



City of Hudson, Ohio

Meeting Minutes - Final City Council Workshop

David A. Basil, Mayor

Hamilton DeSaussure, Jr., President of Council (At-Large)

Dennis N. Hanink, Council Member (Ward 1)

Alex D. Kelemen, Council Member (Ward 3)

Keith W. Smith, Council Member (Ward 4)

Casey M. Weinstein, Council Member (Ward 2)

J. Daniel Williams, Council Member (At-Large)

William D. Wooldredge, Council Member (At-Large)

Jane Howington, City Manager

R. Todd Hunt, City Solicitor

Elizabeth A. Slagle, Clerk of Council

Monday, March 21, 2016

7:00 PM

Town Hall

Special Joint Workshop with City Council and Park Board

1. Call to Order

President of Council DeSaussure called to order the special joint workshop meeting of Hudson City Council and the Park Board at 7:03 p.m., in accordance with the Sunshine Laws of the State of Ohio, O.R.C. Section 121.22.

Present 6 - Mr. DeSaussure, Mr. Hanink, Mr. Kelemen, Mr. Smith, Mr. Weinstein and Dr. Williams

Absent 1 - Mr. Wooldredge

Mr. Kelemen entered the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Others in Attendance:

Mayor Basil

Park Board Members:

Present 5 - Ms. Kadish, Mr. Antes, Mr. Fitch, Mr. Kuhn, and Mr. Swedenborg.

Absent 2 - Mr. Ackerman and Mr. King.

Staff: Ms. Howington, City Manager; Mr. Comeriato, Assistant City Manager for Operations; Mr. Wash, Assistant Public Works Director; and Mr. Spivak, Assistant Public Works Superintendent.

2. Joint Council / Park Board Discussion Items

Mr. DeSaussure explained that this special workshop was scheduled in an effort for members of City Council and the Park Board to discuss and work together on current issues concerning the parks.

A. [16-0031](#) Connectivity

Attachments: [2016 Parks Five Year Plan](#)

[2016 Parks Budget](#)

Mr. DeSaussure reviewed efforts to provide connectivity throughout the City, referring to the work of the Ad Hoc Connectivity Committee and the Connectivity Plan adopted by City Council. Discussion followed regarding funding of connectivity projects; use of debt financing over the long-term for construction of high-priority trails, which would provide flexibility for use of the Parks Fund carryover balance for other project needs; right-of-way acquisition; related efforts by Friends of Hudson Parks; Summit Metro Parks priorities; and grant funding for Veterans Trail Project.

In addition, there was general discussion of other Parks priorities including: additional basketball courts, lighting of skate park, mountain bike trail, the Pedal Hudson initiative, improved High Point parking area, Friends of Hudson Parks programming efforts and activities, partnership with Hudson Community Education and Recreation, update of the Parks Master Plan, and a parks community survey.

This matter was discussed.

B. [16-0032](#) Parks and Golf

Mr. DeSaussure said that recent City staffing changes in the Public Works Department have streamlined work and created operational efficiencies; and in addition, Council has considered making the golf course a component of the parks system. He suggested inclusion of the Golf Advisory Board's (GAB) role under the Park Board's purview. Ms. Kadish agreed that combining parks and golf operations has worked well, and she was not opposed to combining the GAB with the Park Board, so long as members could remain open-minded to support the same quality services for both parks and golf. Discussion followed, and there was consensus among City Council and Park Board members regarding consolidation of the GAB under the Park Board, as a subcommittee or through a gradual process of Park Board membership change by attrition. Mr. DeSaussure stated that the Charter provides for between five and seven members on the Park Board, and any changes to this number would require a Charter change. He asked staff to draft legislation to blend the GAB into the Park Board.

Discussion followed regarding the continued separation of Golf and Park Funds, consolidated staffing and other efficiencies, opportunities for increased revenues and decreased costs, the golf course purchase as part of property acquired for park purposes approved by voters in 1997, use of Issue 3 funding approved by voters in 2004, the golf course as an asset to parks, golf course profitability, storm water management, and common goals for all Hudson recreational use properties.

This matter was discussed.

C. [16-0033](#) Parks Mission Statement

Attachments: [Proposed Parks Mission - discussed at 2-9-2016 Council Workshop](#)
[Proposed Parks Mission - discussed at 2-17-2016 Park Board Meeting](#)

Council and Park Board members considered the draft mission statement discussed at the Park Board meeting of February 17, 2016. Mr. Kelemen suggested that verbiage be added for the protection of the environment, and Ms. Howington asked that current Charter language concerning Park Board recommendations to Council be included. Discussion followed. A revised draft will be further reviewed by the Park Board.

This matter was discussed and forwarded to the Park Board's meeting of April 18, 2016, for further consideration and formal recommendation to City Council.

3. Adjournment

Mr. DeSaussure asked for other comments or questions. Mr. Antes said the workshop was very helpful, and he was in favor of similar future workshops with Council. Mr. Kelemen raised questions concerning funding for maintenance of trails that are not on park property, and Ms. Howington explained that Public Works crews will maintain all trails.

There being no further discussion, Mr. DeSaussure adjourned the Council workshop meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Hamilton DeSaussure, Jr., President of Council

Jane Howington, City Manager, Clerk of Council Pro Tempore

Workshop Minutes prepared by Elizabeth Slagle, Clerk of Council.

Upon approval by City Council, this official written summary of the meeting minutes shall become a permanent record, and the official minutes shall also consist of a permanent audio and video recording in accordance with Codified Ordinances, Section 220.031 (a), Rules for Workshop Meetings.