

METROPOLITAN BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

July 7, 2020

A meeting of the Board of Parks and Recreation of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee was held on Tuesday, July 7, 2020 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: Ms. Susannah Scott-Barnes, Ms. Tari Hughes, Mr. George Anderson, Mr. Jeff Haynes, and Dr. Sharon Gentry. Ms. Macy Amos and Ms. Nicki Eke, representing the Metro Legal Department were also present. Dr. Michelle Steele and Mr. Stan Fossick were not present for this meeting.

Ms. Susannah Scott-Barnes, vice-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. Mr. George Anderson moved for approval, Ms. Gentry seconded, and the board approved without objection.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD JUNE 2, 2020 APPROVED

Upon motion of Ms. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Haynes, the Board approved the minutes of the board meeting held Tuesday, June 2, 2020 as presented.

IV. METRO COUNCIL REFERRALS - none

V. OLD BUSINESS

06-20-02

BOARD APPROVES STAFF REQUEST TO ACCEPT A 0.15 ACRE GREENWAY FROM GREEN TRAILS, LLC

Correspondence from Parks staff requesting board approval to accept a 0.15-acre greenways conservation easement from Green Trails, LLC, in a proposed residential development entitled Tree Haven and located at 0 Ashford Trace, on parcel, 16400026200, and as described in the attached easement agreement and boundary survey exhibit was presented to the board.

As per recommendation of the Acquisition Committee, upon motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Hughes, the board approved the request of staff. This segment will provide a future trail connection from Tree Haven Subdivision to the north eastern boundary of Mill Ridge Park and eventually connect 5 subdivisions to Mill Ridge Park. This request is consistent with Plan 2 Play and the Greenways Master Plan.

V. OLD BUSINESS

06-20-03

BOARD APPROVES REQUEST OF THE DONELSON HERMITAGE EXCHANGE CLUB TO PLACE FOUR INDIVIDUAL PLAQUES ADJACENT TO THE “CLEAR FOR LANDING” SCULPTURE IN HERMITAGE PARK

Correspondence received from Mr. Phil Ponder, representing the Donelson Hermitage Exchange Club, requesting permission to have four individual plaques professionally installed on stands in Hermitage Park adjacent to the “Clear for Landing” sculpture designed by Joe Sorci as a 911 memorial was presented to the board.

As per recommendation of the Signage Committee, upon motion of Mr. Haynes, seconded by Dr. Gentry, the board approved the request of the Donelson Hermitage Exchange Club. The 4 individual plaques will have an inscription of one of the 4 planes of 911 along with information of said flight. Each plaque will measure 11 x 8.5 and will be installed around the tail stabilizers at Hermitage Park adjacent to the “Clear for Landing” sculpture. The plaques will be installed in every other grassy knoll to allow for good visitor flow. Each plaque will be mounted on a weather proofed stand and installed by professionals. All final details of the installation should be coordinated with Metro Parks Consolidated Maintenance Division. This project will not require any funding or matching of funds from Metro Parks and/or the Metropolitan Government.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

07-20-01

BOARD APPROVES JULY 2020 CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion of Ms. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Anderson, the board approved the July 2020 consent agenda as presented.

AMPLIFICATION APPROVAL

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| • 12 th Annual Brown Bag Lunch Concert Series | Centennial Park Event Shelter | Wed., July 8, Aug. 12, Sept. 9, Oct. 14, 2020 |
| • Hadley Park Line Dancers | Centennial Park Event Shelter | Mon/Wed/Fri
July 8 - Sept. 30, 2020 |
| • Rozeland Franklin – picnic | Cedar Hill Park picnic shelter 4 | Sat., July 11, 2020 |
| • Frances Robinson – picnic | Two Rivers Park picnic shelter 2 | Sat., July 18, 2020 |
| • Marvin Muhammad – Songs of the Struggle | Centennial Park Event Shelter | Sat., July 25, 2020 |
| • Friends of Mill Ridge Park | Summer Cinema at Mill Ridge Park | Fri., July 31, 2020 |
| • Cyntrel Lyons – baby shower | Centennial Park Event Shelter | Sat., Aug. 15, 2020 |
| • Santangila Holloway – picnic | Centennial Park Picnic Pavilion | Thurs., Aug. 27, 2020 |
| • Linda Ademosu | Cane Ridge Park picnic shelter 1 | Sat., Oct. 3, 2020 |
| • Nashville Firefighters Association | Walk of Fame Park | Fri., Oct. 30, 2020 |
| • Young Event Mgt. – Halloween 5K | Fort Negley Park | Sat., Oct. 31, 2020 |
| • Cumberland Pediatric Foundation | Centennial Park Event Shelter-picnic | Sun., Sept. 13, 2020 |
| • Nashville Convention & Visitors Corp | Riverfront Park-NASCAR Champions Week | Dec. 1-3, 2020 |
| • Greater Christ Temple Church | Centennial Park Event Shelter | Sun., May 29, 2021 |
| • Narcotics Anonymous-picnic | Centennial Park Event Shelter | Mon., May 31, 2021 |
| • Narcotics Anonymous-picnic | Centennial Park Event Shelter | Sun., July 4, 2021 |

VII. CONSENT AGENDA (con't.)

07-20-01

BOARD APPROVES JULY 2020 CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion of Ms. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Anderson, the board approved the July 2020 consent agenda as presented.

FUNDRAISING APPROVAL

- TN Voices for Victims (trail ride) Percy Warner Horse Trail Sat., Sept. 26, 2020

AMPLIFICATION AND FUNDRAISING APPROVAL

- Trevecca BLM task force-concert Centennial Park Musician's Corner area Sat., July 25, 2020
- A Melanin Celebration Centennial Park Event Shelter Sat., Aug. 8, 2020
- Faith and Football Night with the TN Titans Cumberland Park Thurs., Nov. 12, 2020
- Miles J Freeman Scholarship 5K Shelby Park/Bottoms Riverview Shelter Sat., April 10, 2021
- Friends of Shelby Park-festival Shelby Park Events area Sat., June 5, 2021

AMPLIFICATION AND ALCOHOL APPROVAL

- The Garden Club of Nashville Percy Warner Golf Pavilion Thurs., Sept. 10, 2020
- Will Choppin – wedding Cornelia Fort Airpark Sat., Oct. 17, 2020

AMPLIFICATION, FUNDRAISING AND ALCOHOL APPROVAL

- Good Neighbor Festivals -Tomato Art Fest Concert East Park Aug. 7 & 8, 2020

AMPLIFICATION, FUNDRAISING AND OVERNIGHT CAMPING APPROVAL

- Music City BMX Nationals 2020 Hamilton Creek Park Sept. 4-7, 2020

VII. NEW BUSINESS

07-20-02

**BOARD AFFIRMS REAPPOINTMENT OF MR. JEFF HAYNES
AS A MEMBER OF THE PARKS BOARD**

The board affirmed the reappointment of Mr. Jeff Haynes as a member of the Parks Board representing the Planning Commission effective June 1, 2020. (Mr. Haynes term will expire May 31, 2021.)

VII. NEW BUSINESS

07-20-03

BOARD ACCEPTS DONATION OF INSTALLATION OF WATER TAP, BACK FLOW PREVENTER AND IRRIGATION AT THE YOUTH BASEBALL FIELD IN McCABE PARK FROM THE McCABE PARK LITTLE LEAGUE

Correspondence received from Mr. Josh Ritter, representing McCabe Park Little League, requesting the board to accept a donation valued at \$11,482.41 for the installation of a water tap, back flow preventer, and irrigation system at the youth baseball field in McCabe Park was presented to the board.

Upon motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Haynes, the board approved this donation of infrastructure necessary for a separate water line to allow for the installation of an irrigation system to the youth baseball field in McCabe Park. All final details of these proposed improvements will be coordinated with and approved by Metro Parks prior to installation. Installation will be completed in accordance with Metro Parks; third party construction agreement. The Metropolitan Government is not be required to match any funds and. McCabe Park Little League will be responsible for all expenses of installation as well as the monthly water bill once installation is complete.

07-20-04

BOARD ACCEPTS GRANT FROM THE FRIENDS OF WARNER PARKS TO FUND A BLIND TO HIDE A PORT-A-POTTY IN THE INDIAN SPRINGS SHELTER AREA

Correspondence received from Ms. Jenny Hannon, Executive Director of Friends of Warner Parks, requesting the board to accept a grant in the amount of \$3,000 to be used to fund a blind to be installed at the Indian Springs Shelter area to hide a port-a-potty was presented to the board.

Upon motion of Ms. Hughes, seconded by Dr. Gentry, the board approved this grant. This grant does not require any matching funds from Metro Parks and no maintenance will be required.

07-20-05

BOARD ACCEPTS GRANT FROM THE FRIENDS OF WARNER PARKS TO FUND 3 KIOSKS TO BE INSTALLED IN WARNER PARK

Correspondence received from Ms. Jenny Hannon, Executive Director of Friends of Warner Parks, requesting the board to accept a grant in the amount of \$10,472.05 to be used to fund three (3) kiosks to be installed at the Headquarters on Vaughn Road, the Vaughn Creek entrance and the Hill Forest was presented to the board.

Upon motion of Ms. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Anderson, the board approved this grant. This grant does not require any matching funds from Metro Parks and no maintenance will be required.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

07-20-06

**BOARD APPROVES COST OF LIVING SALARY INCREASE
FOR THE DIRECTOR OF PARKS**

Upon motion of Ms. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Anderson, the board approved a cost of living salary increase as per the 2020-21 Metropolitan Government Pay Plan for Monique Odom, Director of Metro Parks. This pay plan designates a 1.0% salary increase to all Metro employees and the board must approve all salary increases for the Director of Metro Parks.

07-20-07

**BOARD APPROVES RENEWAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN METRO PARKS AND
CHEEKWOOD BOTANICAL GARDENS FOR RIVERVIEW GARDENS**

Upon motion of Ms. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Haynes, the board approved renewal of an agreement between Metro Parks and Cheekwood Botanical Gardens and Museum of Art for care and maintenance of Riverview Gardens located in Riverfront Park.

The initial agreement originated in July 2015 when this garden was funded and installed as a portion of the Riverfront Park construction agreement by Metro. By way of this agreement Cheekwood Botanical Gardens agrees to assist the Metropolitan Government with maintenance of annuals, perennials, shrubs, bulbs and other plants (with the exception of trees) using dedicated professional staff, students and knowledgeable volunteers working under the direction of professional staff. Services will include the following:

- Pruning, weeding, deadheading, dividing of perennials or grasses, application of fertilizer, herbicides or other pest control and assist with the application of compost, mulch or other supplements in coordination with Parks.
- Placement or replacement of annual or bulb planting areas for seasonal interest with the knowledge and approval of Parks and following the intent of the original Garden design parameters.
- Monitor water levels within the Garden and report to Parks recommended adjustments to the irrigation system.
- Maintaining the plant identification labels to be visible from primary paths, properly installed and accurate in the identification of plant material.
- Participating in quarterly walk-throughs with representatives of Parks to review the responsibilities of each entity within the Garden.
- The opportunity to provide educational activities and programs within the Garden for the benefit of the general public. Activities may be promoted jointly by Cheekwood and the Metropolitan Government and should be open to the public. Private events would be subject to the same fees, terms and conditions as other events held within Riverfront Park. Programs shall be coordinated with Parks staff so as not to conflict with scheduled major performances or events in Riverfront Park or the amphitheater.
- Supplementing the services provided by the Metropolitan Government.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

07-20-08

BOARD APPROVES PERMIT BETWEEN METRO PARKS AND THE NASHVILLE CHEW CREW FOR USE OF THE BELLS BEND PARK SOD FARM

Upon motion of Dr. Gentry, seconded by Ms. Hughes, the board approved a permit between Metro Parks and The Nashville Chew Crew for use of the Bells Bend Sod Farm.

The Nashville Chew Crew will manage the fields to maintain a level of aesthetic appropriateness, reduce invasive species, and restore biodiversity to the degraded landscape. Equipment and debris left from the previous landowner will be removed from the fields by The Nashville Chew Crew. All clean-up projects and debris removal will be approved by Parks. This landscape management relieves Parks of the care and maintenance of 107 acres of park space. This permit expires December 31, 2020 and will be renewed on an annual calendar year basis.

VIII. CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE – Tim Netsch

Aaitifama Archeological – Phase One

Design complete
In the queue for construction bidding

Mill Ridge – Phase One

Design complete
Construction contract negotiations underway

Beaman - Trails

Final wayfinding signage on order for
10 miles of new trails
Construction complete: Summer 2020

Percy Warner – Allee Restoration

Construction underway by FOWP
Construction complete: Summer 2020 (maybe early
August dependent on successful grow-in of grass)

Centennial – Phase Two

Construction underway
Construction complete: Fall 2020

Ravenwood – Phase One

Design complete
Construction contract negotiations underway

Hadley – Pavilion

Design Complete
Construction contract negotiations underway
Contract execution frozen until further notice

Watkins Park – Pump Track

Partnership with SORBA, Nashville Parks
Foundation % Oasis Bike Workshop
Design Complete
In construction permitting
Construction complete: Fall 2020

Kossie Gardner Sr. – Phase One

Construction underway
Construction complete: Summer 2020

Wharf - MasterPlan

Frozen until further notice

Madison – Tennis Courts Reconstruction

Contract execution frozen until further notice

COMPLETED IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS

Antioch – community center renovation complete
Bellevue – community center
Frankie Pierce – new park
Orchard Bend – swings and pavilion
Shelby Bottoms – Cornelia Fort playground
Smith Springs – swings and pavilion

VIII. CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE – Tim Netsch (con’t.)

Mr. Anderson inquired about Church Street Park and Tim replied that the park would close in late July to undergo improvements, reopen in mid-August for programming associated with the Centennial of the 19th Amendment. Improvements are what were essentially approved in May by the Board to include planting/irrigation, movable café style seating and cosmetic improvements. Because many neighborhood stakeholders have inquired about Church Street Park Mr. Anderson asked if this was a donation given to Parks; however, in looking, it seems in-kind and if Parks received funding who is underseeing the expenditures of this project? Ms. Odom replied that it is an in-kind donation much like what we receive from other organizations. The Parks board approves the value of the improvements of the park so we will not receive cash – it is an in-kind donation. Mr. Anderson asked if this was a 6-month period of time approved for this group to short term programing the park for the 19th Amendment celebration? Ms. Odom stated yes; however, the original documentation states a 6 “week” period rather than a 6 “month” period. Mr. Anderson asked that Church Street Park be included on the August or September Parks Board agenda and at the end of this period the board should discuss taking Church Street Park to an RFP process so that the public has the option to be involved if they want to be involved going forward.

X. UPCOMING SPECIAL ACTIVITIES/EVENTS – Jackie Jones

Ms. Jones reported that during the month of July the photo and profile of a different Metro Parks employee will be featured daily on Metro Parks’ Facebook page. She also created the following calendar for the month of July, also known as ***Parks and Recreation Month***, consisting of daily family-oriented projects.

JULY IS PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH 2020 CALENDAR

1. Visit the *historical kiosks* at [Hadley Park Regional Center](#)
2. Bring your lunch and take in the *beautiful botanical garden* at the [Centennial Art Center](#)
3. Check out [Two Rivers Mansion](#) and Hip Donelson’s Farmers Market located on the grounds
4. Don’t miss the [Music City Fourth of July Fireworks](#) (virtual)! Check your local listings for time.
5. Take the entire family to the city’s first wave-action pool [Wave Country](#). The parking is free!
6. Sit on the porch at the [Warner Park Nature Center](#) and enjoy the hummingbirds
7. Check out some of our [community center’s](#) great kid-friendly projects on our [YouTube](#) channel and [Facebook](#) page
8. Listen to some great music during the *Brown Bag Lunch Concerts* at the Centennial Park Event Shelter
9. Visit the *Bellevue Park Farmers Market*
10. Play a round of *golf*! We have some of the best golf courses in Middle Tennessee.
11. [Handmade Nashville Summer Arts & Crafts Show](#) at Bellevue Park
12. Take a walk or ride a bike on one of our many [Greenways](#). *We have 100 miles for you to enjoy!*
13. Check out some of the *canoe and kayak* programs offered by our [Outdoor Recreation Division](#)
14. Visit the [12th South Farmers Market](#) at *Sevier Park*
15. It’s a great day for *fishing* at one of the many lakes and ponds inside our parks
16. Play a round of *disc golf* at three designated disc golf courses
17. Check out the *Parthenon’s* new exhibit, [“We Have A Vision.”](#)
18. Don’t miss the [Richland Park Farmers Market](#)
19. Take a self-guided tour of [Fort Nashborough](#)
20. Go *mountain biking* on one of our four designated mountain biking trails

X. UPCOMING SPECIAL ACTIVITIES/EVENTS – Jackie Jones

JULY IS PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH 2020 CALENDAR (con't.)

21. Take a *hike* at Warner, Bells Bend, Beaman and Shelby Bottoms Parks
22. Explore *Fort Negley*
23. Take a self-guided tour of the *City Cemetery*.
24. Check out the *Virtual Star Gazing Party* - Join astronomers from across the state observing the late July sky. Astronomers from Kingsport to Memphis will share their screens on YouTube.
25. Socially distance at the *Songs of Struggle* at the Centennial Park Event Shelter
26. *Back to School Bash* at *Coleman Park Community Center*
27. Get in the groove at *Two Rivers Skate Park*
28. It's hot out there! Check out the indoor walking tracks at our *regional community centers*.
29. Take your *horse* on one of the trails at *Percy Warner and Peeler Parks*
30. Take a *nature walk* at *Bells Bend Park*
31. Check out *Summer Cinema at Mill Ridge Park*

X. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Ms. Odom stated that we are now in fiscal year 21 and the FY21 Operating Budget was passed and approved by Metro Council. Some of the highlights that directly affect our budget include:

- Target savings of \$1,065,000 has been permanently removed.
- Longevity pay and travel budgets have been cut from our budget, along with all other departments across Metro.
- Metro Parks received an additional \$450,000 in improvements to open the neighborhood community centers, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm, on Saturdays. This will be implemented as soon as possible.
- Metro employees received a 1% Cost of Living Adjustment effective July 1.
- The hiring freeze was lifted July 1 and even with the additions and improvements received our operating budget is still very tight. With the removal of our target savings we have less flexibility for spending as in the past several years, so we'll have to rely on salary savings to end FY21 within budget. That means we cannot fill every budgeted position and will need to be strategic about filling positions.
- The Reopening Plan for Nashville has rolled back to a modified version of Phase 2. With the exception of gathering sizes nothing has really changed for Metro Parks.
- Summer camps have been suspended across the department and we have relied on virtual programming which has proven to be successful in all divisions.
- Metro Parks entered into an agreement with the YMCA to temporarily provided space for childcare for essential employees. This was a critical need from the YMCA and we are grateful we were able to support them by providing space, June 22 – July 24, at Morgan Community Center.
- The Centennial Woman's Suffrage Celebration is currently scheduled for August 18th but may be modified. Skydivers are scheduled for that event if it moves forward and the approval for skydiving was handled through the Metro Council process. Councilmembers Hagar and Hancock sponsored a bill that allowed for skydiving for that event on that day only.

X. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR (con't.)

- Mr. Jeff Chandler is retiring after 48 years of service to Metro Parks as a Maintenance and Repair District Supervisor in the Consolidated Maintenance Division and today is his last official day of work. Jeff has been a hard worker and solid member of our Parks' team. We will certainly miss Jeff and his quiet resolved spirit, but wish him all the best.
- Mr. Stan Fossick's term of service has ended after serving 30 years on the Parks Board and he has the distinction of being the longest serving parks board member in Nashville history. He has been an unwavering advocate for our employees and department, and he will always be a part of the Parks family.

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

Ms. Susannah Scott-Barnes stated given the recent sentiments of social and racial unrest in our country, state and city she would like to recommend that the board revisit or discuss the decision from the September 2019 board meeting to leave the confederate private monument in Centennial Park. Relocating or removing the statue requires approval from the State, but as parks board members, we are not prohibited from making a request and in the interest of supporting a robust and clear discussion would like to take this up at the board's next "in-person" meeting.

Request from Mr. Anderson for discussion of Church Street Park at the upcoming August or September board meeting (see Capital Projects update).

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

Monique Horton Odom, Director

Ms. Susannah Scott-Barnes, Vice Chair
in Dr. Steele's absence