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Board of Park Commissioners

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Agency: [Cleveland Metroparks](#)

Date: June 19, 2025

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Summary

- I didn't realize what all the Metroparks were responsible for.
- The Metroparks obtain their funding from other sources than the City of Cleveland, primarily [Cuyahoga County and Hinckley Township real estate and property taxes](#).

Follow-Up Questions

- Why isn't the Board of Park Commissioners more diverse?
- Are the board members appointed, or is there an actual hiring process? *[Editor's note: The presiding judge of the Probate Court of Cuyahoga County appoints members.]*
- Can Metroparks police also work for the city?

Notes

I have to say that I enjoy my notetaking experiences, being able to connect the dots between the City of Cleveland and the entities that touch it, and seeing the way the agendas or visions seem to align with a common goal. I must continue research, and honestly, the assignments are influencing my curiosity. That being said, go to the following website to review the [meeting agenda](#).

I attended the Board of Park Commissioners meeting today. I learned through pre-research and attendance that the Metroparks board members are appointed by a sitting county probate judge, in this case Judge Anthony J. Russo. The board of three: President Yvette Ittu, Vice President Bruce Rinker, and Vice President Dan Moore. Metroparks also has a chief of legal and ethics, chief executive officer, chief financial officer, a media team and more.

I arrived at the meeting at 8 a.m. The meeting was already in session with a promotion awards ceremony for two Metroparks police officers, Duane Smith and Cory Reis.

The room was full of Metroparks police officers and family members. Metroparks officers are not city police officers. I found the ceremony touching. When the ceremony was over the room cleared out, leaving maybe 20 people who weren't officials.

The [agenda](#) was a bit difficult to understand and keep up with as the May 14 meeting information is included in the agenda for this meeting.

[RFP#6943- Horse Stable Operations- Rocky River Stables](#) was approved. This is a three-year agreement with Valley Riding, Inc.

[Authorization to Submit Grant Applications and commit funds - NatureWorks Grant Program - Brookside, Hinkley and North Chagrin](#) - was approved. These applications go to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Metroparks seeks funding of \$100,000, \$50,000, and \$33,000 for improvement at those sites, respectively.

[RFQu#6938 - Euclid Creek Greenway extension Phases 3&4](#) - was awarded.

This project was of interest to me because I used to work on East 185th Street and remember when the construction started. To see the progress and to find out that it was a part of the Metroparks vision to connect the Collinwood/Cleveland community to Wildwood Park along the lake was interesting.

Later, during public comment, Norm Plonski, owner of Major Hoopples Bar close to Merwin's Wharf, raised concerns with trail connector projects on the West Side, stating that the Irishtown Bend Park Project is reducing parking spaces for customers. He also stated that due to the reduction of parking spaces, most Clevelanders are not going to pay to park farther away to enjoy the park. Only the residents who live nearby will benefit from this initiative, Plonski said.

[Contract Amendment No. 11/Guaranteed maximum price # 10 - Contract 1543 - ConstructionManager at Risk, RFP#6484-b, Gorilla Primate Rain forest addition, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo](#). Approved by the board.

[Editor's note: [Find the agenda, presentations, and audio on the Metroparks website to follow the rest of the meeting.](#)]

If you believe anything in these notes is inaccurate, please email us at cleDOCUMENTERS@gmail.com with "Correction Request" in the subject line.