

METROPOLITAN BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

November 6, 2007

A meeting of the Board of Parks and Recreation of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee was held on Tuesday, November 6, 2007 at 1:30 pm in the Centennial Park Boardroom, 2565 Park Plaza, Nashville, TN. Board members present were: Mr. Lamont Carter, Ms. Susan Jones, Mr. Stan Fossick, Mr. James Lawson, Ms. Karen Johnson and Ms. Tonya Jones. Justice A. A. Birch Jr. was not in attendance.

Staff present were: Assistant Directors: Mr. James Gray/Finance and Administration, Mr. Mike Bays/Consolidated Maintenance, Mr. Paul Widman/Recreation, Mr. Tommy Lynch/Special Services; Mr. Tim Netsch, Superintendent of Planning and Facilities Development; Ms. Jackie Jones, Superintendent of Community Affairs; Mr. Bob Parrish, Superintendent of Resource Management; Ms. Shain Dennison, Superintendent of Greenways Development; Lt. George Mitchell, Park Police and **Tom Cross, Metro Government Legal Counsel.**

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD OCTOBER 2, 2007 APPROVED

Upon motion of Mr. Lawson, seconded by Ms. Susan Jones, the Board approved the minutes of the board meeting held Tuesday, October 2, 2007.

VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

Nancy VanReece, Executive Director of the Nashville Shakespeare Festival, Robert Marigza and Donald Capparella were present to thank the board for partnering with the Nashville Shakespeare Festival to produce Shakespeare in the Park at no charge to attendees. Ms. VanReece presented the board a framed print in honor of the completion of the 20th season of Shakespeare in the Park.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

04-07-20

BOARD DEFERS REQUEST TO ESTABLISH SMOKE FREE CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS AT ALL METRO PARKS' PLAYGROUNDS

At the October 2007 board meeting the request to establish smoke free children's playgrounds at all Metro Parks' playgrounds was deferred for one meeting to grant the board time to review proposed policy and schedule a meeting of the board as a whole to discuss recommendation. Therefore, during the meeting of the full board as a whole Mr. Lawson motioned to recommend at the November Board meeting to establish smoke-free playgrounds in all Metro Parks with staff supplying parameters of playground smoke-free areas while continuing to work on a conclusive policy for all parks. Ms. Susan Jones seconded, the board committee approved motion with the exception of Justice Birch who voted No. However, because of the legality of this issue, staff determined that they would like to request of the Board to defer action on this subject until the Metro Legal Department has sufficient time to address all legal issues regarding this request.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

04-07-20 (con't.)

**BOARD DEFERS REQUEST TO ESTABLISH SMOKE FREE CHILDREN'S
PLAYGROUNDS AT ALL METRO PARKS' PLAYGROUNDS**

Therefore, upon motion of Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Fossick, the board accepted staff recommendation to defer this request until all legal questions have been addressed.

07-07-12

**BOARD DENIES REQUEST OF COUNCILMEMBER EVANS
WITH REGARD TO THE LONG TERM BENEFIT OF THE USE OF PROPERTY
ADJACENT TO WARNER PARKS AND ITS OVERALL MISSION OF METRO PARKS**

Upon motion of Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Fossick, and upon committee recommendation, the Park Board determined that the property adjacent to Percy Warner Park will not be considered for transfer and will remain the property of Metro Parks. However, the Parks Department has made the following modifications with regard to the aforementioned property:

- Property will be used for Parks Department purposes only, including parking for park patrons.
- Overflow parking for Cheekwood and valet parking for neighborhood events will be discontinued.
- Landscaping crew will monitor property on a regular basis to ensure appropriate buffer for homeowners on each side of the property.
- Park police will increase patrol of the property to ensure compliance.

09-07-08

**BOARD DEFERS REQUEST TO ESTABLISH A FRIENDS GROUP
FOR COMMERCE STREET PARK**

A letter submitted by Mr. Bert Mathews, representing The Mathews Company, requesting permission to establish a friends group for Commerce Street Park was presented to the Board for approval.

At the request of Mr. Mathews and upon motion of Mr. Lawson; seconded by Ms. Susan Jones, the board deferred this request until the December meeting as no required documentation has been submitted for review.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

10-07-07

**BOARD APPROVES REQUEST OF THE TENNESSEE TITANS
TO PLACE A SIGNAGE/DEDICATION PLAQUE
AT THE PROPOSED LOCATION IN SHELBY PARK FOR THE MIRACLE**

The previous request of Ms. Tresa Halbrooks, representing the Tennessee Titans, requesting permission from the Metropolitan Board of Parks and Recreation to place proper signage at the proposed location of the Miracle Playground was presented to the Board.

Upon motion of Mr. Lawson, seconded by Ms. Susan Jones, and upon committee recommendation, the Board unanimously approved an appropriate identification signage/dedication plaque for the proposed Miracle Playground in Shelby Park. It was also determined that the proposed text slated for the dedication plaque is not in violation of the signage policy as adopted by the Metro Parks Board and the Board charged Metro Parks staff with coordinating the size and location of sign/plaque as well as the wording on sign.

Please note that at this meeting it was reported that Nashville will be the first city in the United States to house both a Miracle Field and Miracle Playground at a contiguous site.

12-06-18 AND 10-07-08

**BOARD APPROVES REQUESTS OF COUNCILMEMBERS WILHOITE AND DUVALL
TO REVIEW AND AMEND THE 2002 PARKS AND GREENWAYS MASTER PLAN**

Mr. Lawson asked that the Board consider the following two requests together:

- Councilmember Vivian Wilhoite requests the board reconsider updating the Master Plan to include a community center for the southeastern area of Davidson County (council districts 28, 29, 30, and 31).
- Councilmember Robert Duvall requests board consideration to support an amendment to the Parks Master Plan to include consideration of a Regional Recreational Community Center for constituents in District 33.

In keeping with the national standard for parks departments, the Master Plan should be updated every five years. The update should address population changes and related shifts in underserved area(s), changes in community demand and recreation trends, land acquisition and construction costs, and all other relevant factors. The updated plan must be approved by the Park Board.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

12-06-18 AND 10-07-08 (con't.)

BOARD APPROVES REQUESTS OF COUNCILMEMBERS WILHOITE AND DUVALL TO REVIEW AND AMEND THE 2002 PARKS AND GREENWAYS MASTER PLAN

CRITERIA FOR AMENDING THE PARKS & GREENWAYS MASTER PLAN

Requests should be initiated only by elected officials representing their constituencies, or by representatives of community-based organizations which have been in existence a minimum of three years (e.g. advisory councils, neighborhood associations, youth service agencies, elected and/or appointed bodies). Amendment requests will not be accepted from any individual person.

Because the existing Master Plan reflects extensive research and public input, request should be justified by evidence that conditions have changed since completion of the plan (population change and related shift in underserved area(s), community demand, recreation trends, and all other relevant factors).

Any amendment process should include appropriate opportunity for public input. New projects amended into plan should identify funding amount, source and FY recommended for funding. All amendments must be approved by the Park Board.

Therefore, upon motion of Mr. Lawson, seconded by Ms. Johnson, the Board approved request to review and amend the 2002 Parks and Greenways Master Plan with priority granted to requests of both Councilmembers Wilhoite and Duvall since both meet established criteria for the amendment of the Parks and Greenways Master Plan. Staff will revisit the current plan and begin analysis now with an expected time frame of 3-4 months before reporting back to the Board.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA:

11-07-01

BOARD GRANTS PERMISSION TO MS. RACHEL CARNEY FOR AMPLIFICATION DURING A WEDDING CEREMONY/RECEPTION ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2007 IN CENTENNIAL PARK

An application submitted by Ms. Rachel Carney requesting permission for amplification during a wedding ceremony and reception on Saturday, November 17, 2007, 2:30 – 4:00 pm, in the Sunken Garden of Centennial Park and the Centennial Park Event Shelter was presented to the Board.

Upon motion of Mr. Lawson, seconded by Ms. Susan Jones, the board unanimously approved this 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.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA:

11-07-02

**BOARD GRANTS PERMISSION TO THE AMERICAN FEDERATION
FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION FOR AMPLIFICATION DURING
AN "OUT OF DARKNESS" COMMUNITY WALK
ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2007 IN CENTENNIAL PARK**

An application submitted by Ms. Brandie Powell, representing the American Federation for Suicide Prevention, requesting permission for amplification during an "Out of Darkness" community walk on Sunday, November 18, 2007, 1:00 – 3:00 pm, in Centennial Park was presented to the Board.

Upon motion of Mr. Lawson, seconded by Ms. Susan Jones, the board unanimously approved this 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.

11-07-03

**BOARD APPROVES AGREEMENT BETWEEN METRO PARKS
AND THE YOUTH LIFE LEARNING CENTERS TO FUND A FULLTIME
TEACHER/COUNSELOR AT EASLEY AND KIRKPATRICK CENTERS**

A letter submitted by Mr. James Lowe, representing Youth Life Learning Centers, requesting permission to continue funding of a fulltime teacher/counselor up to 40 hours per week including any pay plan adjustments and merit increases on-going with Metro Parks funding the employee benefits while processing the weekly timesheets and paychecks was presented to the Board. (NOTE:

Upon motion of Mr. Lawson, seconded by Ms. Susan Jones, the board unanimously approved the continuation of this agreement with the stipulation that Youth Life Learning Center or Metro Parks may discontinue this agreement with a 30 day notice to the other party.

11-07-04

**BOARD APPROVES APPLICATION AND ULTIMATE ACCEPTANCE
OF AN ENHANCEMENT GRANT FROM
THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE
OPRY MILLS CONNECTOR OF THE CUMBERLAND RIVER SYSTEM**

Upon motion of Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Susan Jones, the Board unanimously approved application and ultimate acceptance of an Enhancement Grant from the Tennessee Department of Transportation for the Opry Mills Connector of the Cumberland River system.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

11-07-05

**BOARD APPROVES REAPPOINTMENT OF MS. KAREN JOHNSON
AS MEMBER OF THE PARK BOARD
REPRESENTING THE METRO BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Ms. Karen Johnson was reappointed as a member of the Park Board, representing the Metro Board of Education, effective September 25, 2007. (Ms. Johnson's term will expire June 30, 2008.)

11-07-06

**BOARD APPROVES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
THE FRIENDS OF CHURCH STREET PARK**

Ms. Amy Walters and Ms. Susan Earle, representing a diverse group of downtown businesses and residents, were present to request consideration of the board to establish Friends of Church Street Park as an official volunteer support group to Metro Parks.

Upon motion of Mr. Fossick, seconded by Ms. Johnson, the Board approved this request as the group has submitted all necessary documentation required of petitioning Friends groups.

11-07-07

**REQUEST TO BEGIN FUNDRAISING TO BENEFIT CHURCH STREET PARK
IN THE AREA OF PROGRAMMING AND SECURITY
WAS INCLUSIVE IN THE APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS AGENDA ITEM 11-07-07**

Mr. Joshua Smith, owner of The Standard at The Smith House and representing the Urban Residents Association, the Nashville Street Life Project, the Nashville Downtown Partnership and the Downtown Library, was present to request permission from the Board to begin fundraising to pay for programming and safety in Church Street Park until the Friends of Church Street Park Group is in place.

The approval of this request was by previous action (agenda item 11-07-07) as the establishment of the friends group has been approved by board action. Mr. Smith announced to the Board that \$4,000 has already been raised for Church Street Park as the result of a masquerade ball held at an earlier date.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

11-07-08

**BOARD APPROVES CONSTRUCTION OF A BARRIER FENCE
TO BE CONSTRUCTED ON PARMER PARK PROPERTY
AT THE EXPENSE OF ADJACENT HOMEOWNER**

Mr. Jim Hastings was present to request permission from the board to fund and construct a 6 foot cedar fence on Metro Parks' property, specifically Parmer Park, as a safety barrier for children at play in Parmer Park.

Because of the close proximity of children playing in Parmer Park and worry of a child running into the path of a vehicle backing out of the Hastings driveway Mr. Tim Netsch, Planning Superintendent for Metro Parks, met with Mr. Hastings at the proposed site of fence construction. Mr. Hastings also provided Mr. Netsch a drawing from Hawkins Partners Landscape Architects illustrating the location of the 6 foot cedar fence.

Upon motion of Mr. Fossick, seconded by Ms. Tonya Jones, the board approved construction of this fence on park property at no cost to Metro Government with the understanding that the fence would be built in an unobtrusive location.

X. INTRODUCTION OF STAFF, NEW EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTEERS

XI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS FROM STAFF

Community Garden Update

Vera Vollbrecht reported that the fall garden in Shelby Park is still producing as well as the garden in Watkins Park. The garden in Watkins Park is being maintained by a teacher at Martin Luther King Magnet School. She also reported that 4 rain barrel workshops have been held since August. The Community Garden Workshop held on October 13th was very well attended and considered a success.

Miracle League Update

Tim Netsch will be reporting on this project while field is under construction. He reports that the final round of review is scheduled with the Metro Purchasing Department and a conceptual plan will allow Metro Parks to begin construction of the field and playground.

Park Watch/Trail Watch Program

Lt. George Mitchell reported that a group of bike enthusiasts from Hamilton Creek Park are joining the Park Watch program. Shain Dennison introduced Renee Bates who is working in the capacity as a volunteer coordinator of Trail Watch Groups.

Park/School Wellness Program

Paul Widman reported that Metro Parks will be continuing work with Alignment Nashville and the plan is slated for completion in January.

XII. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

XIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Upon motion of Mr. Lawson, seconded by Ms. Johnson, the Board approved amending the January 2008 Parks Board Meeting date from Tuesday, January 1 to Tuesday, January 8, 2008 because of the New Years Day holiday.

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

Mr. Roy E. Wilson, Director

Mr. Lamont Carter, Chairperson