressed her willingness to continue to stay involved and dedicated to Krohn.

OLD BUSINESS

Boat Dock Presentation

Director Kish introduced the topic of discussion and thanked Commissioner Flynn for his commitment to the Boat Dock project.

Commissioner Flynn provided background on the boat dock, recounting the previous board concerns regarding cost and operational responsibility and described the precedent for a marina at the riverfront. He introduced the proposal presented by Queen City Riverboats, which was developed with consideration of the parameters set by the Park Board. Mr. Flynn described potential sources of funding for the \$1.7 million cost to the Park Board and highlighted a gap of around \$100K which he proposed funding from Fund 329.

Rebecca Simpson Heimlich, Finney Law, introduced the Queen City Riverboats (QCR) proposal by Don Jones and Brendan Sullivan. Mr. Jones described the overall concept of the proposal, which would include a transient dock at the riverfront with public access and ability for fire departments

to dock fire boats. He explained next steps include respective legal review and establishing a timeline, with hopes for completion by Red's Opening Day 2021. He introduced Tyler Watkins, Work Architects, who created the architectural renderings presented.

The presentation continued with architectural renderings of headboat options at the Public Landing, including the relocation of QCR's existing headboat in Dayton, Kentucky. Mr. Jones explained QCR would be responsible for the operations, including upfront investment for headboat remodeling. The vision was shared for a 30-40 slip dock, bar/restaurant, restrooms with showers, possible excursion boat operation, and commuter potential between Kentucky and Ohio. Mr. Jones explained QCR would also manage debris along the Public Landing and keep the area clean, make all adjustments to the dock with changing water levels, and are proposing a 24/7 no-wake zone.

Commissioners Castellini and Goetz expressed gratitude for the work done on the concept. Vice President Goetz asked for confirmation on dock capacity. Mr. Sullivan explained the dock is 1200 linear feet with water, electric, and sewer hookups and would service 30-40 slips, depending on boat size. He expressed capacity will not be altered if the headboat grows or is developed further.

The timeline was discussed. Mr. Sullivan emphasized the vision for completing the project by September 1, 2021. Director Kish expressed the timeline is of paramount importance and offered administrative perspective on the timeline. She explained the Park Board has received permission from ODNR for a grant extension, but has not yet been granted the extension. She furthered, gaining consensus from the Commissioners on the project would establish good standing with ODNR.

President Lindner expressed gratitude for the presentation and his support for the project. Commissioner Thomas echoed the sentiment and thanked Commissioner Flynn for his perseverance and her satisfaction with the proposal and collaboration with QCR. Commissioner Castellini also thanked Commissioner Flynn.

Commissioner Flynn commented on the public-private partnership and requested the Board approve the concept and authorize the Director to execute documents agreeable to the City, in accordance with the proposal, and authorize up to \$200k from Fund 329. Commissioner Castellini motioned to approve this request.

Vice President Goetz asked if a final agreement would be presented to the Park Board and discussion followed. Mr. Goetz and Mr. Flynn expressed the Director could be authorized to enter into an agreement and presenting again to the Board would be at the Director's discretion.

Commissioner Flynn restated the motion on the floor to approve the presented boat dock concept and allow the Director to execute contracts substantially in accordance with the presentation and authorize release of up to \$200k from Fund 329 in furtherance of the contract. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion.

Kevin Frank, City Law, commented on the aggressive timeline, expressing legal matters alone may take until April 2021. He established expectations on the timeline from Law's perspective. Commissioner Flynn commented there may be a need for two separate contracts, for construction and operations, respectively. Director Kish explained staff have reviewed the proposal and will discuss questions with Law. President Lindner expressed the high priority of the project and the

need for the Park Board to advance the process. Director Kish expressed the support of the Board in authorizing staff to pursue contract terms will assist with the timeliness, and she will bring back any items falling outside of the discussed project scope.

Commissioner Thomas asked about the ramifications should the timeline be delayed. Discussion followed and it was determined a month or two delay would not be a major concern and impact on the seasonal opportunity for construction would be a primary consideration.

Commissioner Castellini asked if the project should be brought to the attention of the Mayor. Commissioner Flynn expressed to the extent the Mayor is unaware, he would be willing to do so, but there will be hurdles in executing a public contract regardless.

President Lindner announced the motion on the floor has been seconded and asked the clerk for a roll call vote. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Representatives from Queen City Riverboats thanked the Board and exited the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

President Lindner moved item *IV.D.1. CORA Donation—Conceptual Design Services* up on the agenda.

CORA Donation—Conceptual Design Services

Director Kish introduced Doug McClintock and Olivia Birkenhauer of Cincinnati Off Road Alliance (CORA). She provided background on the beginner bike trail plans for Mt. Airy Forest and explained next steps include design services with Progressive Bike Ramps. She presented the staff recommendation to proceed with Progressive Bike Ramps and accept a donation from CORA for \$6,500 for conceptual design services.

Mr. McClintock highlighted CORA's fundraising efforts through online efforts and grants. He expressed excitement in working with Progressive Bike Ramps on the design for the amenity. He announced Ms. Birkenhauer will become President of CORA in 2021 but he will continue to contribute to project management.

Vice President Goetz thanked CORA for their work, collaboration, and expertise in developing the beginner skills course.

Director Kish restated the staff recommendation to accept the donation of \$6,500 from CORA. Commissioner Flynn motioned to accept. Vice President Goetz seconded. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. McClintock provided a brief update on Phase 3 of the first trail, which is nearing 4.5 miles.

Senior Administrative Specialist Appointment

Director Kish presented the recommendation to approve the appointment of Mary Unterreiner, Executive Assistant to the position of Senior Administrative Specialist. She described Ms.

Unterreiner's professional experience, qualifications, and current role, explaining this appointment will realign the role with Ms. Unterreiner's actual performed duties. Director Kish requested the Board's approval for the appointment of Ms. Unterreiner to the to the Position of Senior Administrative Specialist, effective November 29, 2020 with an annual salary of \$70,000.

President Lindner expressed his gratitude for Ms. Unterreiner's work and support for the appointment.

Commissioner Castellini motioned to approve the Director's recommendation. Commissioner Flynn seconded. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Vice President Goetz asked for clarification from the Solicitor's office regarding the Board's role as the hiring agency versus City administration and how it involves the Budget Office and Vacancy Review process. Discussion followed. Kevin Frank and Director Kish determined they will work together to clarify and communicate to the Board.

Urban Forestry Advisory Board Recommendation

Director Kish introduced the item and Crystal Courtney to present further. Ms. Courtney described the makeup of the Urban Forestry Advisory Board (UFAB) and how Mr. Scott Beuerlein, Manager of Botanical Garden Outreach at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Gardens, meets the qualifications for the Green Industry representative role. She explained Mr. Beuerlein's experience and knowledge will contribute to the long-term vision of the UFAB. His qualifications were discussed further and President Lindner expressed his support for the appointment recommendation.

Vice President Goetz motioned to approve the staff recommendation of Mr. Beuerlein to the City Manager for appointment to the Urban Forestry Advisory Board. Commissioner Castellini seconded. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Grant Application/Acceptance: Hamilton County - CARES Act Wi-Fi Grant

Director Kish introduced the item and Craig Sherman to present. Mr. Sherman provided background on the Hamilton County CARES Act grant, which provides funding for Wi-Fi services. He explained Parks staff applied for funding to expand Wi-Fi at six nature centers and Krohn. He furthered, the submission period was brief requiring staff to apply prior to asking for the Board's approval. Mr. Sherman presented the staff recommendation to approve the application and acceptance of the grant from Hamilton County in the amount of \$78,248.94.

Ongoing fees for the service were discussed.

Director Kish clarified the Board is being asked to approve the application and acceptance of the grant.

Vice President Goetz commented the Board has discussed increasing Wi-Fi previously so he is supportive even though there are ongoing costs associated with it.

Vice President Goetz motioned to approve the staff recommendation. Commissioner Castellini seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Grant Application/Acceptance: Cincinnati Parks Foundation Grants

Mr. Sherman presented two grants from the Parks Foundation: \$34K for invasive species removal at Burnet Woods and \$25K for the rehabilitation of the stone steps at Mt. Echo Park. He presented the staff recommendation to approve the application and acceptance of grant funds made to the Cincinnati Parks Foundation in the amount up to \$59,000.00.

Commissioner Castellini motioned to approve the staff recommendation. Commissioner Flynn seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Grant Application/Acceptance: Parks Foundation FY2021 QTR1 In-Kind Contributions

Mr. Sherman explained in-kind contributions from the Parks Foundation will be presented to the Board quarterly. He presented the total in-kind contributions provided in QTR1 of FY2021 for park supplies, personal protective equipment, and pickleball equipment for Sawyer Point. He presented the staff recommendation to approve the acceptance of in-kind contributions from the Cincinnati Parks Foundation in the amount of \$14,581.45.

Commissioner Castellini motioned to approve the staff recommendation. Commissioner Flynn seconded. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

President Lindner moved item *IV.F. Fernbank Park Pedestrian Connection* next on the agenda.

Fernbank Park Pedestrian Connection

Director Kish introduced the item and Cindy France to present further. Ms. France explained DOTE plans to improve bicycle and pedestrian access to Fernbank Park, which is owned by the Park Board and managed by Great Parks of Hamilton County. She described improvements including a new light at the intersection and new walks along Thornton Avenue in Saylor Park as well as Fernbank Park, which also improve ADA accessibility. Ms. France presented the staff recommendation to approve the design and permit the Director to sign the required Official with Jurisdiction (OWJ) concurrence letter.

Commissioner Thomas asked if there was a specific concern or issue that prompted the need for this improvement or if it was a proactive assessment. Mr. Schuckman clarified DOTE and the community have wanted this improvement for some time as the intersection is dangerous and cars move quickly through the area. Ms. Thomas asked if the community has been adequately notified regarding the changes and Ms. France commented she believes that will be part of the process as it involves federal funding.

Commissioner Flynn motioned to approve the staff recommendation. Commissioner Thomas seconded. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Investment Committee Update

Vice President Goetz presented the Investment Committee update. Mr. Goetz provided background on the structure of the committee. He announced they are seeking member

recommendations from the African American Chamber of Commerce to diversify the committee. He referenced last year's investment portfolio restructuring and provided an update on increased endowment assets since 2018, explaining savings have been achieved as a result of doing reporting and consolidation work in-house rather than through the previous contract with Mercer. Mr. Goetz called attention to an IRS classification issue. He explained some of the trusts are classified as "foundations," for which the Park Board is a "beneficiary," requiring at least a 5% distribution, rather than the 3% previously determined by the Park Board, and which will result in an additional ~\$350K distributed to the Commissioners Fund. Mr. Goetz described action items for the committee including examination of other Park Board trusts to determine proper IRS classification, seeking City Law's advice on trusts labeled "foundations," looking at original documentation to ensure accurate treatment of trusts, and seeking feedback regarding trusts held by Greater Cincinnati Foundation. He described the potential need for additional specialized legal consultation.

There was further discussion regarding the various IRS classifications and differences in treatment and requirements, and how it applies to the Park Board's trusts. Commissioner Thomas asked if the additional distribution was retroactive. Vice President Goetz commented he was not sure how past years would be handled, but the ~\$350K is for the current year. The restrictions on the additional distribution, possible avenues for amending existing trusts, and potential need for specialized legal advice were discussed.

STAFF COMMENTS

Rocky Merz presented staff updates. He updated the Board on the request to reinstate police reports at each meeting, explaining staff have made the request and will continue to update the Board on issues as they arise. Mr. Merz announced Parks worked with volunteers and partners including the Park Foundation, Dynege, the Civic Garden Center, Evanston Community Council, and UC Engineering students to plant 632 trees in one week at several parks including Mt. Airy Arboretum, Walnut Woods, and Laurel Park. He also announced 850 Releaf trees were distributed to property owners throughout the city.

Mr. Merz announced the opening of Krohn's Holiday Show, "A Very Merry Garden Holiday," open through January 10th. He described the displays and commented on special recognition for Andrea Schepmann, which will be shared once completed.

Mr. Merz announced Parks has been awarded a 3rd place Award of Excellence from Ohio Parks and Recreation Association in the Natural Resources and Conservation category for the Releaf program, made possible by Urban Forestry and Business Services staff, the Parks Foundation, and Mad Tree Brewing. He announced the be.well Adaptive Hiking Program, a partnership spearheaded by the Parks Foundation, and including Cincinnati Children's Hospital and Luke5 Adventures received a 1st place Award of Excellence in the Adaptive Programs and Events category.

Mr. Merz described the be.well program which assists children with different abilities and their families with enjoying the parks and trails. He referenced Commissioner Flynn's comments to draw attention to the program and shared a video by Parks Foundation staff showcasing the Halloween Hike event.

Vice President Goetz asked if a press release could be shared to recognize the partners and the Foundation. Mr. Merz answered the Parks Foundation had issued a press release and that an FYI memo would be sent notifying city administration and elected officials of the program and the video.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Castellini referenced feedback from a resident near Twin Lakes regarding their opinion that additional speedbumps were necessary in the area, perhaps on Eden Park Drive.

Vice President Goetz requested the addition of the Facilities Infrastructure Study on the upcoming Special Meeting agenda. He also asked the Capital Budget not be submitted until the Board can approve it, especially if there is a delay in obtaining permission to hold a special meeting. Director Kish responded this request will be honored.

Commissioners Thomas commended staff, Board, and partners on the successful partnerships exhibited at the present meeting and acknowledged progress that has been made as a result. President Lindner echoed these sentiments and noted added efficiencies through partnerships.

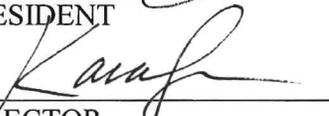
ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Goetz motioned to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 P.M.

ATTEST:



PRESIDENT



DIRECTOR

[External Email] Re: Cincinnati Park Board Agenda Item

ohio50@aol.com <ohio50@aol.com>

Mon 11/16/2020 2:52 PM

To: Merz, Rocky <Rocky.Merz@cincinnati-oh.gov>;

Cc:

com

External Email Communication

If the Park Board really is interested in the boat dock they should consider putting the plans and specs out to bid to contractors in lieu of the CM at risk that was used to get pricing. This has proven to be a more cost effective bidding procedure.

Mark H. Rapier

In a message dated 11/16/2020 2:36:30 PM Eastern Standard Time, Rocky.Merz@cincinnati-oh.gov writes:

| cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov.

[External Email] Comments on Cincinnati Harbor boat project

Bernstein, Alan

Tue 11/17/2020 3:39 PM

To: Parks, Cincy <Cincy.Parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

- 1) is this the transient boat dock project for pleasure boats to use for baseball, football, and other events?
- 2) there should not be any commercial activity at this dock
- 3) Pricing for the dock should be published in advance.
- 4) Who is going to maintain the dock and how much are they going to charge the city to do that work
- 5) is this dock going to be manned by a person? At what cost?
- 6) what hours is the dock going to be available?
- 7) Who is paying for the docks and the improvements?
- 8) When is it going to be in place?

CAPTAIN ALAN BERNSTEIN

OWNER

MOBILE:

DIRECT:

EMAIL:

101 RIVERBOAT ROW
NEWPORT, KENTUCKY 41071



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Fw: [External Email] Boat Docks

Unterreiner, Mary <Mary.Unterreiner@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Wed 11/18/2020 4:03 PM

To: Parks, Cincy <Cincy.Parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Mary Unterreiner | *Executive Assistant*

Cincinnati Park Board | 950 Eden Park Drive | Cincinnati, OH | 513.352.4079

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From: Adrian Nichols

Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 3:38 PM

To: Unterreiner, Mary <Mary.Unterreiner@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Subject: [External Email] Boat Docks

External Email Communication

Hello, my name is Adrian Nichols and I work for Avenue Fabricating. Avenue Has Been working on the design of the Boat Docks for Downtown Cincinnati over the past couple of years. I saw that QCR is submitting their own Proposal for the Boat Docks. If the City is open to independent proposals, Avenue would like the opportunity to submit their own.

Thanks,

Adrian Nichols

Avenue Fabricating Inc.