

MINUTES OF THE LAKE METROPARKS REGULAR MEETING
(The following is a summary of Board Meeting Minutes. Transcripts available upon request.)

PLACE: CONCORD WOODS

DATE: May 20, 2026

I. Roll Call and Pledge

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. with Board members John C. Redmond President, Gretchen Skok DiSanto and Frank Polivka, Vice Presidents. Staff included: Paul Palagyi, Executive Director; Vince Urbanski, Deputy Director; Matt Zicarelli, Legal Counsel; Tom Adair; Chris Brassell; Tom Koritansky; Seth Begeman; Lee Homyock; Karen Reis; Jim Sivak; Jen Irwin; Nick Gustin; Sharon Metzung; George Plaatje; Liz Mather; Steve Ohmes; and Tammy Chiappone.

Mr. Redmond led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Mrs. Skok DiSanto to approve the Board Meeting Agenda. Seconded by Mr. Polivka. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Minutes

A. Regular Meeting April 22, 2026

Motion by Mr. Polivka to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, April 22, 2026. Seconded by Mrs. Skok DiSanto. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Meeting Open to the Public
Bryson Durst, The News Herald
Kathleen Homyock
Tom and Maryann Droughton

V. Old Business

VI. Finance Report

A. April 2026

Mr. Brassell read the Finance Report for April 2026.

Motion by Mrs. Skok DiSanto to approve the Finance Report for April 2026. Seconded by Mr. Polivka. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. New Business

A. Other

1. Resolution 2026-012, Lee Homyock Retirement Recognition

Mr. Palagyi read Resolution 2026-011, Lee Homyock Retirement Recognition. Mr. Palagyi said that Lee has spent 11 years with Lake Metroparks and more than 40 years in public service.

Mr. Homyock thanked his wife Kathleen and the staff at Lake Metroparks.

Motion by Mr. Polivka to approve Resolution 2026-011, Lee Homyock Retirement Recognition. Seconded by Mrs. Skok DiSanto. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Resolution 2026-013, Rules and Regulations Amendment

Mr. Palagyi explained Resolution 2026-013, Rules and Regulations Amendment. Mr. Palagyi said there are a few substantive changes:

- Explicit prohibition of drones in the parks. We had been relying on some general language regarding “remote controlled” machines to prohibit drones in the parks but feel that an explicit prohibition was in order.
- New prohibition against “rappelling” in the parks. We have had a few cases where people have tried to rappel and climb steep cliffs in the parks and we do not currently have an explicit prohibition on this activity.
- A change to the Ohio Revised Code now allows people to carry switchblades, hunting knives and daggers.
- The revision authorizes the Executive Director to limit a broader range of animals than just dogs and cats. We are seeing other animals showing up in parks across the state and felt it best to provide a wider authority.
- Clarification regarding ebikes. Similar to the drones, this new language does not change our current policy but it more specifically addresses the types of ebikes we encounter. Class 1 and 2 ebikes will still be allowed in the parks. Class 3 and minibikes will still be prohibited.
- Clarification prohibiting golf carts in the parks.

Motion by Mrs. Skok DiSanto to approve Resolution 2026-013, Rules and Regulations Amendment. Seconded by Mr. Polivka. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Resolution 2026-014, Establishing the 2027 Tax Budget

Mr. Brassell explained Resolution 2026-014, Establishing the 2027 Tax Budget. Mr. Palagyi said that we base the numbers in this budget on last year’s data and then the Auditor will update the numbers at a meeting in August.

Motion by Mr. Polivka to approve Resolution 2026-014, Establishing the 2027 Tax Budget. Seconded by Mrs. Skok DiSanto. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Resolution 2026-015, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant

Mr. Palagyi explained Resolution 2026-015, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant. He said we have identified a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation that might help us create a trail down a very steep slope at Hemlock Ridge Park. Mr. Palagyi said we are in the early stages of applying for this grant but our bylaws require Board approval before we submit grant applications.

Motion by Mrs. Skok DiSanto to approve Resolution 2026-015, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant. Seconded by Mr. Polivka. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Resolution 2026-016, Mary L. Novak Trust

Mr. Palagyi explained Resolution 2026-016, Mary L. Novak Trust. Mr. Palagyi said we have been contacted by Key Bank regarding distributing the assets of the estate of Ms. Mary Novak in the amount of approximately \$80,000. Mr. Palagyi said that Key Bank requires a resolution specifically naming the Executive

Director as the lead contact for the donation. Mr. Palagyi said we intend to use the funds to provide habitat restoration on the Old Diamond Shamrock property that would benefit birds, consistent with Ms. Novak's wishes. Mr. Palagyi said that Ms. Novak had donated almost a million dollars to Lake Metroparks in 2006-2008, which was used to acquire Lake Erie Bluffs.

Motion by Mr. Polivka to approve Resolution 2026-016, Mary L. Novak Trust. Seconded by Mrs. Skok DiSanto. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Concord Woods Roof Replacement

Mr. Palagyi explained Concord Woods Roof Replacement. He said that a large portion of the current flat roof at Concord Woods is approximately 29 years old and in need of replacement and that consistent with the approved 2026 budget, we plan to replace these sections. Mr. Palagyi said the project was bid out and total cost including contingency is \$551,708.55 with Garland/DBS.

Motion by Mrs. Skok DiSanto to approve Concord Woods Roof Replacement in the amount of \$551,708.55 to Garland/DBS. Seconded by Mr. Polivka. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Palagyi said that Phase II of the Hemlock Ridge Park trail construction includes a one-mile loop and should be completed by July.

Mr. Palagyi said that Fairport Harbor Lakefront Park beach will open for summer operations.

Mr. Palagyi said that the Spring Showdown is this weekend at Lake Metroparks Farmpark.

Mr. Palagyi said that summer camps start June 2 and will serve more than 1,000 kids.

IX. Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Polivka adjourn to Executive Session at 5:15 pm for the purpose of land discussion and pending lawsuit update. Seconded by Mrs. Skok DiSanto. Motion passed unanimously.

X. Adjournment

Motion by Mrs. Skok DiSanto to adjourn the regular meeting at 5:25 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Polivka. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,


Paul Palagyi
Executive Director


~~John C. Redmond~~
President Gretchen
Skok DiSanto