

METROPOLITAN BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

January 5, 2010

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, 2010 at 1:30 pm in the Centennial Park Boardroom, 2565 Park Plaza, Nashville, TN. Board members present were: Mr. Stan Fossick, Justice A. A. Birch, Jr., Mr. George Anderson, Ms. Tonya Jones and Ms Karen Johnson. Ms. Ivanetta Davis Samuels, and Mr. James Lawson were not in attendance.

Staff present were: Assistant Directors: Mr. James Gray/Finance and Administration; Mr. Mike Bays/Consolidated Maintenance, Mr. Paul Widman/Recreation, Mr. Curt Garrigan/Planning and Facilities, Mr. Tommy Lynch/Special Services; Ms. Jackie Jones, Superintendent of Community Affairs; Mr. Bob Parrish, Superintendent of Resource Management; Ms. Shain Dennison, Superintendent of Greenways Development; Captain Rich Foley, Park Police; and **Ms. Nicki Eke, Metro Government Legal Counsel.**

MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD DECEMBER 1 AND DECEMBER 10, 2009 APPROVED

Upon motion of Justice Birch seconded by Ms. Johnson, the Board approved the minutes of board meetings held Tuesday, December 1 and Thursday, December 10, 2009.

VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Lora Fox, representing the Metro Legal Department, was present to report on the ruling that the Tennessee Court of issued with regard to Belmont University's plan to renovate E. S. Rose Park. Appeals (A Davidson County Chancery Court judge ruled in favor of Belmont and Metro, and the Court of Appeals upheld that ruling last week.) This ruling appears to have ended a neighborhood fight that dragged on for more than three years.

Ms. Fox stated that the five separate lawsuits were consolidated and one opinion was issued to address all and the Parks Board and the Metropolitan Council can rely on the following reasonable options:

- Board makes recommendation and the Metropolitan Council grants final decision.
- Open meetings act and approval of lease – board member made sure that Metro will hold the keys, not Belmont. Tom Cross, Metro Legal Department representative, secured language and stressed the importance of public discussion.
- Ability of the Parks Board to control their meetings. Joe Johnston's disruption when he was not given all the time he wanted to address the board.

VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

The neighborhood associations who filed suit still have the option to appeal to the Supreme Court; however, this court can decide if they will honor the appeal or not.

Belmont will use the 25-acre park on Ninth Avenue South as home fields for its Division I baseball, softball and soccer teams and the public will still be able to make use of the park.

The lease agreement, which was approved by Metro Council in August 2007, requires Belmont to pay the city \$50,000 annually. The parent-teacher organizations at Carter-Lawrence Elementary and Rose Park Middle public schools will receive a combined \$10,000 a year while the Metro Parks and Recreation Department will receive the remaining \$40,000 for park improvements.

The original plan called for Belmont to have its sports facilities in place by January 2009, but neighbors sued to stop the project, fearing that it would bring more traffic and limit the Edgehill neighborhood's access to the park.

* * *

Bob Parrish reported that a safe prescribed burn was held on Friday, November 20th at Bells Bend Park with no reported problems. He stated that the TWRA burn crew of five were very professional and followed the plan and timetable as scheduled.

Several of our objectives were achieved and a lot was learned about how to organize a prescribed burn and obtaining the required approvals.

The controlled fire was not as thorough in burning all of the vegetation on the 26 acres as we had hoped. Above average rainfall, fog the prescribed burn morning, or below average number of "killing frosts" may be the reasons; however, we will evaluate the project this winter and with TWRA's assistance hopefully come up with recommendations for how to achieve all of our objectives in 2010 and the years ahead.

VII. INTRODUCTION OF STAFF, NEW EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTEERS

VIII. METRO COUNCIL REFERRALS

IX. OLD BUSINESS:

07-09-39

MR. LARRY HAYS REPRESENTING THE VANDERBILT BRIDGE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION PRESENTS AN UPDATE TO THE BOARD'S ACQUISITION COMMITTEE WITH REGARD TO PLANS TO CONSTRUCT A NEW FACILITY IN CENTENNIAL PARK

Mr. Larry Hays, representing the Vanderbilt Bridge Education Association, was present and addressed the Board's Acquisition Committee regarding his progress with regard to his proposal to enter into a partnership with Metro Parks to construct a new facility at no cost to Metro on park property with opportunity to benefit the local community from the board.

Mr. Hays reported that his proposal was deferred by the Board of Zoning and Appeals in order for one more public meeting to be held to consider neighborhood approval, traffic and noise. Councilmember Edith Langster has expressed her willingness to support this project with the caveat that nothing else will be pushed on this neighborhood. He stated that the Bridge Association is proceeding cautiously and will follow all requirements of the BZA.

12-09-29

BOARD DEFERS REQUEST OF GOOD FOOD FOR GOOD PEOPLE TO CREATE A FULL SERVICE OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTER IN RICHLAND PARK

Mr. Sean Siple, representing Good Food for Good People, was present to request permission from the board to enter into a partnership with Metro Parks to create a full service Outdoor Learning Center in Richland Park.

Mr. Siple reported that Councilmembers Baker and Holleman were satisfied that traffic concerns could be mediated with signage, Park Police and area neighborhood groups. He also stated that the Outdoor Learning Center did not receive a unanimous vote at a community meeting; the vote was 22-7 and said 7 were property owners adjacent to the park.

After much discussion between board members with regard to this group working under the same umbrella with the Metro Farmers Market Mr. Fossick made motion and Justice Birch seconded to defer this request until the February board meeting.

IX. OLD BUSINESS:

12-09-35

**CENTENNIAL MASTER PLAN UPDATE PRESENTED BY
THE CENTENNIAL PARK RESTORATION COMMITTEE**

Dr. Reavis Mitchell, on behalf of the Centennial Park Restoration Committee, presented an update of the Centennial Park Master Plan to the board. Dr. Mitchell stated that the plan is for Centennial Park to become a signature destination park and that the following team of firms, led by Gustafson Guthrie Nichols Ltd, has been chosen to develop the Centennial Park Master Plan:

Gustafson Guthrie Nichol Ltd, Seattle, Washington-***Lead Team***
Magnussom Klemencic Associates, Seattle, Washington-***Sustainability Design, Civil Engineering***

Dr. Carroll Van West, Murfreesboro, TN-***Historian***

Price Harrison Architect and Associates, Nashville, TN-***Architecture and Urban Design***

Wilmot, Inc., Nashville, TN-***Sustainability Operation and Implementation***

RPM Transportation Consultants LLC, Nashville, TN-***Traffic and Parking***

Davis Langdon, Seattle, Washington-***Cost Estimating***

Dr. Mitchell reported that RFP's came from across the country as well as internationally and that the Center of Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University assisted in the selection process. He also said that the Master Plan will be phased in several segments with the plans to insure all financing. Dr. Mitchell ended his presentation by thanking Curt Garrigan, Stan Fossick, Sylvia Rapoport and Angie Nichols for their help and support during the RFP process.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

01-10-01

**BOARD APPROVES REQUEST OF MS. AMANDA JOHNSON
FOR AMPLIFICATION DURING A WEDDING CEREMONY
TO BE HELD IN THE SUNKEN GARDEN OF CENTENNIAL PARK
ON SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2010**

An application submitted by Ms. Amanda Johnson requesting permission for amplification during a wedding ceremony on Saturday, May 15, 2010, 3:00 – 6:00 pm, in the Sunken Garden of Centennial Park was presented to the board.

Upon motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Justice Birch, the board approved request for amplification with the understanding that the sound not be disruptive to those in the surrounding area and subject to monitoring by park personnel.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

01-10-02

**BOARD APPROVES REQUEST OF NICOLE AND CALVIN PHILLIPS
FOR AMPLIFICATION DURING A WEDDING CEREMONY
TO BE HELD IN THE SUNKEN GARDEN OF CENTENNIAL PARK
ON SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 2010**

An application submitted by Nicole and Calvin Phillips requesting permission for amplification during a wedding ceremony on Saturday, June 26, 2010, 3:00 – 6:00 pm, in the Sunken Garden of Centennial Park was presented to the board.

Upon motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Justice Birch, the board approved request for amplification with the understanding that the sound not be disruptive to those in the surrounding area and subject to monitoring by park personnel.

01-10-03

**BOARD APPROVES REQUEST OF MS. ANDREA WILLIAMS
FOR AMPLIFICATION DURING A WEDDING CEREMONY
TO BE HELD IN THE SUNKEN GARDEN OF CENTENNIAL PARK
ON SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2010**

An application submitted by Ms. Andrea Williams requesting permission for amplification during a wedding ceremony on Sunday, July 25, 2010, 3:00 – 10:00 pm, in the Sunken Garden of Centennial Park was presented to the board.

Upon motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Justice Birch, the board approved request for amplification with the understanding that the sound not be disruptive to those in the surrounding area and subject to monitoring by park personnel.

01-10-04

**BOARD APPROVES REQUEST OF SHAWNA JOHNSTON AND ROAN MARION
FOR AMPLIFICATION DURING A WEDDING CEREMONY
TO BE HELD IN THE EVENT SHELTER OF CENTENNIAL PARK
ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2010**

An application submitted by Ms. Shawna Johnston and Mr. Roan Marion requesting permission for amplification during a wedding ceremony and reception on Saturday, September 11, 2010, 10:00 am – 8:00 pm, in the Centennial Park Event Shelter was presented to the board.

Upon motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Justice Birch, the board approved request for amplification with the understanding that the sound not be disruptive to those in the surrounding area and subject to monitoring by park personnel.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

01-10-05

**BOARD APPROVES REQUEST OF PROGRESS TO HOST A FUNDRAISING WALK
BEGINNING AT THE CENTENNIAL PARK EVENTS SHELTER
ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2010**

An application submitted by Ms. Susan Jakoblew, representing Progress, requesting permission to host a fundraising walk on Saturday, October 9, 2010, 7:00 am – 2:00 pm, at the Centennial Park Event Shelter was presented to the board.

Upon motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Justice Birch, the board approved request to host a fundraiser with the understanding that a financial report must be submitted no later than 30 days following event.

01-10-06

**BOARD GRANTS PERMISSION TO THE CUMBERLAND RIVER COMPACT
TO HOST THE DRAGON BOAT RACE AND RIVER FESTIVAL, A FUNDRAISER,
TO BE HELD IN RIVERFRONT PARK ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 2010**

An application submitted by Mr. Doug Hansken and Ms. Janet Regen, representing Cumberland River Compact, requesting permission to host the ***Dragon Boat Race and River Festival***, a fundraising event, on Saturday, August 21, 2010, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, in Riverfront Park was presented to the board.

Upon motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Justice Birch, the board approved request to host a fundraiser with the understanding that a financial report must be submitted no later than 30 days following event.

01-10-07

**BOARD APPROVES REQUEST OF THE NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS
SOCIETY FOR AMPLIFICATION DURING THE ANNUAL 2010 NASHVILLE WALK,
A FUNDRAISER, WITH AMPLIFICATION TO BE HELD IN
EDWIN WARNER PARK ON SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2010**

An application submitted by Ms. Carrie Tessier, representing the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, requesting permission for amplification during the annual 2010 Multiple Sclerosis Nashville Walk on Sunday, April 11, 2010, 12:00 – 3:00 pm, in Edwin Warner Park was presented to the board.

Upon motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Justice Birch, the board approved request to host a fundraiser with amplification with the understanding that the sound not be disruptive to those in the surrounding area and subject to monitoring by park personnel and a financial report must be submitted no later than 30 days following event.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

01-10-08

**BOARD APPROVES PACKAGE OF GRANTS TOTALING \$100,203.00
FROM THE FRIENDS OF WARNER PARKS**

A letter submitted by Ms. Eleanor Willis, Executive Director of Friends of Warner Parks, requesting acceptance of a package of grants totaling \$100,203.00 to continue funding staff positions in the Warner Parks from the Board.

Upon motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Justice Birch, the Board unanimously approved this request effective calendar year January 1 through December 31, 2010.

X. NEW BUSINESS

01-10-09

**BOARD GRANTS PERMISSION TO PARKS' INTERIM DIRECTOR
TO IMPLEMENT A SOLUTION FOR THIS GROUP AND
REPORT BACK TO BOARD IN FEBRUARY**

Mr. Kenneth Stewart, Founder and Program Director of the Tennessee Aquatic Project and Development Group, Inc. (TAP), was present to request permission from the board with regard to use of the Hartman Park Swimming Facility.

This group offers a successful aquatic program at Hartman Park Swimming Pool which trains one third of the lifeguards hired to service parks' community pools. This program is offered on Saturday morning and with the reduction of hours because of recent budgetary concerns this facility will be closed on Saturday; therefore, Mr. Stewart has requested that the facility open for 4 hours only each Saturday.

Upon motion of Justice Birch, seconded by Ms. Johnson, the board charged Tommy Lynch, Interim Director of Metro Parks, and Paul Widman, Assistant Director of Parks, to implement a solution to this dilemma and report back to the board at their February meeting.

01-10-10

**BOARD DEFERS APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN
AUSTIN PEAY UNIVERSITY AND METRO PARKS TO ALLOW NURSING STUDENTS
TO WORK WITH THE EAST PARK SENIOR PROGRAM**

Because the agreement has not yet been completed the board deferred this request until the February board meeting.

XII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS FROM STAFF

Community Garden Update – no report

XIII. UPCOMING SPECIAL ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

Jackie Jones reported that a rally for proponents of the convention center sponsored by the Convention and Visitor's Bureau is scheduled to be held on January 11, 2010, 4:45 pm in Public Square Park.

XIV. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Lynch reported to the board that staff will work diligently to correct issues currently affecting the Metro Parks Department.

XV. ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Fee structure for 2010

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

Mr. Tommy Lynch, Interim Director

Mr. Stan Fossick, Chairperson