

# Documenters

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## Board of Park Commissioners

Documenter name: Lori Ingram

Agency: [Cleveland Metroparks](#)

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## Summary

- There have been many updates to Metroparks properties in the last six months, including at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. More is to come through the rest of the year and into 2025.
- There have been some concerns about this expansion, as some people have lost their homes or a tranquil, low-profile place to just enjoy nature organically.

## Follow-Up Questions

- Will the Metroparks build a marker acknowledging those who had a community at Euclid Beach?
- Why do they employ international students at the golf courses instead of inclusivity-led hiring?
- Can they make some of the parks a more zen experience for those who want a quieter, more peaceful place to relax?

## Notes

### Financial review of the first five months of the year by Cleveland Metroparks Chief

#### Financial Officer Wade Steen:

- Property taxes are 1.06% over last year. That's below the 10-year property tax projections of 1.5% growth.
- [Cleveland Metroparks](#) Zoo revenue is up 12.9%. The zoo is where they want it to be, revenue-wise.
- Cleveland Metroparks [Golf](#) revenue is up 13.4%; golf is doing extremely well.
- [Ironwood Golf Course](#) has contributed to the bottom line.
- [The East 55th Marina](#) is doing very well, Steen said.
- Merwin's Wharf revenue is down.
- Nature Shops are doing well; revenue is around \$38,000 ahead of this point last

year.

- Steen presented a monthly budget adjustment of \$165,846 for the board's approval (2024 Budget Adjustment No. 6; find more details about the adjustment details in [the meeting agenda and packet](#) on pages 51 and pages 77-80).
  - The budget adjustment was seconded and approved.
- Steen presented an authorization request to submit a grant application for the [Ohio Department of Natural Resources](#) "H2Ohio" Program- for green infrastructure improvements in the parking area of the Metroparks' Acacia Reservation (details on page 53 of [the agenda](#)).
  - The board seconded and approved the authorization.
- Steen presented an authorization for a grant request of \$15 million to the U.S. Department [of Transportation's](#) Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP). The funding is for the design of the Slavic Village Downtown Connector and Morgana Run-Booth Avenue Extension trails and for preliminary work on the Iron Court/Opportunity Corridor Connector and Euclid Creek Greenway Phase 2 North trails. Steen called the project "a true partnership with the City of Cleveland." (Details on pages 54-55 of [the agenda](#).)
  - The board approved the grant request.
- Steen presented a request to authorize the Metroparks to contract with [DS Architecture](#) for "professional design services" for the renovation of Barge 225 in the Euclid Creek Reservation, Wildwood Marina. Steen said DS Architecture was the "highest and best" of the firms who submitted proposals for Metroparks Request for Qualifications #6836 (More details on page 55-57 of [the agenda](#).)
  - The board approved the request.
- The board also approved a request to contract with [Fusion Golf Ltd.](#) for work on rerouting the final nine holes at [Seneca Golf Course](#).. The work will be done next spring.

### Public comments

- **Anthony Beard of United Residents of Euclid Beach:** Beard thanked the Metroparks for acquiring the Euclid Beach Mobile Park land. However, Beard said many residents had occupied that land for 50 years after Euclid Beach amusement park closed. He told the stories of a few of the mobile park residents, including one who passed away during the displacement process. Beard asked that the Metroparks erect a memorial to the mobile park residents on the site.

### Capital projects mid-year construction update from Sean McDermott, Cleveland Metroparks Chief Planning and Design Officer:

- A year ago, the Metroparks acquired land next to [Rivergate Park](#). The Metroparks

is returning that land to its natural state.

- Construction on the [Hinckley Dam restoration](#) project is going well. Hoping to re-open the lake and swim area by 2026.
- McDermott said that in late July they hope to break ground on the [Lakefront Bikeway](#) from E. 9th Street to E. 55th Street. He said the bikeway should be stable by the end of 2025.
- New concession and restroom buildings at [Wallace Lake](#) were redone by an in-house team. A picnic garden will be built next.
- McDermott also gave an update on the Garfield Boulevard Connection Trail that will connect the Erie Canal Towpath Trail to Garfield Park.
  - At Garfield Park, the stream has been reforested and the pond filled in.
  - “Trails, trails, trails”: Jim Rodstrom, Cleveland Metroparks Director of construction gave an update on the network of trails being built out at the park.
  - The bridge that was taken out by a storm and flood has been rebuilt with a higher elevation. Two fishing platforms were added.
- The trails and cart paths at Shawnee Hills and Seneca Golf Courses have been paved to allow golf carts to roll more easily: 8 miles of trails.
- Manakiki Golf Course irrigation project. Installed about 12,000 feet of main line and 28,000 feet of irrigation line with 473 irrigation heads. Not one leak. All of the work was done by in-house staff.
- The Euclid Beach parking lot project is finished. Built green infrastructure and stormwater control improvements. The asphalt was redone as well.
- Upgrades to the Little Met Golf Course concession. It reopened for business last week.
- Devices the Metroparks call “Magic bubblers” have been installed in the tanks under six park bathrooms. Their purpose is to take the smell away and create clean water out of the sewage. This should make park bathrooms more pleasant.
- [Squires Castle](#) restoration: The castle has a new, more historically accurate cedar shake roof and dormers.
  - The in-house team used 19th century photos to replicate the castle.

**Capital projects Zoo construction mid-year update from Christopher Kuhar, executive director of the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo:**

- Replaced glass for Rhino Barn and Flamingo areas for indoor viewing.
- Aquatic Exhibit–Reinforced mesh for monkeys to keep them in the space.
- Replaced roof and skylights at the primate, cat and aquatics areas.
- The Gray Kangaroo Barn: Originally built in 1980. The zoo will be building a new barn to match the Victorian style of the nearby train station. The work will be done

in-house. It will break ground in October and finish in late May 2025.

- The Budgie Aviary: Putting concrete bottom on the floor so it can be sterilized to keep birds healthier and to allow strollers and wheelchairs to move more easily.

The commissioners then went into executive session to discuss the purchase or acquisition of real property. After the executive session, the meeting was adjourned.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Thursday, July 18, at 8 a.m.

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