

**METROPOLITAN BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

**August 4, 2020**

A meeting of the Board of Parks and Recreation of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee was held on Tuesday, August 4, 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: Dr. Michelle Steele, Ms. Susannah Scott-Barnes, Ms. Tari Hughes, Mr. George Anderson, Mr. Crews Johnston, Mr. Jeff Haynes, and Dr. Sharon Gentry. Mr. Tom Cross, representing the Metro Legal Department was also present.

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD JULY 7, 2020 APPROVED**

Upon motion of Ms. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Haynes, the Board approved the minutes of the board meeting held Tuesday, July 7, 2020 as presented.

**IV. METRO COUNCIL REFERRALS**

Councilmember at Large Sharon Hurt, Councilmember Larry Hagar representing the 11<sup>th</sup> district, Councilmember Tonya Hancock representing the 9<sup>th</sup> district and Councilmember Brandon Taylor representing the 21<sup>st</sup> district, were present during this meeting.

**V. OLD BUSINESS - none**

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

**08-20-01**

**BOARD APPROVES AUGUST 2020 CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon motion of Dr. Gentry, seconded by Ms. Hughes, the board approved the August 2020 consent agenda as presented.

**AMPLIFICATION APPROVAL**

- |                                    |  |                     |
|------------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| • Julie Harrison-engagement party  | Centennial Park Event Shelter          | Sun., Aug. 16, 2020 |
| • Adrienne Greer-Wedding/reception | Centennial Sunken Garden/Event Shelter | Sat., Oct. 3, 2020  |
| • Barre3 Nashville-outdoor class   | Centennial Park Ellipse                | Sat., Oct. 10, 2020 |
| • Joesy Morris-wedding             | Centennial Park Sunken Garden          | Sat., Oct. 31, 2020 |

**VII. CONSENT AGENDA (con't.)**

**08-20-01**

**BOARD APPROVES AUGUST 2020 CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon motion of Dr. Gentry, seconded by Ms. Hughes, the board approved the August 2020 consent agenda as presented.

**AMPLIFICATION AND FUNDRAISING APPROVAL**

- Kool Kids Society-family festival                      Hadley Park                      Sun., Sept. 6, 2020

**AMPLIFICATION AND ALCOHOL APPROVAL**

- CMT Productions-music awards                      Walk of Fame Park                      Oct. 13-14, 2020
- SEC Basketball FanFare                      Walk of Fame Park                      March 11-13, 2021
- Centennial Park Conservancy-Earth Day                      Centennial Park                      Sat., April 24, 2021
- Musicians Corner-Spring concert season                      Centennial Park                      Fridays April 30-June 25, 2021  
Saturdays, May 1 – June 26, 2021

**AMPLIFICATION, FUNDRAISING AND ALCOHOL APPROVAL**

- Lightning Event Mgt., LLC                      Public Square Park-Live on the Green                      Oct. 29 – Nov. 1, 2020

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**08-20-02**

**BOARD AFFIRMS APPOINTMENT OF MR. CREWS JOHNSTON  
AS A MEMBER OF THE PARKS BOARD**

The board affirmed the appointment of Mr. Crews Johnston as a member of the Parks Board effective July 21, 2020. (Mr. Johnston's term will expire April 30, 2025.)

**08-20-03**

**BOARD DEFERS REQUEST OF COUNCILMEMBER AT LARGE SHARON HURT  
TO RENAME HADLEY PARK "NASHVILLE FREEDOM RIDERS PARK"**

The Honorable Sharon W. Hurt, member of Council, At-Large, was present to request the board to rename Hadley Park "Nashville Freedom Riders Park". Councilmember Hurt thanked the board for giving her the opportunity to present this request

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**08-20-03 (con't.)**

**BOARD DEFERS REQUEST OF COUNCILMEMBER AT LARGE SHARON HURT  
TO RENAME HADLEY PARK "NASHVILLE FREEDOM RIDERS PARK"**

Councilmember Hurt stated "John Lewis believed that we all have the capacity to have great courage. John Lewis was not alone and never stopped speaking out because he saw the best in us. Progress is fragile and we have to be very vigilant. Vigilant like Joshua Black, because we are on a battlefield of justice. Race is not given to the swift but is given to the one who endures to the end, just as he did. Just as our freedom riders did 60 years ago. But still today we see police officers kneeling on the necks of black people. On a quest as our President Barack Obama said during John Lewis' eulogy, that we are on a quest for a fuller, fairer, better America. Alarming us to do what's right, this I believe is your way to keep marching. The Bible said to wait on the Lord and those who want shall mount up on wings, So I said wait on the Lord with patience, faith, determination, strength, courage and endurance for the day has come for Nashville to truly celebrate and recognize the Nashville Freedom Riders by naming this park known as the first public park for black Americans after the first group of black Americans refusing to let milk shakes poured on their head, extinguishing cigarettes on their backs, or a foot to their ribs stop them from desegregating the first public facility in the south. It is not truly known that Hadley Park is named after the slave owner or after the doctor who was named after his slave owner, but today you can act very courageous and change many years of wrong to right. Rename Hadley Park after Diane Nash, Etta Rae Simpson, Rip Patton, Bernard Lafayette, Kwame Lillard, Fred Lillard, King Holland, Terry Henderson, Frank Blakely, Allen Cason, Elizabeth McClain, Matthew Walker, Jr. and John Lewis. Today, I employ you to be courageous and rename Hadley Park to the Nashville Freedom Riders Park".

As per board policy this request is deferred to the naming committee of the board to be heard before the next board meeting in September.

Dr. Sharon Gentry, board member, not knowing if her relationship with the Parks Board will be still be a month from now asked for the opportunity to make comments. Dr. Gentry stated that the board has been dealing with this naming change in the City for a few years, so this isn't a new thing and she didn't want people to believe that is because of recent events that this has become a concern. This has long been a concern here in the City of Nashville. Dr. Gentry wants people to consider where the park is located and what that zip code has come to represent in this county with regard to number of arrests per capita and what those individuals look like that make up a part of that data. Given where we are and having to make some really hard decisions just to do what's right on behalf of the descendants on what that current plot of land represents.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**08-20-03 (con't.)**

**BOARD DEFERS REQUEST OF COUNCILMEMBER AT LARGE SHARON HURT TO RENAME HADLEY PARK "NASHVILLE FREEDOM RIDERS PARK"**

Dr. Gentry stated from an educational prospective, gentrification which has taken place and all of the things that exist today that are somewhat outside of our control, to give the citizens of Nashville, specifically the citizens in the area where Hadley Park sits, some sense of self and different view of what's possible for them; a different view of what they are capable of; a different view of what we as those who are able to affect this overall change and what we know is possible for them.

Dr. Gentry, in her potential absence, made her recommendation that the board strongly consider the name change request brought by Councilmember Sharon Hurt. the board.

**08-20-04**

**BOARD ACCEPTS DONATION VALUED AT APPROXIMATELY \$500,000 FROM LINCOLN PROPERTIES AND BENTALL GREEN OAK FOR IMPROVEMENTS AND/OR RENOVATIONS TO COMMERCE STREET PARK**

Correspondence from Ms. Laura Schroeder, representing Hawkins Partners, Inc. submitting a proposal on behalf of Lincoln Properties and Bentall Green Oak to provide a donation in goods and services or cash valued at approximately \$500,000 for improvements and/or renovations to Commerce Street Park located at 211 Commerce Street was presented to the board.

Upon motion of Ms. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Anderson, the board accepted a proposal submitted by Hawkins Partners, Inc. on behalf of Lincoln Properties and Bentall Green Oak, a partnership, to provide a donation in goods and services or cash valued at approximately \$500,000 for improvements and/or renovations to Commerce Street Park located at 211 Commerce Street. The improvements and/or renovations under consideration include:

- Creating an accessible route from the public sidewalk up to the retail entry;
- Correct two drainage issues on the upper level near the elevator and under the building overhang;
- Clean and paint all metal work;
- Clean and repair concrete steps;
- Replace some of the brick pavers with artificial turf and/or rubber surfacing;
- Update exterior lighting;
- Relocate the existing sculpture (final location to be determined);
- Provide security gates for the upper level;
- Provide signage (2x3) to indicate the space is a public park:

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**08-20-04 (con't.)**

**BOARD ACCEPTS DONATION VALUED AT APPROXIMATELY \$500,000 FROM LINCOLN PROPERTIES AND BENTALL GREEN OAK FOR IMPROVEMENTS AND/OR RENOVATIONS TO COMMERCE STREET PARK**

- Remove existing site furniture and provide new tables and chairs, built-in bench seating, and moveable planters; and,
- Provide new landscape on the lower level.

The final budget numbers and accepted improvements/renovations to the park area are currently being assessed with final confirmation to be submitted by mid-August. This donation will not require any matching funds from the Metropolitan Government and all improvements are subject to approval by Metro Parks.

**08-20-05**

**BOARD DEFERS REQUEST OF GBT REALTY AND VILLAGE 21 TO ACCEPT THE TRANSFER OF 13 FEET OF ALLEY RIGHT OF WAY LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF WEDGEWOOD AND 21<sup>ST</sup> AVENUES**

As per parks policy 3000.25 the board deferred request of GBT Realty and Village 21 to accept the transfer of 13 feet of alley right of way (Alley #992) located at the corner of Wedgewood and 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue. This transfer of property will enlarge an adjacent parcel currently owned by Metro Parks. This request will be presented to the Acquisition Committee of the Parks Board preceding the September Parks Board meeting.

**08-20-06**

**BOARD DEFERS REQUEST OF STAFF TO APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF A DONATED CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON 5 PARCELS TOTALING 56 ACRES LOCATED AT 6217 NORTH NEW HOPE ROAD**

As per parks policy 3000.25 the board deferred staff request to approve of the acquisition of a conservation easement on 5 parcels totaling 56 acres located at 6317 North New Hope Road, Hermitage, TN. Map and Parcel #'s 087-00-0-188.00; 087-00-0-047.04; 087-00-0-047.05; 087-00-0-132.00 and 087-00-0-156.00. This conservation easement is to be co-held by Metro Parks and The Land Trust of Tennessee. This request will be presented to the Acquisition Committee of the Parks Board preceding the September Parks Board meeting.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**08-20-07**

**BOARD DEFERS REQUEST OF STAFF TO APPROVE THE ACQUISITION  
OF A DONATED CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON 5.5 ACRES  
LOCATED AT 374 HICKS ROAD**

As per parks policy 3000.25 the board deferred staff request to approve of the acquisition of a donated conservation easement on 5.5 acres located at 374 Hicks Road, Map and Parcel #'s 142-00-0-019.00; 142-03-0-096.00 and 142-03-0-095.00. This conservation easement is to be co-held by Metro Parks and The Land Trust of Tennessee. This request will be presented to the Acquisition Committee of the Parks Board preceding the September Parks Board meeting.

**08-20-08**

**BOARD GRANTS APPROVAL TO RENEW THE APPLICATION  
FOR THE CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD  
PROGRAM FOR METRO PARKS' AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

Upon motion of Ms. Scott-Barnes, seconded by Ms. Hughes the board granted approval to the request of Metro Parks staff to renew the application for the Child and Adult Care Food Program to be offered in six (6) of Metro Parks' after school programs. This program provides consistent nutritious meals and snacks for children attending after school programming that contributes to their wellness, healthy growth and development.

**VIII. 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 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  
Asphalt work and landscaping to be completed  
early September date

Centennial – Phase Two (see below)

Construction underway  
Construction complete: Fall 2020

Ravenwood – Phase One

Design complete  
Construction contract negotiations underway

Hadley – Pavilion

Design Complete  
Construction contract 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: Fall 2020

Wharf – Master Plan

Frozen until further notice

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

Madison – Tennis Courts Reconstruction

Construction underway

Construction complete: Fall 2020

**COMPLETED IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS**

Antioch – community center renovation

Bellevue – community center

Frankie Pierce – new park

Orchard Bend – swings and pavilion

Shelby Bottoms – Cornelia Fort playground

Smith Springs – swings and pavilion

**\*Centennial Park** – Sod has been laid around the Parthenon and a new lighting system has been installed. Trees are being planted and concrete work is in the completion stage on the West Allee. Working hard to have the Woman’s Suffrage Monument installed on the East Allee by the August 18<sup>th</sup> event. Laser grading of the Great Lawn is to begin on August 10<sup>th</sup> followed by laying sod on the Great Lawn. There has been a delay in obtaining the crab orchard stone from the quarry – currently looking at a fall completion date.

Mr. Anderson asked that the Centennial Park Conservancy report to the board in September regarding a maintenance fund for Centennial Park that at one time was to be established.

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

**Bellevue Farmers Market**, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., every Thursday until further notice.

**12 South Farmers Market**, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., every Tuesday from May 5 – October 27

**Richland Farmers Market**, 9:30 a.m. – 12: 30 p.m., every Saturday until December 31.

**Hip Donelson Farmers Market**, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., every Friday until further notice.

Ms. Jones reported that Covid-19 has significantly impacted events this summer.

August 7: Summer Cinema, 7:30 p.m., Mill Ridge Park (lawn event with social distancing)  
Full Moon Pickin’ Party, 6 p.m., Percy Warner Park Equestrian Area (cancelled)

August 18: Women’s Equality in Tennessee Ceremony and Wreath Laying (Virtual),  
10:15 a.m., Centennial Park (because of Covid-19 not open to public)

**X. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR**

Ms. Odom stated:

- The Office of Internal Audit is working on the final touches of an audit of our department’s relationship with non-profits, particularly Friends Groups, and she is looking forward to sharing their recommendations with the board, once final. She believes the findings will bring improvement to internal controls, accountability and compliance.

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

- Metro Nashville school students reported to school today virtually and in partnership with MNPS, Metro Parks will launch the Metro Parks Essential Worker Support Program. This program will be for children of MNPS essential workers, ages 6-14. Registration began Monday, August 3rd and runs through Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at any community center. Hours of the program are 8:00 am - 4:30 pm. This program will not be childcare. It will be a program of supervised and structured activities within that child's schedule. MNPS will be providing breakfast and lunch and it is to be delivered to the center. Hours of operation for all centers will be adjusted to accommodate this program safely. Neighborhood centers will run 8:00 am - 4:30 pm and regionals will run 6:00 am-7:00 pm. This program will run until Labor Day and will be reevaluated once MNPS makes a decision on in-person school. Ms. Odom commended Stevon Neloms and his staff in Community Recreation for their positive involvement in this endeavor.
- In collaboration with the Metro Health Department, face mask giveaways will be held at the following community centers (pick up at counter) in August: Coleman, East, Hadley, Hartman, Madison, Southeast, Smith Springs, Hermitage, McFerrin, Napier and Old Hickory.
- Thank you to Darrell Hawks, Executive Director of the Friends of Mill Ridge Park, and board for hosting a tour of the Mill Ridge property a couple of weeks ago. Walking the property provided the opportunity to discuss current programming, as well as future programming.
- Thank you to Jenny Hannon, Executive Director of Friends of Warner Parks, for providing a tour and more detail of the Allée restoration project.
- Welcome to our newest Parks Board member, Mr. Crews Johnston.
- We will be honoring Mr. Stan Fossick for his 30 years of service to the Parks Board at our next in person board meeting. At this point it looks as if September will be the next in person meeting, but that will change if Governor Lee extends Executive Order #16 regarding electronic meetings. We will notify all board members of any changes.

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

Ms. Susannah Scott-Barnes requests that the board revisit or discuss the decision from the September 2019 board meeting to leave the confederate private monument in Centennial Park at the next in person meeting.

Request from Mr. Anderson for discussion of Church Street Park at the upcoming September board meeting.



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

Mr. Anderson asked that the Centennial Park Conservancy report to the board in September on a maintenance fund for Centennial Park that at one time was to be established.

**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