

METROPOLITAN BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

October 3, 2017

A meeting of the Board of Parks and Recreation of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee was held on Tuesday, October 3, 2017 at 12:00 pm in the Centennial Park Boardroom, 2565 Park Plaza, Nashville, TN. Board members present were: Mr. George Anderson, Ms. Jenn Garcia, Mr. Stan Fossick, Dr. Michelle Steele, Ms. Tari Hughes, Dr. Jo Ann Brannon and Mr. Jeff Haynes.

Staff present were: Mr. Rick Taylor, Consolidated Maintenance; Ms. Sherry Higgs and Mr. Stevon Neloms, Community Recreation; Mr. Tim Netsch, Planning and Facilities; Mr. John Holmes, Revenue Producing Facilities; Ms. Cindy Harrison, Greenways; Mr. Jim Hester, Cultural and Outdoor Recreation/Special Events; Ms. Jackie Jones, Superintendent/Public Information; Capt. Chris Taylor/ Park Police and **Ms. Macy Amos, representing the Metro Legal Department.**

Also in attendance were: **Mr. John Cooper, Metro Councilmember at Large,** and **Mr. Ed Kindall, Councilmember from the 21st District.**

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 12, 2017 APPROVED

Upon motion of Ms. Hughes, seconded by Ms. Garcia, the Board approved the minutes of the board meeting held Tuesday, September 12, 2017 as presented.

V. METRO COUNCIL REFERRALS

VI. OLD BUSINESS

09-17-00

BOARD APPROVES REQUEST OF COUNCILMEMBER ED KINDALL TO NAME THE HADLEY PARK BANDSHELL IN HONOR OF MR. DON Q. PULLEN

Councilmember Ed Kindall was present to request board approval to name the bandshell located in Hadley Park in honor of Mr. Don Q. Pullen. As per recommendation of the naming committee as per ***Park Policy 3000.1 Naming of Parks*** and upon motion of Ms. Garcia, seconded by Dr. Brannon, the board approved naming of the bandshell in Hadley park in honor of Mr. Don Q. Pullen based on the following information provided by Councilmember Ed Kindall:

Born January 6, 1912, Don Q. Pullen grew into one of Nashville's premiere music educators and musicians. A graduate of Pearl High School, Pullen received his undergraduate and master's degrees from Tennessee State and did further graduate study at the University of Denver and the Julliard Conservatory of Music. After teaching for three years in Sparta, TN, he served as a Navy bandmaster in World War II. Pullen joined the staff at Washington Junior High School in Nashville, TN in 1944. He began with a band membership of 16; however, by 1967 the Washington Junior High's instrumental music department had grown to include a 60 member concert band, a 24 member string ensemble and a 75 piece marching band complete with majorettes.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

09-17-00 (con't.)

BOARD APPROVES REQUEST OF COUNCILMEMBER ED KINDALL TO NAME THE HADLEY PARK BANDSHELL IN HONOR OF MR. DON Q. PULLEN

One of Don Q's crowning achievements, in addition to his many other musical feats, was originating the Sunday afternoon Hadley Park concerts. On June 5, 1966 in the then new \$35,000 concert arena in Hadley Park, Don Q served as the Master of Ceremonies for the event. The inaugural event heralded a series of approximately 13 concerts held annually each summer from 1959 throughout the 1960's. The concerts ranged from jazz to gospel to opera arias by Verdi. Many featured young "discovery" performers rated highly by the audience. Don Q. Pullen was not only master of ceremonies for each event, but was also a frequent performer. Events over the years also included such well-known musicians as W.O. Smith in 1968 and Grand Ole Opry legend DeFord Bailey in 1970.

Although Pullen retired from Metro public schools in 1971, he remained active in music education until his death on February 5, 1990.

09-17-05

BOARD DEFERS APPROVAL OF A SLOPE EASEMENT AT AZAFRAN PARK

Upon motion of Ms. Hughes, seconded by Dr. Steele, the board deferred approval of a slope easement at Azafran Park to permit grading and landscaping on the adjacent property.

Ms. Macy Amos, legal counsel for Metro Parks, advised the board that this easement request requires a third party agreement and a deferral is necessary until said party is in agreement.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

10-17-01

BOARD APPROVES OCTOBER 2017 CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion of Mr. Fossick, seconded by Ms. Garcia, the board approved the October 2017 consent agenda as presented.

AMPLIFICATION APPROVAL

- | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| • Hutton Hotel-employee picnic | Centennial Park Event Shelter | Fri. Oct. 6, 2017 |
| • Humanities Tennessee | Church Street Park-book festival | Oct. 13-15, 2017 |
| • Roshe Hicks – picnic | Cedar Hill Park shelter 7 | Sat., Oct. 14, 2017 |
| • Music City Inc. Induction Ceremony | Walk of Fame Park | Tues., Oct. 24, 2017 |
| • Fresh Step Talent Mgt.-festival | Southeast Park-Hickory Halloween | Sat., Oct 28, 2017 |
| • Nashville Film Festival "Binge Nights" | Walk of Fame Park | May 11-18, 2018 |
| • Lesia Walker | Centennial Park Picnic Pavilion | Sat., May 19, 2018 |

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

10-17-01 (con't.)

BOARD APPROVES OCTOBER 2017 CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion of Mr. Fossick, seconded by Ms. Garcia, the board approved the October 2017 consent agenda as presented.

FUNDRAISING APPROVAL

- Vanderbilt Pre-Nursing Society Centennial Park-Miles for Mercury Run Sat., Oct. 28, 2017
- TN Voices for Victims P. Warner Horse Trail – trail ride Sat., April 14, 2018

ALCOHOL APPROVAL

- The Ben & Morey Show Centennial Performing Arts Studios Thursdays
Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26; Nov. 2, 9, 30; Dec. 7, 14, 2017

AMPLIFICATION AND FUNDRAISING APPROVAL

- Youth Life Learning Centers Centennial Park Event Shelter-walk Sat., Nov. 18, 2017
- United Mitochondrial Disease FDN Centennial Park Event Shelter-walk Sat, April 14, 2018
- Belly RBasset Rescue-picnic Centennial Park Event Shelter Sat., June 2, 2018
- MADD-Middle TN Walk like MADD Centennial Park Event Shelter Sat., Sept. 8, 2018

AMPLIFICATION AND ALCOHOL APPROVAL

- Music City Bowl Fan Zone Riverfront Park Court of Flags Dec. 28 & 29, 2017
- Stephanie Drost-Packham-wedding Centennial Art Center Sat., April 7, 2018
- Team Magic, Inc. – half marathon East Bank Landing Sat., March 17, 2018
- Team Magic, Inc. - triathlon East Bank Landing Sun., July 22, 2018
- Music City Irish Fest Riverfront Park-dance/concert event March 17-18, 2018

AMPLIFICATION, ALCOHOL AND FUNDRAISING APPROVAL

- Volunteer State Horsemen's Fnd Warner Park -2017 Steeplechase May 11-12, 2018
- Rhizome Productions Inc. East Park-wine tasting event Sat., May 19, 2018

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

10-17-02

BOARD AFFIRMS APPOINTMENT OF DR. JO ANN BRANNON AS A MEMBER OF THE PARKS BOARD REPRESENTING THE METRO SCHOOL BOARD

Upon motion of Mr. Fossick, seconded by Ms. Tari Hughes, the board unanimously affirmed the reappointment of Dr. Jo Ann Brannon, representing the Metro School Board, as a member of the Parks Board effective September 8, 2017. (Dr. Brannon's term will expire June 30, 2018.)

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

10-17-03

BOARD APPROVES REQUEST OF FRIENDS OF AAITTIFAMA ARCHEOLOGICAL PARK TO RAISE PRIVATE FUNDS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THEIR MASTER PLAN

Request from the Friends of Aaittifama Archeological Park (FOAAP) asking board approval to raise private funds for the implementation of the Aaittifama Archeological Park Master Plan was presented to the board. In January 2017, the Parks Board was presented with the Aaittifama Archeological Park Master Plan. The plan presents a preservation and development strategy with an implementation cost estimate of approximately \$1.6M. Friends of Aaittifama Archeological Park (FOAAP) is an approved friends group of the Parks Board. The strategy for funding plan implementation is to include both public and private funding sources; therefore, FOAAP are seeking umbrella approval for private fundraising to support plan implementation.

Upon motion of Ms. Garcia, seconded by Dr. Steele, the board approved request from the Friends of Aaittifama Archeological Park to raise private funds for implementation of the Aaittifama Archeological Park Master Plan.

10-17-04

BOARD APPROVES TREE PLANTING PLAN AS SUBMITTED BY THE CITY OF BELLE MEADE

Mr. Jim Hunt, Mayor of the City of Belle Meade, was present to request board approval of a tree planting plan for the Page Road lot in Warner Park.

Upon motion of Ms. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Fossick, the board granted approval to the plan as submitted by Mayor Hunt. As per Mr. Hunt's presentation, the City of Belle Meade will begin planting trees on the back 2/3 of the Page Road property as per grant from the State of Tennessee in November 2017. The City of Belle Meade is aware that Metro Parks will be requesting funding from the Metropolitan Government in FY19 to implement the front lot improvements.

10-17-05

BOARD APPROVES MOU BETWEEN MDHA AND METRO PARKS WITH REGARD TO THE REVITALIZATION OF THE CAYCE HOMES THROUGH ENVISION CAYCE

Upon motion of Dr. Brannon, seconded by Ms. Hughes, the board approved the MOU between MDHA and the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County acting through the Board of Parks and Recreation to collaborate on the revitalization of the Cayce Homes and surrounding areas branded as Envision Cayce as submitted by Mr. Jim Harbison, Executive Director of MDHA. This transfer of property was approved in 2015 and the MOU is a requirement involving the property.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

10-17-06

**BOARD APPROVES TEMPORARY EASEMENT AT KIRKPATRICK PARK
AS PART OF THE ENVISION CAYCE PROJECT**

Upon motion Ms. Garcia, seconded by Dr. Steele, the board granted approval of a temporary construction and permanent slope and drainage easement at Kirkpatrick Park as requested by MDHA as a component of the Envision Cayce project. This easement request is related to the board request 10-17-05 regarding the MOU. This easement will tie into park property.

10-17-07

**BOARD ACCEPTS DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6060.00 FOR
A NEW SCOREBOARD WITH INSTALLATION
FROM THE MCCABE PARK LITTLE LEAGUE**

Upon motion of Mr. Fossick, seconded by Ms. Garcia, the board accepted a donation of a new scoreboard with installation valued at \$6060.00 from the McCabe Park Little League. The installation of the scoreboard on the youth baseball field in McCabe Park is contingent upon the Metro Parks Consolidated Maintenance Division approving all specifics of installation.

IX. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

**MS. LYNET PAYNE, REPRESENTING CONCERNED CITIZENS OF BORDEAUX,
NORTH NASHVILLE AND MEMBERS OF THE NORTHWEST YMCA
ADDRESSES THE BOARD REGARDING THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION
OF THE NORTHWEST YMCA FACILITY**

Ms. Lynet Payne, representing concerned citizens of Bordeaux, North Nashville and members of the Northwest YMCA, was present to address the board regarding the proposed acquisition of the Northwest YMCA facility.

Ms. Payne stated that after the August public meeting announcing the proposed acquisition of the Northwest YMCA by the Metropolitan Government/Metro Parks, the Advisory Board of the Northwest Family YMCA along with Leadership and members of the Fiduciary Board of the YMCA of Middle Tennessee met twice in a series of open dialogue regarding the proposed transition of the Northwest YMCA facility being acquired by Metropolitan Nashville and operated as a Metro Parks facility.

Initially, it was the desire of the Northwest Advisory Board to host three forums to engage the Y-Members and the Bordeaux community in thoughtful discussion regarding the future of the Northwest Y. Being directly impacted by such a transaction, it's appropriate to engage the members then follow-up with an open public dialogue where key stakeholders can be engaged.

IX. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS (con't.)

**MS. LYNET PAYNE, REPRESENTING CONCERNED CITIZENS OF BORDEAUX,
NORTH NASHVILLE AND MEMBERS OF THE NORTHWEST YMCA
ADDRESSES THE BOARD REGARDING THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION
OF THE NORTHWEST YMCA FACILITY**

Below are key points from the two sessions:

- Trust of the YMCA of Middle TN has been compromised and members don't feel respected or valued by current YMCA Mid TN Executive Leadership and Board
- Members desire the same quality of service currently received by the Northwest YMCA.
- Members do not want another community center for this area
- Members are concerned the quality of equipment will go down
- Members value the current hours of operation at the Northwest YMCA
- Security is a non-negotiable especially for the seniors and children.

Ms. Payne said that all of the concerns mentioned above by the members, the lack of trust and respect concerns the advisory board the most. It is the desire of this group to listen to the concerns of the community and members who did not attend the previous meetings.

Ms. Payne on behalf of this group, originally asked to appear before the board to consider deferral of the decision to acquire the Northwest YMCA until the beginning of 2018; however, the board at their September 2017 Board meeting, accepted the request of the YMCA of Middle Tennessee to defer until January 2018. In the meantime, the community and Northwest YMCA board will outline and execute a progressive strategy of engagement and communication apart from the YMCA of Middle Tennessee Association and Fiduciary Board members.

Ms. Payne thanked the board for allowing her to speak on behalf of this concerned group.

IX. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS (con't.)

**MR. CHIP CRUZE REPRESENTING NASHVILLE BASEBALL ACADEMY
PRESENTED PLAN TO THE BOARD FOR USE OF THE FORMER GREER
STADIUM SITE IN FORT NEGLEY PARK**

Mr. Chip Cruze, representing Nashville Baseball Academy, presented the following plan with regard to the Greer Stadium Parcel of Fort Negley Park to the board for informational purposes only.

**Greer Stadium – A Better Idea
Fort Negley Youth Park**

Mr. Cruze stated that this is a plan to provide space that serves and benefits the entire Nashville community, with particular emphasis on the at-risk population and preservation of an important historical site in our city.

Developing the Greer Stadium site as a youth athletic complex and indoor youth activity center not only makes sense for the city, it also creates a space where at-risk youth can come to stay active year-round and a place to provide academic, social and workforce development programs. The 30,000 square foot youth center would accommodate indoor activity and athletic space on the ground floor, and space for the academic, social and workforce development programs on the second floor.

The park, including walking trails and green space, could not only create the kind of renewal that compliments what's going on in the Wedgewood/Houston neighborhood, it also serves the community and provides an active/activity space for an in-need target audience. In addition, it helps preserve an important historical site that dates back to the civil war when baseball was being played there by integrating with Fort Negley's walking trails and complementing the historical markers rather than just being an adjacent development. This plan also dovetails nicely with Nashville's **Plan To Play: Countywide Parks and Greenways Master Plan**.

In the fall of 2016, the Williamson County Convention and Visitors Bureau listed "Promote Williamson County as a top destination for youth and amateur sporting events" as number three on their list of goals to increase tourism by 50%. Developing Greer into a state-of-the-art athletic complex for youth, ages 4 through 18, would increase Davidson County's appeal in that regard too – an idea that could certainly appeal to the Nashville Convention and Visitors Bureau, as well as area businesses.

IX. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS (con't.)

**MR. CHIP CRUZE REPRESENTING NASHVILLE BASEBALL ACADEMY
PRESENTED PLAN TO THE BOARD FOR USE OF THE FORMER GREER
STADIUM SITE IN FORT NEGLEY PARK**

Mr. Cruze said that another great reason was presented in a story on NPR in the fall of 2016 and echoed again in August 2017 during the National Night Out Against Crime:

- With 9 murders in Nashville in September 2016, Chief Anderson and the Metro Council are looking for ways to combat what he said has become “more psychology and sociology, and less crime fighting.” And, he said they have to **“look at ways of improving afterschool options to combat violence.”**

This project can go a long way toward creating these kinds of options. So far, Nashville's renewal and gentrification projects have targeted the affluent, but the opportunity with the Greer site could help the city and Mayor Barry address an acknowledged area of need with regard to the inner city and at-risk youth. There is plenty of room where the overflow lot is behind Greer to build 5 more baseball fields for ages 4-18 and resurrect the Nashville RBI program and add Junior RBI (**MLB's Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities**). Field access has been one of the biggest challenges the RBI program has had over the years – where do they practice and how do you get the kids to Franklin, Smyrna, Lavergne, or wherever the tournaments are. This project puts what could be a state-of-the-art facility on the bus line, right between Lafayette Street and Edgehill Avenue, and would bring those opportunities closer to home. Tony Majors is doing a great job with Nashville RBI, but an opportunity is now available to help him revive the program and make it thrive.

And, since the baseball stadium will no longer need to accommodate 10,000 fans and the parking they require, there's also plenty of room to build additional indoor space so kids can stay active through inclement weather and the winter months. The outdoor facility could also be used for youth baseball tournament for ages 5-18, youth football, soccer and stay in use from March to November, with kids using the indoor spaces over the winter months to stay active and involved in wholesome activities.

The open park spaces and walking trails will make it an attractive spot for those who just want to come spend family time, walk for exercise, or just enjoy some time outdoors. The partnership possibilities with Adventure Science Center and Fort Negley could also make this project a center for educational enrichment – for at-risk youth, as well as the entire MNPS district.

There is also a chance to recognize Nashville's rich baseball history with an on-site Nashville Baseball and Fort Negley History Museum. Skip Nipper, Nashville's foremost baseball historian, believes the Society of American Baseball Research and the Metro Historical Commission would have interest as well.

IX. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS (con't.)

**MR. CHIP CRUZE REPRESENTING NASHVILLE BASEBALL ACADEMY
PRESENTED PLAN TO THE BOARD FOR USE OF THE FORMER GREER
STADIUM SITE IN FORT NEGLEY PARK**

Another opportunity exists with the Titans, and the **NFL Play60** initiative. There currently isn't an on-going Play60 program in operation in Nashville, and there's an opportunity here using the fields for youth football. Since youth football field dimensions are only 70 feet wide by 80 yards long, the baseball fields could easily be used for youth football. With the Titans ownership's increased interest in community involvement, it seems reasonable to expect they would have some level of interest and involvement, as well as the possibility of additional financial support from the National Football League.

With a new MLS soccer team coming to Nashville, this would also provide an ideal partnership opportunity for youth soccer. The indoor facility could be used for all types of activities – educational, social and workforce development – including serving as a **Safe Place**, the “national youth outreach and prevention program for young people in need of immediate help and safety.”

The options to serve the community on this site are virtually innumerable, including tutoring options for K-12 and possible partnership with organizations such as Martha O'Bryan Center and Monroe Harding's Youth Connections.

Major League Baseball is serious about **RBI/Jr. RBI**, the NFL is growing the **Play60** program, and with the increasing interest in soccer, this could be a statement project for all concerned.

Mr. Cruze stated that one of his favorite quotes is from Ralph Waldo Emerson:

“What you do speaks so loudly, I can't hear what you say.”

Mr. Cruze ended his presentation with the following statement:

Let's be who we say we are – this is a great opportunity!

The board thanked Mr. Cruze for his presentation.

**MR. TIM NETSCH PRESENTS AN UPDATE
ON THE CENTENNIAL PARK MASTER PLAN**

Mr. Netsch, Assistant Director of Parks/Planning Division, stated that the 2nd phase of the Master Plan implementation of Centennial Park should begin in 2018. Metro funding should be available in early 2018, begin construction Spring 2018 with a ribbon cutting tentatively scheduled in 2019. The Conservancy for the Parthenon and Centennial Park is a financial partner with a campaign goal of 16 million and Metro Government has funded 5 million a year totaling 15 million.

IX. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS (con't.)

**MR. TIM NETSCH PRESENTS AN UPDATE
ON THE CENTENNIAL PARK MASTER PLAN**

Below are proposed implementations of Phase 2 of the Centennial Park Master Plan:

- The West End Avenue entrance to Centennial Park will become entrance only, no exit at this location. Modifications will be made to the entrance along with the addition of signage.
- The Bandshell Zone – Turf will be reinforced to accommodate loading and unloading. There will be a break in the road loop and will reconnect to a grove of trees.
- Lighting Sequence – The Parthenon will awaken every evening with different aspects of the building lighting at different times.
- New landscaping around the Parthenon.
- The great lawn will be re-engineered. Limited under drainage only where necessary, curbing will be installed to capture run-off before hitting Great Lawn.
- There will be new trees planted on the Allee. The ground between the trees will be graveled to not damage the tree rooting system and sod. This graveled area will be available for special event use (approximately 100 tent areas for festival use).
- Parking spaces adjacent to the funeral home will be removed.
- The Allee, using crab orchard stone for the walkway, will lead to the permanent location of Woman’s Suffrage Monument with a canopy of various tree heights along the walkway. (Allee is route that the suffragists walked).
- The “Releaf Plaza” will be relocated to East Park (will request approval to relocate from the board at a future meeting).

X. CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE – Tim Netsch

- **Fannie Mae Dees Park** – Parks staff currently working on drainage around the dragon.
- **Madison Recreation Center** – Construction underway and making good progress, should be complete Spring 2018.
- **Shelby – Stream Mitigation** – A community meeting will be scheduled regarding invasive plant removal. Removal is scheduled during the fall and winter months.
- **Smith Springs Recreation Center** – Construction underway and making good progress with estimated completion date of Spring 2018.
- **Southeast/Antioch Master Plan** – community open house went well and hope to enter phase one early 2018.

X. CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE – Tim Netsch

- **Stones River /Lytle Bend Master Plan** – community open house went well and hope to enter phase one early 2018.
- **Edwin Warner Burch Reserve Connector** – heavy grading completed and stone masonry completed inside tunnel under the railroad tracks.

XI. UPCOMING SPECIAL ACTIVITIES/EVENTS – Jackie Jones

Ms. Jackie Jones announced the following upcoming events in Metro Parks:

- “Get Cultured” Exhibit and Opening Reception, October 6, 5:00 pm, Centennial Art Center
- Celebrate Nashville Cultural Festival, Centennial Park, October 7, 2017
- Nashville Steam Preservation Society’s 75th Birthday Party October 13, 2:00 pm, Centennial Park Event Shelter
- Musicians Corner Kidsville Family Festival, Centennial Park, October 14
- Musicians Corner Craft Festival, Centennial Park, October 20
- Nashville Tree Foundation Community Tree Workshop, October 21, 1:00 pm, Richland Park

XII. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

XIII. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Ms. Odom announced that the archeological evaluation site work has begun at the Greer Stadium site and an end of year report will be made public. The decision regarding the future of the site will depend on the report findings.

XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/OPEN ITEMS

Mr. Anderson announced that the board will meet at Fort Negley to tour the site, hopefully in October.

Next step in the process to select the Director of Parks is Wednesday, October 4th.

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

Monique N. Odom, Interim Director

George Anderson, Chairperson