

**Minutes of  
Trumbull County MetroParks Board  
Thursday, August 26, 2021**

A meeting of the Trumbull County MetroParks was called to order by the Chair, Nicolette Darkangelo, on Thursday, August 26, 2021, at 4:15 p.m. via Zoom. Those in attendance included the following:

Nicholette Darkangelo, Chair  
John Brown, Jr.  
Kathy DiCristofaro  
Steve Maas  
Kurt Sauer  
Zachary Svette, Operations Director  
Mitzi Sabella, Secretary

Also in attendance: Commissioner Frank S. Fuda  
Julie Green, Director, TC Planning Commission  
Bob Coupland, Tribune Chronicle

**Public Comments**

Mr. Fuda was in attendance to speak to the board and get some updates from the board on the bike trail. He stated that he felt a lack of communication lately, and Ms. Darkangelo stated that the board will try to elevate that by making sure the Commissioners start getting the MetroParks Meeting Minutes from now on. He stated that he tries to attend all MetroParks events. Ms. Darkangelo stated that budget requests need to be fulfilled. Mr. Brown stated that we are lucky to have Zack Svette as the Director, and that he is overworked and underpaid. Julie Green, who was in attendance at this meeting, stated that she wants to convey the magnitude of the acreage that Mr. Svette is in charge of, and she said that the Trumbull County Planning Commission has supported and assisted with the bike trail from the beginning. She gave a brief history of the bike trail from the beginning and discussed the phases. She stated that the bike trail brings economic dollars to the county. She reminded the board and Mr. Fuda that the Commissioners are responsible for the maintenance of the bike trail long term since they were the grantees of the project. The board suggested inviting each Commissioner to attend a MetroParks meeting with Commissioner Cantalamessa to be invited next.

**I. Approval of Board Minutes of May 27, 2021**

Mr. Sauer made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 27, 2021, regular meeting; seconded by Mr. Maas. The motion was carried.

**II. Financial Report**

The list of the bills paid were reviewed by the board. Mr. Sauer made a motion to approve the financial report; seconded by Ms. DiCristofaro. The motion was carried.

**II. Financial Report, Continued**

Mr. Brown, Jr. made a motion to accept a donation of \$100 from Jessica Kralik for a Songbird Box Memorial in memory of Maureen G. Stuczunski; Mr. Sauer seconded the motion, and it was carried.

Mr. Maas made a motion to accept a donation for \$50 from Paul and Michele Bar for Bike Path Bridge Repairs; seconded by Mr. Brown, Jr. The motion was carried.

Mr. Sauer made a motion to accept up to \$25,000 from the Trumbull County Commissioners for the Baughman Bridge study (The Commissioners approved it on August 11, 2021); seconded by Mr. Maas. The motion was carried.

Mr. Sauer made a motion and seconded by Mr. Brown, Jr. to approve the following transfers:

981-060-5600-5600-3-505506 to	981-060-5600-5600-3-505409	\$500.00
Building Repairs	Furniture and Fixtures (Table/Chairs)	
981-060-5600-5600-3-505214 to	981-060-5600-5600-3-505418	\$ 18.30
Operation Supplies	Computer Equipment	
981-060-5600-5600-3-505524 to	981-060-5600-5600-3-505509	\$500.00
Temp Services	Refreshments	
981-060-5600-5600-3-505524 to	981-060-5600-5600-3-505532	\$200.00
Temp Services	Pest Control	
981-060-5600-5600-3-505524 to	981-060-5600-5600-3-505522	\$102.12
Temp Services	Utilities	

The motion carried.

**III. General Business**

Mr. Sauer made a motion to approve the Executive Director to coordinate the creation of a foundation through the Community Foundation; seconded by Mr. Brown. The motion was carried. Note: Ms. Sabella stated that she thought that the Probate Court had created a foundation in the 1990's. The board instructed in Mr. Svette to investigate this.

Ms. DiCristofaro made a motion to approve the Executive Director to solicit, score and recommend an engineering firm for the Baughman Creek Bridge Project using the prequalified list of engineering firms approved by the Trumbull County Commissioners; seconded by Mr. Maas. The motion was carried.

**IV. Communications**

The board members tabled discussion of a letter to the Trumbull County Commissioners included in their packets.

**V. Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Svette reviewed his report with the board.

**VI. Executive Session**

At 5:10 P.M., Mr. Brown, Jr. made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss purchase of property; seconded by Mr. Maas. The motion was carried. Mitzi Sabella was invited to stay.

At 5:15 p.m., Mr. Brown, Jr. made a motion to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular order of business; seconded by Ms. DiCristofaro. The motion was carried.

Ms. Darkangelo left the meeting at 5:15 p.m. The meeting returned to the regular order of business.

**VII. Reports on Current MetroParks – No further reports.**

**VIII. Other Parks, Preserve and Lands – No report.**

**IX. Future Planning**

Mr. Brown, Jr. was asked if he wanted to be reappointed at the end of the year, he said that he would unless a younger person is interest in the position. He stated that he would like to see younger people getting involved with the MetroPark Board.

The next scheduled regular meeting of MetroParks will be held on **Thursday, September 23, 2021**, at 4:15 p.m. at the Park Office on North River Road.

**X. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Ms. DiCristofaro made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Brown, Jr. The motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mitzi Sabella, Secretary