

REGULAR MEETING**August 20, 2026**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of Great Parks of Hamilton County was held on this day, 1:00 p.m., at 10245 Winton Road, Cincinnati, OH 45231.

Board President Scott Schuster opened the meeting and led the Board, staff, and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Present were Commissioners Schuster, Keating, Thompson, Wegman, Lavery
 Staff: Palmeter, Henninger, Collins, deJesus, Messerschmitt, Rahe, Snow, Doellman, Carleton, Murray, Bilyeu, Duris, Reno, Ridle, Nevius, Christophersen, Vocke, Flynn, Helmes, Volk, Coler, Boettcher, Anklan, Callahan, Herbert
 Guests: None

GENERAL

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS: No one requested to address the Board.

2. AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS:

Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter notified the Board of the following:

- Chief of Guest Experiences Rachel Messerschmitt introduced newly promoted employee Scott Nevius, Clubhouse Manager, Meadow Links & Golf Academy.
- Chief of Guest Experiences Rachel Messerschmitt introduced new employee Tom Duris, Clubhouse Manager, Little Miami Golf Center.
- Chief of Conservation & Parks Jason Rahe introduced newly promoted employee Luke Vocke, Site Construction Supervisor.
- Chief Operating Officer Bret Henninger introduced newly promoted employee Kait Reno, Administrative Specialist.
- Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter introduced newly promoted employee Suzie Bilyeu, Executive Assistant.
- Great Parks received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 2026 budget. This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. This is the fourth consecutive year Great Parks has submitted a budget book and received this award.
- Director of Finance Kathy Volk and Chief Financial Officer Andrew Collins received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Recognition for Budget Preparation. This Certification of Recognition is presented to the individuals who have been instrumental in the governmental unit achieving a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

- Synoptek earned two Silver Awards at the 2026 US Customer Experience (CX) Awards for their digital experience platform project with Great Parks of Hamilton County in the categories of Best Business Change & Transformation and Best Digital CX. Project results – faster search and navigation, fewer siloed systems, and a shift from a static informational site to a flexible platform built to scale alongside golf, camping, ticketing, and education programs.
- Cincinnati Regional Chamber Leadership Program participants recently selected and previously completed:
 - Leadership Cincinnati
 - Rachel Doellman selected 2026–2027
 - Todd Palmeter completed 2020
 - WE Lead
 - Ali Bird selected 2026–2027
 - Amanda Schilling completed 2026
 - LeAnne Anklan completed 2025
 - Jessica Spencer completed 2024
 - Kris Roselle completed 2023
 - Cincy Next
 - Suzi Poat completes 2026
 - Ellise Moeller completed 2024
 - C-Change
 - Helene Herbert completes 2026
 - Mike Brech completed 2025
 - Ben Helmes completed 2024
 - Cincy Lead
 - Janet Murray completed 2023
 - Jeremy Barkley completed 2022

Mr. Thompson appreciated the staff participation in the Cincinnati Regional Chamber Leadership Center. Ms. Wegman noted kudos to the staff who worked on the Great American Picnic as it was a fun event. Mr. Schuster complimented the staff's work during the recent severe weather, noting the parks look phenomenal despite storm damage. Ms. Wegman shared about going to Burgers and Brews with Ms. Keating and added the event was terrific. Ms. Keating said it was very community oriented.

3. NEXT BOARD MEETING DATES:

Thursday	September 17, 2026	1:00 p.m.	Winton Center
Thursday	October 15, 2026	3:00 p.m.	Winton Center

*Board tour will precede the October 15 Regular Board meeting, tentatively scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

ACTION

4. RESOLUTION #3887 – BILLS & PAYROLL RESOLUTION: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter presented the Bills & Payroll Resolution to the Board. Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter reported that a series of checks were voided due to an error in the check run. Ms. Lavery asked about check amounts in comparison to the capital project tracking sheet. Upon motion duly made by Lavery, seconded by Wegman, the Board approved the Bills & Payroll Resolution. The Roll Call vote was as follows: Ms. Keating – Aye, Ms. Lavery – Aye, Mr. Schuster – Aye, Mr. Thompson – Aye, Ms. Wegman – Aye.
5. RESOLUTION #3888 – CLEAN OHIO GREEN SPACE CONSERVATION PROGRAM – AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR FUNDS IN ROUND 21: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter presented the resolution to the Board. Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter noted the funds would support restoration work at Mitchell Memorial Forest and Miami Whitewater Forest and reminded the Board he serves on the Natural Resources Assistance Council for District 2. Mr. Thompson asked how many rounds of funding occur every year. Upon motion duly made by Thompson, seconded by Wegman, the Board approved Resolution #3888 authorizing the Chief Executive Officer and his designees to apply and execute an application for restoration funds through Round 21 of the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program. The Roll Call vote was as follows: Ms. Lavery – Aye, Mr. Schuster – Aye, Mr. Thompson – Aye, Ms. Wegman – Aye, Ms. Keating – Aye.
6. RESOLUTION #3889 – RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION – SHAWNESSEE FERENCE: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter presented the Resolution of Appreciation for Shawnessee FERENCE to the Board. Upon motion duly made by Keating, seconded by Lavery, the Board approved the Resolution of Appreciation for Shawnessee FERENCE, Executive Assistant, who will be retiring in September with 22 years of service. The Roll Call vote was as follows: Mr. Schuster – Aye, Mr. Thompson – Aye, Ms. Wegman – Aye, Ms. Keating – Aye, Ms. Lavery – Aye.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Upon motion duly made by Wegman, seconded by Keating, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Final Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of July 16, 2026.
8. BID TAB – WINTON WOODS FARM & EQUESTRIAN CENTER ARENA REFOOTING: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter presented the bid tab to the Board. Upon motion duly made by Keating, seconded by Lavery, and unanimously carried, the Board awarded a contract in the amount of \$224,062 to Reveal 4-N-1 LLC for the Winton Woods Farm & Equestrian Center Arena Refooting project.

GENERAL REPORTS

9. PARK VISITATION & TRAIL USAGE REPORT: Chief Executive Officer Todd Palmeter and Chief of Guest Experiences Rachel Messerschmitt presented the report to the Board. Ms. Wegman asked if the new trail counters had been added to this dataset. Ms. Keating noted how she appreciates the website sharing event cancellations and using social media to embrace the bad weather. Mr. Thompson asked about trail signage at Bass Island. After a thorough discussion, the Board determined the report to be reasonable and acceptable. The Board then ordered the report filed for the record.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Wegman and seconded by Keating to go into Executive Session to consider the sale or other disposition of property at 1:45 p.m. The Roll Call vote was as follows: Mr. Thompson – Aye, Ms. Wegman – Aye, Ms. Keating – Aye, Ms. Lavery – Aye, Mr. Schuster – Aye.

Following the Executive Session, a motion was made by Thompson and seconded by Wegman to reconvene the Regular Meeting at 2:20 p.m. The Roll Call vote was as follows: Ms. Wegman – Aye, Ms. Keating – Aye, Ms. Lavery – Aye, Mr. Schuster – Aye, Mr. Thompson – Aye.

10. LAND ITEM: Upon motion duly made by Wegman, seconded by Keating, and unanimously carried, the Board authorized the Chief Executive Officer and his designees to negotiate a land acquisition proposal and execute the necessary documents for a 12.39 acre parcel in the west region of Hamilton County.

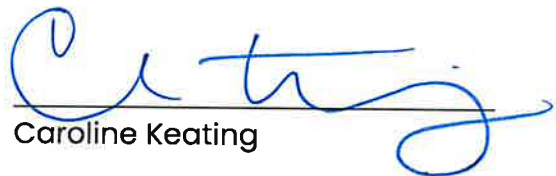
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further matters to come before the Board, a motion was made by Keating, seconded by Lavery, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

Board of Park Commissioners
Great Parks of Hamilton County



Scott Schuster, President



Caroline Keating



Caren Lavery



Marcus Thompson



Melissa Wegman

ATTEST:



Todd Palmetier, Chief Executive Officer