

# **METROPOLITAN BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

## **MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING JANUARY 5, 2021**

A meeting of the Board of Parks and Recreation of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee was held on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 12:00 pm via teleconference and was broadcast through the Metro Nashville Network, (MNN) <http://stream.nashville.gov> and select MNN, live on Nashville's Comcast Channel 3, AT&T UVerse Channel 99, Google Fiber channel 3 and streamed live on the MNN Roku app. Board members present were: Dr. Michelle Steele, Ms. Susannah Scott-Barnes, Ms. Tari Hughes, Mr. George Anderson, Mr. Crews Johnston, Dr. Sharon Gentry and Mr. Jeff Haynes. Ms. Macy Amos, representing the Metro Legal Department was also in attendance.

Dr. Michelle Steele, chair, called the meeting to order and stated that the first order of business will be a motion to determine under the Governor's Executive Order #16 that the meeting agenda constitutes essential business of this board and meeting electronically is necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of Tennesseans in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. Ms. Scott Barnes moved for approval, Dr. Sharon Gentry seconded, and the board approved without objection.

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD DECEMBER 1, 2020 APPROVED**

Upon motion of Dr. Gentry, seconded by Ms. Hughes, the Board approved the minutes of the board meeting held Tuesday, December 1, 2020 as presented.

#### **IV. METRO COUNCIL REFERRALS**

Councilmember Nancy VanReece representing the 8th Council District was in attendance. She thanked everyone for their support and diligence in parks and recreation activities. She also announced that Director Odom and staff will make a presentation on the benefits and impacts of Metro Parks and Recreation to the Parks, Library and Arts committee of the Metropolitan Council on January 11, 2021.

#### **V. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS**

##### **GIARRATANA DEVELOPMENT LLC PRESENTS VISION FOR CHURCH STREET PARK**

Before Mr. Giarratana's presentation Dr. Steele, chair of the Parks Board, provided the following background information regarding use of Church Street Park:

- May 2020 the board approved a grant of an in-kind gift of \$465,000 for the purpose of improvements to and programming of Church Street Park from the Historical Capital Corridor Foundation with work to conclude Spring 2021.

**V. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS**

**GIARRATANA DEVELOPMENT LLC PRESENTS VISION  
FOR CHURCH STREET PARK**

- November 2020 the board agreed to seek public comment from all groups who have ideas for improvements to Church Street Park located at 600 Church Street, Nashville, TN. Interested parties were invited to present their ideas at today's meeting.

Mr. Tony Giarratana began his presentation by encouraging the board to pursue a long-term solution to the chronic challenges that Church Street Park has presented to the Church Street neighborhood. He stated he was aware the park was closed last year for renovations in preparation for the Anne Dallas Dudley centennial anniversary and that new grass has been planted and new landscaping installed. Since the park was closed the atmosphere and walkability of the Church Street neighborhood has much improved and he remains hopeful that when it reopens that improvement will continue and that the park will not just become a prettier homeless encampment. However, if the park reverts to its prior unacceptable state after reopening, Mr. Giarratana is requesting the Board to issue a request for proposals for the long term repurposing of the park in a manner that will enhance the Church Street neighborhood, including the Robert A.M. Stern designed library across the street. If the Board issues an RFP, Giarratana Development will submit a proposal which is previewed below:

- MDHA owns property at Jo Johnston and 16th Avenues that it has sought to redevelop for permanent supportive housing for several years. Giarratana Development will provide the funds and expertise to undertake development of such a property with 60 residential units: 15 units for homeless youth, 15 units for homeless veterans and 15 units for intellectually disadvantaged ("IDD") residents. As each IDD resident needs a caregiver, an additional 15 units would be provided for those caregivers.
- This project has a budget of \$9 million without Giarratana fees and would be financed totally by his company and associates. Upon completion, the property and completed development would remain the property of MDHA, or one of its nonprofit affiliates. This project would be a significant advance towards achieving Metro's stated desire to provide permanent supportive housing for homeless and other disadvantaged residents.
- In return, Metro would convey the park property to Giarratana Development LLC with entitlements that would facilitate a magnificent redevelopment of that property which would enhance the Church Street neighborhood, including the Library, and provide an enormous boost to Metro's property tax rolls.

**V. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS**

**GIARRATANA DEVELOPMENT LLC PRESENTS VISION  
FOR CHURCH STREET PARK**

Giarratana Development's primary goal is a positive repurposing of Church Street Park. The work currently being undertaken and proposed may do that and, if so, Mr. Giarratana stated that he will be a strong supporter of this effort. However, if it does not, Mr. Giarratana respectfully requests that the board undertake a request for proposal ("RFP") process so that a mechanism can be identified to address the chronic challenges presented by the park, once and for all.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

**08-19-06**

**STAFF TO REVISIT RECOMMENDATION FROM THE BOARD REGARDING  
INITIATING THE PETITION PROCESS FOR REMOVAL/RELOCATION  
OF THE PRIVATE CONFEDERATE MONUMENT IN CENTENNIAL PARK**

The monument is a statue of a confederate private in uniform with a rifle created by sculptor, George Julian Zolnay, who designed many other confederate sculptures. The monument includes a plaque with the names of 540 members of the Frank Cheatham Bivouac. The monument was dedicated in Centennial Park on June 19, 1909. The purpose of this staff request is out of concern because the monument was vandalized by an unknown perpetrator in June 2019. The word "racists" was painted with red spray paint on the monument and our maintenance department cleaned the monument immediately after discovery. Since then and before, the department has received inquiries from the public if this monument should be located on public property.

In 2017 Metro Parks convened a group of local historians and representatives from the Historical Commission and learned at that time the monument could not be removed or relocated without State approval; therefore, the board will have to vote to determine how to proceed as the board has never addressed this monument.

At the August 2019 Parks Board Meeting, upon motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Scott-Barnes, the board deferred this request to the Public Arts Committee of the Parks Board.

At the September 2019 board meeting upon recommendation of the board's Public Arts Committee, the board approved retaining the monument in Centennial Park and providing contextual and interpretive signage at the site.

Ms. Susannah Scott-Barnes, board member, had requested to revisit this topic at the first in person meeting of the board; however, with an indefinite date to return to such meetings and the untimely deaths of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd she asked that the board go ahead and revisit.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

08-19-06 (con't.)

**STAFF TO REVISIT RECOMMENDATION FROM THE BOARD REGARDING  
INITIATING THE PETITION PROCESS FOR REMOVAL/RELOCATION  
OF THE PRIVATE CONFEDERATE MONUMENT IN CENTENNIAL PARK**

Ms. Scott-Barnes stated that Parks ability to make changes are restricted by the State; however, with the Centennial Park renovation it seems there hasn't been any additional vandalism which is more likely the result of the statue been behind fencing in a closed park She stated she is concerned as a board member but would like to hear from other board members. Ms. Scott-Barnes also stated that when this park property is vandalized it becomes costly to Parks to continue to maintain it. She also said the Centennial Park Master Plan suggests moving the statue to \*Flagpole Hill in Centennial Park where there is more space for contextualizing and additional signage as well as other civil war items located in that area.

Ms. Hughes stated that she agreed the statue is a divisive symbol and wasn't sure what the action would be. Macy Amos, legal advisor to Metro Parks, stated that Parks is constrained by State law, generally the Tennessee Heritage Protection Act prohibits the removal, relocation, or renaming of a memorial that is located on public property. A public entity such as the Parks Board may petition the Tennessee Historical Commission for a waiver from that prohibition and the commission will vote on whether to grant or deny waiver. The Tennessee Historical Commission is made up of 24 governor appointed members and five ex-officio members. These appointees will vote for removal or relocating the monument in our own park.

Dr. Steele stated that this came back up because legislators are going through the process to remove the bust of Nathan Bedford Forrest from the State Chambers; therefore, in light of this returning to their agenda it is a good time for Parks to present request to them as well.

Dr. Gentry asked if the State is having to go thru this process to remove the bust – isn't that considered state property? Ms. Amos was not sure of the process as every year the legislature votes on whether to remove the bust or not. Dr. Gentry stated that the legislators are seeking relocation of the bust to the Tennessee State Museum. Dr. Gentry asked for the motion to be clear if we are asking the State to relocate or remove the statue.

Dr. Steele asked for a motion. Ms. Scott-Barnes motioned to petition the State to remove the monument and Dr. Gentry seconded. The board unanimously approved.

**\*Please note that Flagpole Hill, a point of reference in Centennial Park mentioned in the minutes for agenda item 08-19-06, was officially named First Amendment Hill by the Parks Board in November 1992.**

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

**12-20-07**

**BOARD APPROVES REQUEST OF NASHVILLE ELECTRIC SERVICE  
FOR A 20' x 5' EASEMENT IN ORCHARD BEND PARK  
TO INSTALL A POLE WIRE ANCHOR**

Upon recommendation of the acquisition committee and as per parks policy 3000.25, Ms. Hughes motioned, and Mr. Anderson seconded, and the board approved the request of Nashville Electric Service for a 20' x 5' permanent easement in Orchard Bend Park along Pettus Road, parcel number 17400000700, to install a pole wire anchor.

This approval grants Nashville Electric Service the perpetual right to enter and to erect, maintain, repair and rebuild, operate and patrol electric power overhead conductors and communication circuits with poles, anchors and all necessary equipment reasonably incident thereto including the right to keep the same clear of brush, timber, inflammable structures, buildings, permanent structures, and fire hazards; all over, upon, and across parcel number 17400000700 on Pettus Road at Orchard Bend Park.

**VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

**01-21-01**

**BOARD APPROVES JANUARY 2021 CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon motion of Mr. Haynes, seconded by Ms. Hughes, the board approved the January 2021 consent agenda with the omission of the Diamondhead Chili Cookoff.

**AMPLIFICATION APPROVAL**

- |                                                        |                 |                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| • Diamondhead Logistics/Chili Cookoff                  | Centennial Park | Sat., Feb. 20, 2021   |
| • Rejoice School of Ballet/recital                     | East Park       | Sat., May 1, 2021     |
| • Anika Trice Pride                                    | Watkins Park    | Sat., June 19, 2021   |
| • MJ Catering/Wedding                                  | Parthenon Lawn  | Sun., July 11, 2021   |
| • All Community Events-Turkey Trot/Run Two Rivers Park |                 | Thurs., Nov. 25, 2021 |

**AMPLIFICATION AND FUNDRAISING**

- |                                          |                         |                     |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| • Gilda's Club of Middle TN-5K & fun run | Shelby Park Event Field | Sat., April 3, 2021 |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|

**AMPLIFICATION AND ALCOHOL**

- |                          |                   |                 |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| • RL Gant Group/Festival | Walk of Fame Park | Sept. 3-5, 2021 |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|

**PERMIT**

- |                                     |                    |             |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| • Leadership Academy at Warner Park | Warner Park - camp | Summer 2021 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|

**VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

**01-21-02**

**BOARD APPROVES REQUEST OF THE FRIENDS OF WARNER PARKS TO  
ACCEPT 2021 STAFFING GRANT BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2021**

Upon motion of Mr. Haynes, seconded by Ms. Hughes, the board approved request of Friends of Warner Parks to accept 2021 staffing grant in the amount of \$59,183.72 beginning January 1, 2021

Naturalist I – Rebecca Dandekar	\$ 17,049.22
Naturalist I – Elizabeth Krogman	\$ 17,049.22
Naturalist I – Will Chamberlain	\$ 17,049.22
Seasonal Worker IV (PEN Pal 1)	\$ 3,068.03
Seasonal Worker IV (PEN Pal 2)	\$ 3,068.03
Copier – Ricoh	\$ 1,900.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 59,183.72</b>

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**01-21-03**

**BOARD APPROVES REQUEST TO ACCEPT DONATION OF TENNESSEE WALKING  
HORSE FOR METRO PARKS MOUNTED POLICE PATROL**

Correspondence received from Mr. Rob Bramblett requesting the board to accept a Tennessee Walking horse appraised at \$20,000.00 to be used by the mounted patrol of the Metro Parks Police was presented for approval.

Upon motion of Ms. Scott-Barnes, seconded by Mr. Anderson, the board accepted a Tennessee Walking horse appraised at \$20,000.00 to be used by the mounted patrol of the Metro Parks Police. Please note that there is no match or other obligation from Metro Parks and or the Metropolitan Government related to this donation.

**01-21-04**

**BOARD ACCEPTS DONATION UP TO \$100,000 FOR IMPROVEMENTS OF THE  
TENNIS COURTS AT ELMINGTON PARK**

Correspondence received from Ms. Gretchen Pritchett, President of the Nashville Parks Foundation, requesting the board to accept a donation not to exceed \$100,000 for improvements to the tennis courts in Elmington Park was presented for approval.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**01-21-04 (con't)**

**BOARD ACCEPTS DONATION UP TO \$100,000 FOR IMPROVEMENTS OF TENNIS COURTS AT ELMINGTON PARK**

Upon motion of Ms. Hughes, and seconded by Mr. Anderson, the board accepted a donation not to exceed \$100,000 for improvements to the tennis courts in Elmington Park. Please note that there is no match or other obligation from Metro Parks and or the Metropolitan Government related to this donation.

**01-21-05**

**BOARD ACCEPTS IN-KIND GRANT VALUED AT \$1500 FOR DESIGN SERVICES AT SHELBY GOLF COURSE**

Correspondence received from Ms. Katey Burris, President of the Friends of Shelby Park and Bottoms, requesting the board to accept an in-kind grant valued at an estimated \$1,500 for golf design services at Shelby Golf Course was presented for approval.

Upon motion of Dr. Gentry, and seconded by Ms. Hughes, the board accepted an in-kind grant valued at an estimated \$1,500 for golf design services at Shelby Golf Course. Please note that there is no match or other obligation from Metro Parks and or the Metropolitan Government related to this grant.

**IX. CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE – Tim Netsch**

Aaittifama Archeological – Phase One

Design complete  
In the queue for construction bidding

Mill Ridge – Phase One

Design complete  
Construction contract protested-Metro Procurement working on resolution

Centennial – Children’s Memory Garden

Design complete  
In the queue for construction bidding

Ravenwood – Phase One

Design complete  
Construction contract protested-Metro Procurement working on resolution

Centennial – Phase Two

Great Lawn complete and open  
Construction underway in other areas  
Complete: Spring 2021

Watkins Park – Pump Track

Partnership with SORBA, Nashville Parks Foundation & Oasis Bike Workshop  
Construction Underway  
Construction complete: Winter 2020/21

Elmington Tennis Courts Refurb

In the queue for construction bidding

Wharf – Master Plan

Funding frozen

Fort Negley Master Plan

RFP proposals in review-funding frozen

**IX. CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE – Tim Netsch**

Hadley – Pavilion

Construction contract executed  
Construction funding frozen

**COMPLETED IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS**

Antioch – community center renovation  
Beaman – trails  
Kossie Gardner, Sr. – new park\*  
Madison – tennis courts reconstruction\*  
Orchard Bend – swings and pavilion  
Percy Warner-Allee restoration

\*Completed in the last month

**X. UPCOMING SPECIAL ACTIVITIES/EVENTS – Jackie Jones**

**15-16:** *Northern Lights Oil Painting Workshop*, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.,  
Centennial Art Center & Bellevue Regional Community Center.

**15-17:** *Shelby Park Shootout Disc Golf Tournament*, 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.,  
Shelby Park

**XI. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR**

Ms. Odom announced:

- The new year began well, and Parks is very busy.
- As Councilmember VanReece stated earlier, on Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm Ms. Odom and other staff members will share stories and give unique insights and perspectives that only our employees can share to members of the Metro Parks, Library and Arts Committee of the Metro Council.
- Preliminary discussions regarding Parks upcoming budget are continuing. Director Odom has a conversation scheduled later this week with the Mayor's office and the Finance Department about FY2021 Capital Budget needs with the focus on critical needs, safety and high priority projects. Metro is still in a challenging financial position of uncertainty and Ms. Odom is appreciative of the City's leadership looking to departments to help inform the funding strategies based on needs of the department's priorities.
- Policy committee work review team comprised of Dr. Sharon Gentry, Mr. Jeff Haynes, legal advisor Macy Amos and Ms. Odom met last month and have settled on some possible revisions to the current naming policy for Metro Parks. Ms. Frazier will be coordinating a meeting of the full policy committee to review and discuss revisions. Please keep in mind that all Parks board members are members of the policy committee.
- Ms. Frazier is also coordinating a meeting of the board's finance committee and all Parks Board members are members of this committee as well. There is business to discuss on both committees, please make it a priority to attend if you can.



**XI. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR**

- Thank you to Park's staff for being supportive during another of Nashville's emergency events. The day of the Christmas bombing, the American Red Cross set up in East Regional Center to assist displaced victims/residents. Mr. William Manuel, Consolidated Maintenance Superintendent, was onsite Christmas Day and kept in close contact with Ms. Odom throughout the day. Ms. Odom also thanked John Holmes, Stevon Neloms, Darlene Morrow and others for their support in working with the Red Cross.

**Dr. Steele thanked Parks employees for their service and offered her appreciation as well.**

**XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/OPEN ITEMS**

Ms. Odom reminded the board that Stan Fossick will be honored for his service to the board at an upcoming meeting. He was invited to attend the January meeting, but he was not available so we will work around his calendar.

**With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.**

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Monique Horton Odom, Director

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Dr. Michelle Steele, Chairperson