

# METROPOLITAN BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

## MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING September 1, 2020

A meeting of the Board of Parks and Recreation of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee was held on Tuesday, September 1, 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, Mr. George Anderson, Mr. Crews Johnston, Mr. Jeff Haynes, and •Dr. Sharon Gentry. Ms. Tari Hughes was not in attendance. 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 AUGUST 4, 2020 APPROVED AS AMENDED**

Ms. Scott-Barnes asked that the minutes be amended under **Section XI Announcements/Requests for Future Agenda Items/Open Items**. She asked that **"at the next in person meeting"** be added to her request to revisit the discussion of the confederate private monument. Therefore, upon motion of Mr. Haynes, seconded by Ms. Scott-Barnes, the Board approved the minutes of the board meeting held Tuesday, August 4, 2020 as amended.

**IV. METRO COUNCIL REFERRALS** – Ms. Odom reported none at this time

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

**02-20-04**

### **BOARD DEFERS REQUEST OF THE FRIENDS OF TWO RIVERS MANSION TO ACCEPT WAY FINDING SIGNAGE TO BE INSTALLED IN TWO RIVERS PARK TO THE SIGNAGE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD**

As per parks policy, the board deferred request of Mr. Phillip Claiborne, Founder and President Emeritus of the Friends of Two Rivers Mansion to accept way finding signage in the amount of \$7,000 for the Mansion and the 1802 House from the Friends of Two Rivers Mansion to the signage committee of the board. This request will be heard by the signage committee preceding the October 2020 board meeting.

V. OLD BUSINESS

08-20-03

**BOARD DEFERS REQUEST OF COUNCILMEMBER AT LARGE SHARON HURT TO RENAME HADLEY PARK “NASHVILLE FREEDOM RIDERS PARK” AS PER REQUEST OF THE NAMING COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD**

The Naming Committee of the Metro Parks Board met prior to the board meeting and voted to defer this request to the October 2020 Parks Board meeting.

08-20-05

**BOARD ACCEPTS TRANSFER OF 13 FEET OF ALLEY RIGHT OF WAY LOCATED AT WEDGEWOOD AND 21<sup>ST</sup> AVENUE**

Correspondence from Mr. Thomas Davis, representing GBT Realty and Village 21, requesting the board to accept the transfer of 13 feet of alley right of way (Alley #922) located at the corner of Wedgewood and 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue was presented to the board. This transfer of property will enlarge an adjacent parcel currently owned by Metro Parks.

This alley currently held by Metro Public Works was requested by property owners to abandon because a recently constructed building was found to be encroaching on the existing remaining alley right-of-way. Therefore, 13 feet of the of the existing 15-foot alley will be transferred to Metro Parks with the remaining 2 feet of alley right of way transferred to the Village 21 development upon approval by the Metro Council. The land adjacent to this alley is already owned by Metro Parks, so the additional property will enlarge the parcel owned by Metro Parks.

As per recommendation of the Acquisition Committee, upon motion of Ms. Scott-Barnes, seconded by Mr. Anderson, the board accepted the transfer of 13 feet of alley right of way (Alley #922) located at the corner of Wedgewood and 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue as per request of Mr. Davis on behalf of Village 21 and CBT Realty.

08-20-06

**REQUEST OF THE CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE GRANT FUND FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT LOCATED AT 6317 NORTH NEW HOPE ROAD HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN**

Ms. Cindy Harrison, representing the Conservation Assistance Grant Fund, withdrew the request to approve of 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) at the property owners request.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

**08-20-07**

**BOARD APPROVES THE ACQUISITION OF A DONATED CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON 5.5 ACRES LOCATED AT 374 HICKS ROAD**

Correspondence received on behalf of the Conservation Assistance Grant Fund requesting approval 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 was presented to the board.

This property, owned by the Greater Nashville Unitarian Universalist Church, is located in a densely developed residential area in West Nashville. This acquisition includes a conservation easement with frontage on Hicks Road, on most of the 6.45 acres of property, but will seek to leave the church structure out of the easement area. The easement area also includes a wooded ridge 700 feet high with walking trails that the Church manages and permits the public to use. At the foot of the ridge is a garden and sitting area, which will also be available to the public. This easement will protect the riparian buffer and water quality of the contiguous creek, Overall Creek. The Greater Nashville Unitarian Universalist Church intends to keep its congregation on this property but also intends to continue to allow the public to benefit from the walking trails and garden. By conserving this property Metro Parks is pleased that the conservation goals of the Open Space Plan and Plan 2 Play goals of creating pocket parks are met. This property, which has public access, is conserving a pocket park that will not require maintenance to be provided by Metro Government.

This easement will be co-held by Metro Parks and The Land Trust for Tennessee with the Greater Nashville Unitarian Universalist Church maintaining ownership and management of the property. The Land Trust for Tennessee will assume monitoring and easement enforcement duties in perpetuity. The value of the Conservation Easement (landowner contribution) is \$200,000. The Land Trust for Tennessee's contribution of staff administration is \$5,000 and the CAF grant award to The Land Trust for Tennessee for title work, legal review, easement drafting, signage survey and easement recording, and stewardship is \$14,000.

As per recommendation of the Acquisition Committee, upon motion of Ms. Scott-Barnes, seconded by Mr. Anderson, the board approved 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 as presented.

- **Denotes arrival of Dr. Sharon Gentry, board member, at 12:10 pm**

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

**09-20-01**

**BOARD APPROVES SEPTEMBER 2020 CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon motion of Mr. Haynes, seconded by Dr. Gentry, the board approved the September 2020 consent agenda as presented.

**AMPLIFICATION APPROVAL**

- God's Helping Hands-Wake Up America Watkins Park Sun., Sept. 2, 2020
- Friends of Mill Ridge Park Mill Ridge Park - outside cinema Fri., Sept. 18, 2020
- Sierra Austin-wedding/reception Cumberland Park Fri., Oct. 2, 2020
- Japan-America Society of TN Public Square Park-Cherry Blossom Festival Sat., April 10, 2021

**AMPLIFICATION AND FUNDRAISING APPROVAL**

- Nat'l. Multiple Sclerosis Society Cumberland Park-Walk MS Nashville Sat, April 17, 2021

**AMPLIFICATION, FUNDRAISING AND ALCOHOL APPROVAL**

- FOWP-Sunday in the Park Indian Springs Area of Warner Park Sun., Oct.25, 2020
- Centennial Park Conservancy - Gala Centennial Park/Parthenon parking lot Sat., Nov. 7, 2020

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**09-20-02**

**BOARD ACCEPTS IN-KIND GRANT VALUED AT \$19,654.50  
FROM THE GARDEN CLUB OF NASHVILLE TO REPLACE TREES  
AND RESTORE THE LANDSCAPE OF CLINTON FISK PARK**

Correspondence received from Ms. Frances Corzine, President of the Garden Club of Nashville, requesting the board to accept an in-kind grant valued at \$19,654.50 which consists of 190 trees, mulch, tree tags, watering bags and contract labor to be used in Clinton Fisk Park was presented to the board.

Upon motion of Dr. Gentry, seconded by Ms. Scott-Barnes the board accepted this in-kind grant valued at \$19,654.50 which consists of 190 trees, mulch, tree tags, watering bags and contract labor to be used in Clinton Fisk Park from the Garden Club of Nashville. Please note that this grant will not require any matching funds and/or obligation from Metro Parks and no funds will be forwarded to the Metropolitan Government or Metro Parks.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

09-20-03

**BOARD DEFERS REQUEST OF STAFF TO ENTER INTO A LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF TENNESSEE ON AN EXISTING SECTION OF THE STONES RIVER GREENWAY**

As per parks policy 3000.25 the board deferred staff request to enter into a License Agreement (Project No. 19041-3269-94 BR-STP-24(20)), with the State of Tennessee to install, maintain and operate a pedestrian walking trail on an existing section of the Stones River Greenway. This request will be presented to the Acquisition Committee of the Parks Board preceding the October Parks Board meeting.

**VIII. CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE – Mark Bradfield presented in Tim Netsch’s absence**

Mr. Bradfield reported that 6 acres of sod were put down in Centennial Park on Thursday, August 27 and Friday, August 28, 2020.

Aaittifama Archeological – Phase One

Design complete  
In the queue for construction bidding working

Mill Ridge – Phase One

Design complete  
Construction contract protested-Metro Procurement on resolution

Beaman - Trails

Final wayfinding signage on order  
Construction complete: Summer 2020

Percy Warner – Allee Restoration

Construction underway by FOWP  
Construction complete: Fall 2020

Centennial – Phase Two

Construction underway  
Construction complete: Fall 2020  
Procurement

Ravenwood – Phase One

Design complete  
Construction contract protested-Metro working on resolution

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

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

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

**SEPTEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

**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.

**18: Summer Cinema, 7:30 p.m.**, Mill Ridge Park

**22: Autumn Storywalk Reveal on the Little Acorn Trail in Warner Park  
Bird Research Program with Laura Cook at the Warner Nature Center**

**25-27: Music City Open Disc Golf Tournament**, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., Cedar Hill Park

**CENTENNIAL ART CENTER is accepting applications for the “Get Cultured” Art Exhibit as part of Celebrate Nashville. Deadline is September 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**Please visit Metro Parks website and social media for information about Dance and Theater classes**

**THE PARTHENON**

**Now – July 17, 2021, West Gallery**

*We Have a Vision: Nashville Women from the Centennial to Suffrage*

**Now – December 6, East Gallery**

*Music in the Park: Songs and Stories from Centennial Park 1896 – 2020*

**X. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR**

- Metro Parks is halfway through the hiring process for staff to work in the neighborhood community centers on Saturdays and we hope to complete the process within the next few weeks. In fiscal year 2021 Metro Parks received an appropriation of \$450,000 to open the neighborhood community centers, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm, on Saturdays. These closures were enacted several years ago as a budget reduction. Metro Parks is very grateful to Metro Council and Mayor Cooper for allowing us to offer our services and programming on Saturdays.
- As the result of a recent audit of Metro Parks and their relationship with non-profits, particularly friends groups; Chinita White, Assistant Director of Parks/Finance and Administration, will be scheduling a finance committee meeting to review the audit, walk through parks policy and look at ways to strengthen policy, if needed. Metro Parks certainly needs to hold these organizations more accountable and change policy if needed.
- Councilmember Nancy VanReece was appointed chairperson of the Metro Council’s sub committee on Parks and Libraries.

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

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the Metro Parks Essential Worker Support Program has gone well. This program will now continue through October consistent with the scheduling of virtual learning in Metro Schools. Metro Parks will re-evaluate at the same time as Metro Schools if the school system decides to move forward with in person learning. Metro Parks will begin regular after-school programming working in tandem with Metro Schools. To date there are 428 students registered in this program. Ms. Odom commended Stevon Neloms and his staff in Community Recreation for their hard work in supporting our peer department of Metro Schools.
- At the August Parks Board meeting board member Anderson inquired about the Centennial Park Conservancy's maintenance fund for Centennial Park. The Conservancy reported that a Centennial Park Maintenance Fund has been established with an initial pledge of \$100,000 and is expected to be paid this year to help support maintenance of the park. Once the current phase of construction is complete in Centennial Park, the Conservancy plans to begin an ongoing fundraising campaign to solicit donations from individuals and organizations to assist in keeping Centennial Park beautiful. Metro Parks appreciates all the work the Conservancy is doing and has done.
- Metro Parks has suspended or paused the regular schedule of friends' groups providing their annual update on operations and activities to the board. Hopefully, this schedule will resume by January 1 or when in-person meetings begin again.

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

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

Mr. Anderson has requested a discussion of Church Street Park once the period of programming in Church Street Park ends.

**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