

Stark County Park District Park Board – Special Meeting Minutes
Exploration Gateway Canalway Center at Sippo Lake Park – 5712 12th St. NW, Canton, Ohio
March 10, 2022
Page 1 of 4

(AGENDA ITEM: 3)

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – The special meeting of the Stark County Park Commission was called to order by Denise Freeland at 11:01 am

A. Roll Call of Members:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Denise Freeland, Bill Bryan, Ralph Dublikar, Pat Quick, David Regula

STAFF PRESENT:

Robert A. Fonte, Park Director/Secretary to the Board

Barbara Wells, Financial Manager

Victoria Nickl, Clerk to the Board

Emily Rindfleisch, Alternate Clerk to the Board

Justin Laps, Staff

Bonnie Hunt, Staff

Steve Smith, Staff

Aimee Engelhart, Staff

Samantha Reilly, Staff

Jeff Reilly, Staff

Talula Wiater, Staff

Jason Yost, Staff

Ryan Varga, Staff

Chelsie Haupt, Staff

Linda Kuhn, Staff

Jonathan Peterson, Staff

Rick Summers, Staff

Kyle Sedio, Staff

Dave Patterson, Staff

Mark Walker, Staff

Phil Skabar, Staff

Troy Myers, Staff

Craig Fox, Staff

John Stutler, Staff

Jon Dalton, Staff

Kyle Burns, Staff

Rob Dunbar, Staff

Kingsley Martin, Staff

Mary Grueber, Staff

Sarah Buell, Staff

James Woodworth, Staff

Cliff Bann, Staff

Jared Shive, Staff

Justin Crawford, Staff

Emma Weisent, Staff

Mindy Christy, Staff

Paul McCaulley, Staff

Dan Marquez, Staff

Amanda Perry, Staff

Stephon Echague, Staff
Vanessa Shanower, Staff
Kenny Willaman, Staff
Mike Duplay, Staff
Allison Terlacher, Staff
Linda Watkins, Staff
Stephanie Rafferty, Staff
Megan Jackman, Staff
Zach Barry, Staff

GUESTS PRESENT:

Dan Moeglin, City of Canton Engineer's Office
Derek Gordon, Stark County Library District
Andy Haag, Friends of Stark Parks
Robert Wang, The Canton Repository
Frank Golub, Constituent
Ms. Golub (Frank's Mother), Constituent

B. Adoption of Agenda

D. Regula MOVED to adopt the revised agenda, which was SECONDED by B. Bryan

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

Voting Aye: Denise Freeland, Bill Bryan, Ralph Dublikar, Pat Quick, David Regula

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Frank Golub commented about a Stark Parks website error listing Derek Gordon as Deputy Director on the night of 3/9/22, calling it "grossly inappropriate." He listed his concerns regarding D. Gordon, including in both 2014 and 2015 when D. Gordon allegedly attempted to use City of Canton funds to build a park and/or trail for his church. F. Golub said the community voted against the park and/or trailhead, and construction did not occur.
- Ms. Golub stated that such a trail would have been in her backyard and "strangers could've been roaming around," had the park and/or trailhead been constructed.
- D. Regula congratulated Ms. Golub on her successful efforts.
- D. Freeland commented that this issue was discussed with D. Gordon in the interview process and it was determined that no wrongdoing occurred.

2. NEW BUSINESS: RESOLUTION: #22-03-034: Future Leadership Appointment

WHEREAS, Park Director, Robert A. Fonte formally submitted his retirement letter to the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners on November 3, 2021 effective May 2, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners approved with Resolution #21-11-074 contracted service for needs assessment, recruitment, evaluation, reference checking, negotiation and follow-up for the hiring of an Executive Director with the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA); and

WHEREAS, OPRA has completed the work prescribed in the contract for employment search services; and

WHEREAS, the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners desires to appoint Dan Moeglin the Executive Director for the Stark County Park District beginning on April 4, 2022, with employment terms as attached as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners desires to create the position of Deputy Director and to appoint Derek Gordon to the new position of Deputy Director for the Stark County Park District beginning on April 4, 2022, with employment terms as attached as Exhibit B.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to authorize the appointment of Dan Moeglin to the position of Executive Director for the Stark County Park District starting April 4, 2022 with employment terms as attached as Exhibit A; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to create the new position of Deputy Director and to appoint Derek Gordon to the new position of Deputy Director for the Stark County Park District starting April 4, 2022 with employment terms as attached as Exhibit B;

R. Dublikar MOVED to adopt this motion, which was SECONDED by P. Quick

DISCUSSION:

- B. Bryan spoke that this change in leadership is a significant event. He stated that Woody Woodward (Director, Ohio Parks & Recreation Association) was hired by Stark Parks to undertake the search for the best Director candidates. 20+ applications were received, studied in detail, and 5 finalists were chosen. These 5 finalists were interviewed extensively, with two vetted for the position of Director.
- R. Dublikar said the Board spent significant time with the candidates; 15 candidates were from out of state and/or some from out of Stark County. Though many candidates were qualified the Board preferred a candidate whom is familiar with and knowledgeable of Stark County. The Board spent an entire day with the final two candidates, Dan Moeglin and Derek Gordon, covering their professional backgrounds and any concerns, including the previously mentioned proposed park/trailhead at D. Gordon's church, determining that that was not a problem.
- R. Dublikar said the Board is extremely comfortable, did their due diligence, and pleased with their choices in leadership.
- D. Freeland mentioned that the staff is the greatest asset to Stark Parks.
- P. Quick mentioned her support for both candidates and said, while the Board did not set out to hire both candidates, this is the direction they have chosen as both D. Moeglin and D. Gordon collaborate well together and bring complementary skill sets to the job. She believes they will work together on common goals.
- D. Regula discussed the Director & Deputy Director having "big shoes to fill," and owing a great deal of thanks to B. Fonte and his dedication over the years. He said the public has relied on the parks heavily in the past two years, and the Board owes the public and voters "our best." He believes that he and the Board have made the right leadership decision moving forward, with great things to come ahead. He then welcomed both D. Moeglin & D. Gordon to Stark Parks.

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

Voting Aye: Denise Freeland, Bill Bryan, Ralph Dublikar, Pat Quick, David Regula

3. ADJOURNMENT

BE IT RESOLVED to adjourn at 11:21 am. Next scheduled meeting: April 5, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at the Exploration Gateway at Sippo Lake Park.

B. Bryan MOVED to adjourn the meeting, which was SECONDED by R. Dublikar

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

Voting Aye: Denise Freeland, Bill Bryan, Ralph Dublikar, Pat Quick, David Regula

APPROVAL DATE: April 5, 2022

ATTEST:

Denise Freeland, Chairperson
Stark County Park Commission

Robert A. Fonte, Director/Secretary to the Board
Stark County Park District

Victoria Nickl/Clerk to the Board
Stark County Park District