

# **REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS ANDERSON PARK DISTRICT**

**May 10, 2016**

Rob Herking, Vice President, called the regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Anderson Park District (“APD”) to order at 6:30 pm at Park District Headquarters, 8249 Clough Pike, Cincinnati, OH 45244. Present were Board Members: Angie Stocker, Dominic Wolfer, Tom Turchiano, and Colin Ramsey.

Also present were: Ken Kushner, Executive Director; Emily Armstrong, Board Clerk; Brian Jordan, Financial Officer; Jessica Fall, Recreation Manager; Mike Smith, Operations Manager; Sheila Fehn, Office Manager; and Lorin Smith, Recreation Supervisor.

**GUESTS:** Steve Withers.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**OATH OF OFFICE:** Rob Herking and Colin Ramsey read their Oaths of Office, as witnessed by Brian Jordan and notarized by Emily Armstrong. The three-year terms for Mr. Herking and Mr. Ramsey commence on the second Monday in May, succeeding their appointments, and expire in May of 2019.

**AGENDA APPROVAL:** Mrs. Stocker moved the Board approve the Agenda as presented. Mr. Wolfer seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Wolfer, Mr. Herking, Mr. Turchiano, and Mr. Ramsey. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Mr. Kushner presented for the Board’s consideration a proposed 2016-2017 Slate of Officers based on a rotation of the approved 2015-2016 Slate of Officers. He also presented an updated list of Commissioner Terms since operations began at the APD.

A brief discussion took place about the Board’s decision in 2015 to alter the order of the Slate of Officers, as a result of the Anderson Township Trustees’ inaction on the appointments of Commissioners Turchiano and Bartholomew. The Board approved the 2015-2016 President and Vice President positions to reflect Commissioners whose appointments were not in question. Accordingly, Mr. Herking was approved as Vice President, instead of Mr. Turchiano.

The Board reviewed the 2016-2017 Slate of Officers as presented by Mr. Kushner and discussed changing the order to reflect Mr. Turchiano as Vice President.

Mrs. Stocker moved the Board switch the order of the presented 2016-2017 Slate of Officers to reflect Mr. Turchiano as Vice President. Mr. Turchiano seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Wolfer, Mr. Herking, Mr. Turchiano, and Mr. Ramsey. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Turchiano moved the Board approve the proposed 2016-2017 Slate of Officers as follows:

President	Rob Herking
Vice-President	Tom Turchiano
	Angie Stocker
	Dominic Wolfer
	Colin Ramsey

Mrs. Stocker seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Wolfer, Mr. Herking, Mr. Turchiano, and Mr. Ramsey. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

**Chip Rosser Coaches Award Presentation:** Mrs. Fall introduced Steve Withers as the recipient of the 2015-2016 Chip Rosser Coaches Award. She stated the award was established in 2001, in honor of the late Chip (Alan) Rosser, who coached in the APD's leagues from 1993 to 1999. Coach Rosser's coaching style exemplified caring, passion, and knowledge of basketball. He saw the big picture regarding the life-lessons learned from sports. Like Coach Rosser, Coach Withers has a genuine passion for coaching youth sports and a desire for his players to be successful on and off the court. Also like Coach Rosser, Coach Withers coached teams on which his own children participated, as well as teams on which none of his own children participated. He dedicated his time and energy simply because a team of kids needed a coach.

Mrs. Fall said Coach Withers understands the difference between coaching recreational and competitive teams and demonstrated the appropriate coaching style when leading his teams. Following the season, the APD reached out to parents of the boys on the team with whom he had no personal connection. The APD staffs' thoughts were confirmed by the following parent who had twins on Coach Withers' team:

*"I was so appreciative of him stepping up like he did. He was a great coach. He held them to high standards and taught them skills along the way. He did not have to give even half of the time and effort that he gave, but he did. My boys loved going to practices, playing in the games and they came out still loving the sport...so YES...I think he made a very positive contribution to our boys, the league and the sport."*

Mrs. Fall presented Coach Withers with a certificate and thanked him for passing forward his passion and love of the sport to the kids he coached.

Mr. Withers thanked Mrs. Fall and the Board for the award. He appreciates the honor and said that it means a lot to him. He is involved with community youth sports in various ways and he loves being a part of it. He said he would like to someday be more involved in the Anderson Parks.

The staff and the Board congratulated Coach Withers, took photos, and encouraged continued future involvement with the APD.

Mr. Kushner noted that the players who played for Coach Rosser are now in their thirties, and may have kids of their own playing in the APD leagues today.

**Public to Address the Board:** There were no guests present.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Ohio Ethics Law: Mr. Kushner stated he recently provided the Board members with a copy of the current Ohio Ethics Law for their review. He said each Commissioner will be asked to periodically sign an acknowledgement that they have reviewed the law.

Mrs. Armstrong collected the signed acknowledgment forms from the members and stated that all Board members have a 2016 signed acknowledgement form on record.

Certificate of Estimated Property Tax Revenue: Mr. Kushner presented a *Certificate of Estimated Property Tax Revenue to be Produced from a Specific Amount of Millage*, generated by the Hamilton County Auditor, Dusty Rhodes, dated April 14, 2016.

Mr. Jordan explained the ten year, 1.9 mill operating levy the Board is considering presenting on the November 8, 2016 election ballot would generate an estimated annual revenue amount of \$2,298,855. The estimated annual cost to the homeowner of a \$100,000 market value home is \$66.50, based on residential property not receiving the non-business, owner occupied and current sales tax credits.

Mr. Kushner stated the APD would list the \$66.50 estimate as the annual cost to the resident taxpayer in the educational levy information. APD operating levies expire, unlike many other levies. Since 1992, the APD has presented 1.9 mill operating levies during presidential elections because voter turnout is typically at its greatest. Since the timing of the 2016 levy would be prior to the last official year of the levy, the ballot language must read that it is an additional levy. If the levy is approved, the APD would no longer collect taxes from the 2008 levy. The APD's levy history supports the Park Board's belief that presenting operating levies during presidential elections is the surest way to keep the park district in business. Additionally, this enables the APD to plan for the next ten years.

Mr. Wolfer asked how the estimates of the 2016 levy compare to the 2008 levy for the resident homeowner.

Mrs. Armstrong stated the APD's 2008 operating levy was estimated to cost the homeowner of a \$100,000 market value home \$56.19 per year. Based on the current valuations of the 2016 replacement levy, the cost to the resident homeowner would be an estimated additional \$10.31 per year. She further stated the new 2016 operating levy would replace the existing 2008 operating levy.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Calendar of Events: Mr. Kushner presented a calendar of upcoming activities for the Board's review. He highlighted the Heritage Day program at Johnson Hills Park on May 21<sup>st</sup>, featuring the Grassy Run Historical Arts Committee. The group will be camping out at the park in period appropriate tents. Local schools will be attending the event on the previous Friday.

**REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL:**

Staff Changes: Mrs. Armstrong stated it has been the long-standing practice of the APD to explain possible nepotism situations between current public officials and staff, and potential staff, for the Board's consideration regarding staff changes. Accordingly, the following situations apply to the recommended staff changes:

**Jacob Martin**, recommended for a Staff I position in the Recreation Department, is the son of Barry Martin, who has worked in the APD Operations Department as a part time employee since February of 2009.

**Andria Yuskewich**, recommended for a Staff I position in the Recreation Department, is the sister-in-law by marriage of Commissioner Turchiano, who lives in a separate residence.

Mrs. Stocker moved the Board approve staff's recommendation to:

**Accept the resignation** from **Lana Smith**, part time RecPlex Administrative Assistant, effective April 29, 2016

**Hire** the following people on their actual dates of hire as part time Recreation Staff I:  
**Alyssa Gibson, Jacob Martin, Kaitlyn Park, Lauren Stagnaro, and Andria Yuskewich.**

**Promote** the following employees on their actual dates of promotion:

**Katie Molloy** and **Abby von Wahlde**, from part time Recreation Staff I to Staff II.

**Monica Friedl** and **Holly Fritz**, from part time Recreation Staff III to full time Recreation Supervisor I.

**Lorin Smith**, from full time Recreation Supervisor I to Recreation Supervisor II.

Mr. Herking seconded the motion. Voting: Yes Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Wolfer, Mr. Herking, and Mr. Ramsey. (4); No: None; Abstain: Mr. Turchiano. (1). The motion carried.

Mrs. Armstrong presented a revised Organizational Chart reflecting the approved staff changes.

**Monthly Purchase Order Approval:**

Mr. Wolfer asked for clarification on the Purchase Order for the Law Enforcement Ford Explorer Interceptor.

Mr. Kushner stated the new law enforcement vehicle will be outfitted with the required police package. The new vehicle was purchased off the state bid. In addition to the time the APD Resource Deputy spends in the car, the weekend Special Duty Deputies use it on weekends. Law enforcement vehicles have low mileage and high idle time. The new vehicle will replace the existing law enforcement vehicle, which will be stripped of the law enforcement decaling and put in use as a much needed APD staff car.

Mrs. Stocker moved the Board approve the following between-meeting Purchase Orders, as presented by Mr. Jordan:

<i>Zebra Line Striping</i>	<i>Re-Stripe Parking Lots</i>	\$ 7,240.75
<i>Lebanon Ford</i>	<i>2016 Ford Interceptor AWD</i>	\$ 28,686.00
	<i>(Law Enforcement Ford Explorer)</i>	
<i>Wendling Printing Co.</i>	<i>Summer Park Guide</i>	\$ 5,975.00
<i>Kubota Tractor Corporation</i>	<i>Kubota Skid Steer</i>	\$ 40,150.00

Mr. Turchiano seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Wolfer, Mr. Herking, Mr. Turchiano, and Mr. Ramsey. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 2016-04 ~ Declaring it Necessary to Levy a Tax:**

Mr. Wolfer asked why the APD has decided not to ask the Anderson Township Trustees ("Trustees") to approve the APD's tax levy request. He said he thought the APD Board would want the Trustees' blessing to run a levy.

Mr. Kushner said in the past the APD was required to get the Trustees' approval to put a levy on the ballot. That changed in 2015 when the Trustees sought the Ohio Attorney General's ("OAG")

opinion on the matter. The OAG's opinion was that the Trustees are not required to approve APD levies and the Hamilton County Prosecutors Office agreed with the OAG's opinion.

Mr. Turchiano said he had a conversation with Trustee Gerth about the APD's upcoming operating levy. Mr. Gerth thinks the APD's operating levy will be a challenge because the Trustees intend to run a large Fire and Safety levy between 3.8-4.0 mills. Mr. Gerth said he has no problem with the park running its operating levy, but the Trustees are not comfortable voting on it. Mr. Turchiano further stated the same scenario existed in 2008 when both the APD's operating levy and a Fire and Safety levy were on the ballot and both passed.

Mr. Herking said it is in the best interest of the APD to take advantage of the large voter turn-out during the presidential election.

Mr. Kushner said the APD can provide the residents with educational information about the levy, including that the millage amount is the same as the previous three operating levies. He stated there are always issues to decide upon in a community of Anderson Township's caliber. Great Parks of Hamilton County may decide to run their operating levy in 2016 or 2017 and the Forest Hills School District may be running an operating levy in the next year or so. This community has proven at the ballot box that it cares about its parks. The APD has done a lot with each operating levy which generations of residents have come to love. When the last levy passed in 2008, the Beech Acres Park playground was not complete. The APD did everything and more than we said we would do over this last levy cycle.

Mrs. Stocker moved the Board adopt **Resolution 2016-04, declaring it necessary to levy a tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation**, at a rate not exceeding one and nine tenths (1.90) mills for each one dollar (\$1.00) of valuation, which amounts to nineteen cents (\$0.19) for each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of valuation, for a ten (10) year period of time. If this levy is approved the taxes from the 2008 levy will not be collected in 2017.

Mr. Ramsey seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Wolfer, Mr. Herking, Mr. Turchiano, and Mr. Ramsey. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORTS AND AUTHORIZATION OF EXPENDITURES:**

Mr. Jordan said the APD should have a draft of the recent audit by next week.

Mr. Turchiano moved the Board approve the **April, 2016 Financial Reports** and authorize the **Expenditures** as presented by Mr. Jordan.

Mr. Wolfer seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Wolfer, Mr. Herking, Mr. Turchiano, and Mr. Ramsey. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Wolfer moved the Board approve the minutes as written from the **April 12, 2016 Regular Meeting**. Mr. Turchiano seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Wolfer and Mr. Turchiano. (2); No: None. Abstain: Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Herking, and Mr. Ramsey. (3). The motion carried.

**Public to Address the Board:** There were no guests present.

Mr. Kushner stated there was nothing to discuss in Executive Session.

At 7:09 pm, there being no further business to be brought before this Board, Mr. Wolfer moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Turchiano seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mrs. Stocker, Mr. Wolfer, Mr. Herking, Mr. Turchiano, and Mr. Ramsey. (5); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

*I hereby certify that the foregoing are the minutes of the May 10, 2016 regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners, which minutes reflect the essence of the meeting and are not verbatim.*

*Emily Armstrong*  
*Board Clerk*

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Rob Herking

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Colin Ramsey

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Angie Stocker

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Tom Turchiano

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Dominic Wolfer