

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

April 17, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners was held on this day at 950 Eden Park Drive. Commissioners present: President Molly North, Vice President Kick Lee, Commissioner Susan Castellini, and Commissioner John Neyer. Commissioner Phyllis McCallum was not present. President North called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

Acknowledgement of Public Comments

President North acknowledged two in-person public comments regarding the Burnet Woods Dog Park and the Doris Day Dog Park at Mt. Airy Forest. President North also acknowledged public comments received via email regarding the Burnet Woods dog park, staffing for trail maintenance, and the Cincinnati Parks Foundation.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

Approval of the March 20 Meeting Minutes

Vice President Lee motioned to approve the March 20, 2025, meeting minutes. Commissioner Neyer seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Election of Officers

Commissioner Neyer motioned to nominate President North to continue in her role as President of the Board of Park Commissioners. Commissioner Castellini seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. President North nominated Vice President Lee to continue in his role as Vice President. Commissioner Castellini seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. President North nominated Vice President Lee to continue in his role as the Park Board representative on the CRC Board. Commissioner Neyer seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. President North nominated Commissioner Neyer to continue in his role as the Park Board representative on the Investment Committee. Commissioner Castellini seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

ACTION ITEMS

Everybody's Treehouse – Repairs and Stabilization

Division Manager Joel Gross updated the Commissioners on progress to repair and stabilize Everybody's Treehouse at Mt. Airy Forest. Staff recommended assigning the work to Megan Construction in the amount of \$291,489, with an additional \$25,000 in owner-controlled contingencies, as well as a \$10,000 provision for special inspections, for a total of \$326,489. The Commissioners and Staff discussed the funding source and timelines. Commissioner Castellini motioned to assign the work to Megan as described. Vice President Lee seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. President North clarified that the approval is contingent upon confirmation that the capital dollars are available and encumbered.

Sawyer Point & Yeatman's Cove - Geologic Timeline Repairs

Division Manager Gross updated the Board on quotes received for repair of approximately 70 tiles on the Geologic Timeline walking path at Sawyer Point & Yeatman's Cove. Staff

recommended award of the work to Adleta Construction in the amount of \$55,418, including a \$5,000 contingency, using funding from the Board of Visitors. Commissioner Neyer motioned to award the work to Adleta as described. Commissioner Castellini seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

INFORMATION/ UPDATES

Planning & Design Update

Division Manager Joel Gross briefed the Board on a request from Duke Energy for an easement to install and maintain underground electric utilities within several City-owned parcels along Columbia Parkway. Final easements and plans will be brought to the Board for consideration when received.

Finance / IT Division Highlights

Herta Fairbanks, CFO, presented an overview of recent significant accomplishments, improvements to processes, and general activities of Parks' Finance and IT Division as of the close of Q3 FY25, including new hires and the submission of the 2026-2027 Biennial Operating and Capital Budget (including a 6-year Capital Budget Projection). The Commissioners and Staff discussed ideal use of Commissioner's Fund dollars.

HR Update

Director Jason Barron provided an update on new full-time hires and classification changes, as well as the testing process for certain classifications. Staff provided an update on progress with seasonal hiring and new positions created within Parks' Tree Crew.

Cincinnati Parks Department Budget Presentation

Director Barron shared Parks' Budget Presentation, shared with City Councilmembers at the April 2, 2025, meeting of the Budget & Finance Committee. The Commissioners and Staff discussed challenges and opportunities presented by the City's use of Customer Service Requests (CSRs) to gauge departmental performance.

Parks Improvement Projects 3-Year Plan Update

Director Barron shared an updated version of the Parks 3-Year Plan, and briefed the Commissioners on projects with timelines that have shifted since the Plan was last updated in September 2024. The Commissioners and Staff discussed strategies to speed up the timeline on the Inwood Park rehabilitation.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Director Barron presented the following updates:

- Parks Waterfront crews responded to a second flood that crested even higher than the first flood of 2025.
- Krohn Conservatory's annual butterfly show opens May 10th and runs through August 10. This year's theme is *Gothica Botanica*.
- Parks staff gathered for a spring All-Staff celebration to kick off the summer season.
- Events including Earth Day at Smale, Springfest in Burnet Woods, Arbor Day events, the Rockin' the Roebling concert series, the International Friendship Park Grand Opening on May 16, and the Warder Nursery Plant Sale on May 17.

OPEN COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION & COMMENTS

Commissioner Neyer thanked Staff for their exceptional work to quickly and thoroughly clean and restore the Waterfront parks impacted by a second significant Ohio River flood event this spring.

ADJOURNMENT

President North adjourned the meeting at 10:58am.

The next regular meeting date is Thursday, May 15, 2025, at 9:00am.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

Handwritten signature of Molly North in cursive script.

DIRECTOR

Handwritten signature of the Director in cursive script.

[External Email] Public Comment April 2025

From Stich Bear <stichbear@gmail.com>

Date Wed 3/26/2025 6:17 AM

To #COUNCIL <CityCouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Malcolm Montgomery <malcolm.montgomery@gmail.com>; Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Kearney, Jan-Michele <jan-michele.kearney@cincinnati-oh.gov>

 2 attachments (174 KB)

IMG_8336.jpeg; IMG_8335.jpeg;

External Email Communication

Dear Cincinnati Leadership,

Please hear and respect the voices of the community.

What is happening in regards to development in Burnet Woods and now Hyde Park Square is unacceptable.

Shari Frost

Please include screenshot attachments in public record.



"I just think this is outrageous," Kearney said. "There's really no justification for ignoring the community. And I'm telling you, a planned development is supposed to be a partnership — this was not a partnership ... this was just siding with the developer, who needs to be working with the community."

[External Email] Public Comment from Peggy Parry

From Peggy Parry <ilove.burnet@preserveburnetwoods.org>

Date Mon 3/31/2025 6:42 PM

To Aftab, Mayor <mayor.pureval@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Kearney, Jan-Michele <jan-michele.kearney@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Harris, Reggie <reggie.harris@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Victoria <victoria.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Please enter the below transcript into public record for the next Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners public meeting and ongoing for public meetings of the Cincinnati City Council Healthy Neighborhoods Committee. This record represents a unique response from Peggy Parry.

Email address

pbikenhiken6@gmail.com

Best practices in Community Engagement call for centering the voices of individuals who will be most directly impacted by the issue at-hand. The Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners has remained unengaged and has even ignored residents of multifamily housing directly next to the selected site for a dog park in Burnet Woods. The Park Board's decision to ignore those who would be most directly impacted by a dog park in Burnet Woods is failure to professionally engage the community on this issue.

I agree that the Park Board has failed to center voices of those most directly impacted by the location chosen for a dog park in Burnet Woods.

The City of Cincinnati has neighborhood councils for the purpose of ensuring a link between citizens and decision makers. From the city's own website: "These organizations [i.e., community councils] ensure that neighborhood development responds to the needs and goals of its citizens." Despite the two community councils whose boundaries include Burnet Woods having passed resolutions against the dog park, the Park Board is choosing to use a heavy-handed approach to the development in violation of the entire premise behind our city having community councils. Similarly, Cincinnati Parks has Park Advisory Councils (CPACs), to, according to the Cincinnati Parks Board website, "build and maintain public support for Cincinnati Parks by providing feedback to the Cincinnati Park Board and exchanging and sharing information and providing mutual support between CPACs." Park CPACs often donate hundreds of volunteer hours to maintain park spaces and host community events. In violation of its own stated purpose for

I agree that the Park Board has violated the covenant of community representation by ignoring the opposition of the CUF Neighborhood Association and Corryville Community Council regarding the dog park.

I agree that the Park Board has violated the covenant of trust with its own volunteer Park Advisory Council for Burnet Woods by ignoring their resolution against the dog park.

CPACs, the Cincinnati Park Board has ignored multiple resolutions passed by the Burnet Woods Park Advisory Council (BPAC) in opposition to the proposed dog park in Burnet Woods.

As it relates to community engagement on the proposed dog park in Burnet Woods, and in addition to the points above, the Park Board of Commissioners has further violated the public trust in numerous ways, including: · masquerading an old survey about a proposed dog park in a different Cincinnati park as community engagement on a dog park in Burnet Woods · using accessibility as a red herring to advance the dog park in Burnet Woods before determining if the amenity is desired by the community in the first place · ignoring other, decades old infrastructure and accessibility needs in Burnet Woods in order to prioritize the pet project of a dog park in Burnet Woods · excluding various groups and stakeholders, including the most vulnerable, from engagement and decision making · mocking the community engagement process

I agree that the Board of Park Commissioners has damaged the public trust in its failures to develop and execute a professional, equitable and unbiased community engagement process applied consistently to projects in Burnet Woods and the Cincinnati Parks system.

**itself and those who are
demanding best
practices in community
engagement · boasting
that as Commissioners
they will use their power
to make amenity-siting
decisions for the
community because they
don't believe in the
community ·
greenwashing the clear,
evidence-based
ecological destruction
the dog park will cause ·
undermining the
legitimacy of process by
ignoring the fact that
two sitting Park Board
Commissioners have a
conflict of interest by
residing near enough to
the proposed dog park
that their private
property values could
materially benefit from
the development**

**I acknowledge that upon
completion of this form,
an email containing
responses will be sent for
public record entry to
the Cincinnati Board of
Park Commissioners,
Cincinnati Mayor Aftab
Pureval, and the current
members of Cincinnati
City Council Healthy
Neighborhoods
Committee: Jan-Michele
Kearney, Reggie Harris,
Scotty Johnson, and
Victoria Parks. A
Summary of responses
may be compiled and
provided to City Council
also. A copy will also be**

I acknowledge the above emails will be sent upon clicking 'Submit'.
I acknowledge that a summary of responses may be submitted to
members of Cincinnati City Council.

**sent to Preserve Burnet
Woods.**

Your Full Name Peggy Parry

Your Email Address Pbikenhiken6@gmail.com

Your Zip Code 45220

Respectfully,

Peggy Parry

Sent: Mon, Mar 31, 2025 6:42 PM

Response ID: 2_ABaOnudrK36qkMZXAjVLn_uYe8ldJQ1YybbJBtf2a9E_Sf4bLM8jukn2T1do7_0M-swGbp0

Response Number: 84

[External Email] Public Comment 4/17/25

From Stich Bear <stichbear@gmail.com>

Date Fri 4/11/2025 3:20 PM

To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>;
citycouncil@cincy-oh.go <citycouncil@cincy-oh.go>

External Email Communication

Attaching a screen shot of the AI summary of the recent Cincinnati Enquirer article regarding lack of accessibility in the proposed dog park in Burnet Woods.

Please include in public record.

Shari Frost



**Enquirer - Cincinnati and
Kentucky** ✓



Apr 3 · 🌐



Meta AI >



What people are saying

Commenters express outrage and disappointment over Cincinnati Parks' decision to build a dog park in Burnet Woods without ensuring accessibility, despite initial promises. Many oppose the project, citing environmental concerns, potential harm to wildlife, and disregard for community input. Some demand refunds for donations made under false pretenses and call for accountability from park officials.

[External Email] PUBLIC COMMENT 4-17

From Karly Morgan <karlyamorgan@gmail.com>
Date Fri 4/11/2025 5:49 PM
To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

I am adamantly opposed to the paving of any greenspace in burnet woods. Listen to nature and the public and find a different space for the dog park. 1,246 species of plants and animals are being harmed for nothing! SENSELESS. ATROCITY TO NATURE. Shame on all of you if this project goes through.

Signed by an extremely concerned citizen of this city and planet.

Karly Morgan
2397 w north bend rd
45239

--

Karly Morgan
karlyamorgan@gmail.com
[513-319-5663](tel:513-319-5663)

[External Email] Public Comment 4/17

From Cynthia Duval <cynthia_lough@hotmail.com>

Date Tue 4/15/2025 9:32 PM

To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

[Article: Public Board, Private Foundation often operated as one](#)



Parks: Public board, private foundation often operated as one

The city's top two parks department officials, Executive Director Willie Carden and Financial Manager Marijane Klug, often called the financial shots for the private foundation, emails and ...

www.cincinnati.com

Text of Article:

Parks: Public board, private foundation often operated as one

James Pilcher, and Carrie Blackmore Smith Cincinnati Enquirer





Before last autumn's parks levy vote, Cincinnati Park Board officials stressed time and again they operate independently from the nonprofit foundation created to raise money for city parks.

The relationship became part of the conversation because the nonprofit, the Cincinnati Parks Foundation, was holding onto tens of millions of private dollars at a time when public parks leaders said it was imperative to secure more public funding to keep the parks system from falling into ruin.

A four-month Enquirer investigation shows parks officials weren't entirely truthful about the nature of their relationship. Documents and interviews show the board and foundation have a relationship as entangled as a plate of spaghetti.

In fact, the Park Board and Parks Foundation often act as a single organization. Funds are commingled with little to no oversight, and millions of dollars are shifted between accounts, the investigation found. The high degree of overlap is a key factor in why city parks officials have made headlines for a variety of missteps since mid-autumn. Critics say the arrangement between the Park Board and the nonprofit hurts transparency. That's because business conducted by the private foundation is not subject to Ohio open records law or open meetings law. That would prevent anyone from detecting wrongdoing if it existed, critics say. Similar findings were asserted in an internal city audit started in 2010 but never finished.

"My overall reaction is just sadness and disappointment," said Ohio state Rep. Tom Brinkman, R-Mount Lookout, who threatened a taxpayer lawsuit during last fall's levy campaign. "Thank goodness the public wasn't duped into voting for Issue 22," he said.

The city's top two parks department officials, Executive Director Willie Carden and Financial Manager Marijane Klug, often called the financial shots for the private foundation, emails and financial records show. Both the Park Board and the Parks Foundation are overseen by boards made up of some of the city's elite business and civic leaders, yet foundation staff often took direction from Carden and Klug.

For example:

Public records show major financial decisions and money transfers made by the foundation included signature lines for Carden and Klug.

Klug transferred tens of thousands of dollars from the foundation to cover travel, dining and personal expenses for herself and Carden. Expenses previously paid with public dollars were later reimbursed through foundation money. This included a pair of \$350 noise-canceling headphones that Carden bought in an airport gift shop for a trip to Europe. He acknowledged that created “bad optics.”

Klug held a foundation credit card issued in her name until late last year, with its credit limit raised at one point to \$5,000. The Enquirer requested credit card statements but they were not provided.

Since The Enquirer began asking questions, both the Park Board and Parks Foundation have been making procedural changes to correct a relationship Park Board Chairman Otto M. Budig Jr. calls overly “fluid.”

'A house with seven rats'

The Enquirer reported last week the Park Board used no-bid contracts to build \$40 million of the new \$97 million Smale Riverfront Park, raising major concerns and questions from Mayor John Cranley and City Manager Harry Black.

[How did Smale get built? Questions arise over no-bid contracts](#)

But the Park Board also used \$43 million in private money from the foundation to build other portions of the park, most notably the carousel pavilion. Records and emails obtained by The Enquirer show the two agencies avoided city hiring and wage rules by using that private contract, even though previous Park Board employees suggested using a public bidding process with those privately donated funds.

Brinkman said the new findings simply add to his distrust of the agencies and their ability to manage public money.

"This makes me feel like there is a house with seven rats. We got one last fall and felt like we scored a victory but now we find out there are six more running around," said Brinkman, who threatened a lawsuit over improper political donations during the levy campaign.

The direct involvement of parks leaders could run afoul of federal nonprofit tax laws, experts say. And it could violate the spirit of a settlement Carden and Klug reached with the Ohio Ethics Commission in 2013.

The relationship has already attracted the attention of city leaders, who ordered an external audit late last year intended to air out details of both groups' finances.

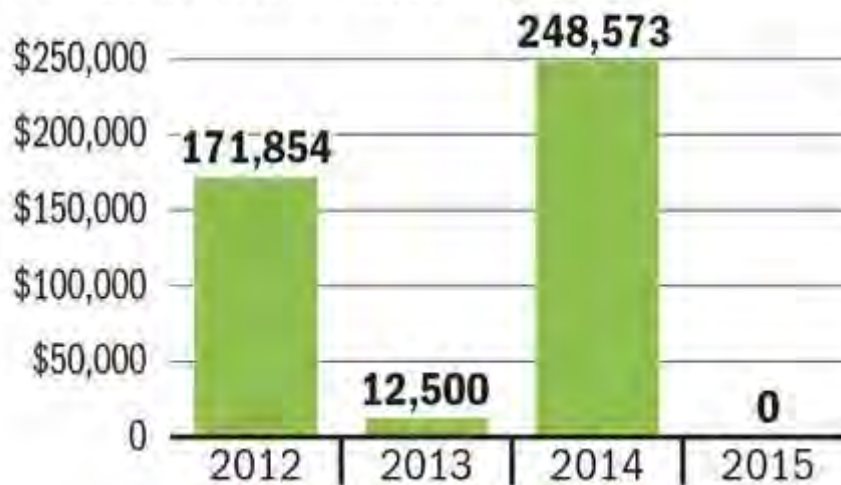
[List of Cincinnati Park Board and Cincinnati Park Foundation members](#)

Cincinnati City Councilman Kevin Flynn, chairman of the audit committee, called the Enquirer's findings "troubling."

"This creates a situation where we don't know what we don't know and we don't know what we can't know because we're dealing with a private agency," Flynn said. "That is always a bad place to be when you are dealing with a public agency and public funds."

Total donations

Here are the annual donations or transfers from the Cincinnati Parks Foundation to the Cincinnati Park Board over the last four years.



'Free flow of funds ... has to stop'

Carden called the documents obtained through public record requests "misleading," saying the tone did not convey previous discussions that took place. He said he and Klug's roles were not as involved as the emails and documents indicate.

Still, officials with both the Park Board and the foundation now acknowledge that Carden and Klug took more active roles with the foundation over the last 18 months, despite making recent statements to the contrary, including at editorial board meetings with The Enquirer during the levy campaign.

Leaders with both the Park Board and the nonprofit foundation say Carden and Klug's help was needed to train a new executive director and staff last year. The documents, however, suggest the relationship went further back than that and that the gap between administrators was only three months.

Officials with both agencies stressed to The Enquirer that new policies have been put in place to formalize the relationship.

"There was a point in time when the foundation didn't really have any staff at all, so the Park Board acquiesced to the idea that Willie Carden and Marijane would assist the foundation until they found staff and things got straightened out," Park Board chairman Budig said.

Still, Budig said, "the free flow of funds between the foundation and the Park Board for expenses that occur has to stop."

"We did not feel, because the relationship was so close," Budig said, "that there would be any difficulties involved. But since it has been suggested that transparency be enhanced, and that accountability be more formal, we're moving the dial."

Parks Foundation board Chairman John E. Neyer said that "any financial management is today done differently than only few months ago. If you were to ask for the same documents now as were requested late last year, you would see no financial direction for the foundation from the Park Board."

But one Park Board critic doesn't buy that explanation.

The public agency "consistently uses the foundation as a mechanism to avoid the usual restrictions on the use of public funds," said Tim Mara, a lawyer from Over-the-Rhine who led the successful campaign to defeat the tax levy. "Someone looking at this from the outside would say this is nothing more than a slush fund for Mr. Carden."

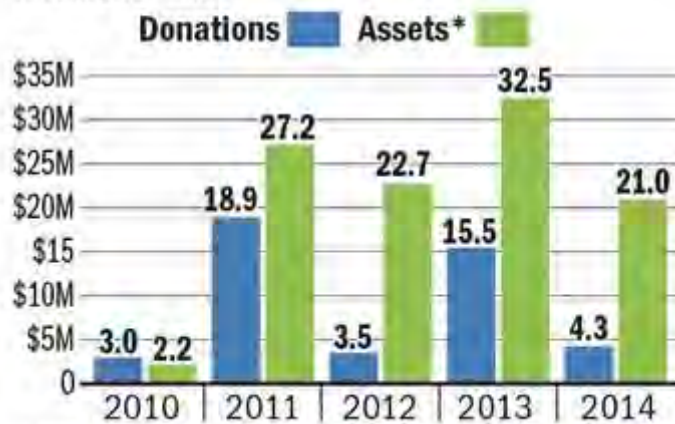
[Park Board bonuses raise questions](#)

Previous revelations by The Enquirer, including that Park Board officials funneled publicly funded bonuses for Carden and Klug through the foundation, prompted Cranley and Black to order an external forensic audit into the Park Board and Parks Foundation just before the November election. Those results are due back in May.

"I have been an aggressive advocate for the audit and the formal separation completely and totally of the foundation and the board," Cranley said in an interview. "One of the reasons I asked for the audit was to determine and improve the transparency and independence of these groups."

Foundation finances

Here are the assets held by the Cincinnati Parks Foundation and the donations given to the nonprofit between 2010-2014. Donations rose in 2011 and 2013 due to a fundraising campaign for Smale Riverfront Park.



**Some assets are considered restricted meaning they*

[Parks hits restart button on new records policy](#)

An ethics settlement, leadership changes and 'informal' practices

Records and interviews show the two parks bodies often working as one amid confusion even by top leaders as to what the relationship should look like.

The Parks Foundation was created in 1995 as a way to augment funding for the city's parks, ranked some of the best in the country but also some of the best funded, according to the Trust For Public Land, a national nonprofit that promotes creation of parks and protected lands.

As a 501(c)3 nonprofit, the foundation can accept tax-free donations and offer its donors anonymity.

In 2003, the Park Board asked Carden, who became parks director in 2000, to oversee the foundation also, which was floundering and "near bankruptcy," according to Carden. Carden, respected for his work ethic and successes leading the parks, soon turned the foundation into a powerful fundraising arm.

In 2013, the most successful year of fundraising in foundation history, the agency had nearly \$33 million in the bank and took in \$16 million in donations, much of it for Smale Riverfront Park, according to foundation leaders. The next year, the organization received nearly \$4.3 million in donations and had more than \$21 million in assets according to tax returns reviewed by the Enquirer. (Most of that is "restricted" or designated for certain uses or off limits for a certain period of time.)

Along the way, the foundation has built close ties to the public Park Board.

For example, until recently the Park Board had final say over who could serve on the 40-plus member board of the private nonprofit. The foundation's 2013 tax return states that the Park Board approves those members.

One foundation trustee, immediate past president Mark Busher, recalls being approved by the public Park Board when he was first appointed in 2009. Other foundation trustees declined to answer the question. Parks Foundation board chairman John E. Neyer said this practice was "informal" and discontinued in the last year.

Carden took over as the main agent of the foundation with the Ohio Secretary of State in 2006, a position still listed on the state website, although Carden stepped down from the nonprofit in 2012. And the Parks Foundation offices sit in a historic building in Avondale owned by the Park Board, with no lease and no rent paid.

Nonprofit experts say organizations such as the Parks Foundation are perfectly legitimate, but they need to be "separate and independent" of the government agency they support.

"While many actions taken on their own may be proper, the problem is that you have people who may not understand what the appearances may be regarding their actions or that a collection of actions may create other issues," said Leslie Lenkowsky, a professor of philanthropic studies at Indiana University.

Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit lawyer Jeffrey Tenenbaum said it's a problem if a nonprofit exerts any significant control over a public agency, or if it provides extra compensation to publicly paid officials.

That's what happened over several years, with the foundation paying thousands in bonuses for Carden and Klug when they were running both organizations.

It also was a violation of state law. In 2013, both Carden and Klug reached a confidential settlement with the Ohio Ethics Commission for receiving those improper bonuses. They paid back the bonuses, minus

taxes already paid, and resigned their positions with the foundation.

The Park Board later decided to continue the bonuses using endowment funds and funneling payments through the foundation for tax purposes, The Enquirer reported last fall.

Ohio Ethics Commission Executive Director Paul Nick said state ethics rules do not appear to have been violated by that.

"Whether the reimbursements or payments are proper for a nonprofit to pay is not an issue under the Ethics Law," Nick said. "However, it does potentially raise questions under other laws as well as potential audit issues."

[Cincinnati Park Board using endowments for cars, food](#)

The foundation subsequently hired a director, Susan Dorward, who served in the role from April 2013 to March 2015. The current director, Jennifer Spieser, was hired in May. She was a former Parks Foundation employee who had been working as a spokesperson and grant writer for the Cincinnati Fire Department when she said Carden approached her about applying for the foundation job.

Financial connections between the Park Board and Parks Foundation continued. Last fall, the foundation was paying expenses for the failed levy campaign at the behest of Carden, documents show.

In one email, Carden states that more than \$2,200 in expenses for the campaign's website were "approved and we will pay this through the foundation." At the time, Carden, Klug and Budig waved it off as a rare occurrence.

But public documents show Carden or Klug routinely approved or ordered foundation money to be spent on various expenses.

One such document, in emails sent between August and September of last year, shows Klug transferred millions from an investment account of the foundation to that agency's cash checking account to help pay off the foundation's share of building Smale Park.

In another email sent last November after Election Day, former Park Board Accountant Jessica Young asks the foundation directly for funding for an event for Mayor Cranley at Smale's Anderson Pavilion. That event was a Sister Cities dinner for mayors from the country of Jordan.

Cranley and another local businessman made tax-free donations to the Foundation to pay for the dinner and rent the facility, and Young was reaching out to the Foundation for that payment.

For his part, Foundation Board chairman Neyer said he could not speak to specific expenses or how the foundation's executive committee approved spending at the time. He has been a trustee for 10 years and has held the positions of treasurer, vice president and now president.

In one email from April 2013, acquired under the public records request, Neyer acknowledges, "I have not been a very active treasurer."

As for the public Park Board, clarity on the relationship between the organizations was on the mind of one official as recently as December.

Commissioner Susan Castellini (who helped start the nonprofit foundation in the 1990s) said recent criticism of the two organizations' relationship "was a bunch of semantics," at the board's meeting that month.

"There is feeling ... that you run the show," she told Carden. "In essence, the governance comes from us and the argument is that it should not."

But Carden protested, stating the foundation is run by a separate board of trustees.

"Wrong, I don't run the foundation," Carden said. "Commissioner Castellini, they are separate from us because they are a 501(c)3, a totally separate entity."

The Castellinis donated heavily to the foundation and Smale Park. A large section of Smale is known as the Castellini Esplanade, constructed to host farmers markets and community events with unique picnic tables that roll on metal tracks.

Susan Castellini, wife of Cincinnati Reds majority owner Bob Castellini, did not return messages seeking comment.

Companies did not get chance to bid on work at Smale

City officials last week also questioned the foundation's role in helping build Smale Riverfront Park. The nonprofit held a series of capital fund drives, eventually donating \$43 million toward the project, most notably for the carousel pavilion.

The foundation contracted directly with Universal Contracting Corporation of Bond Hill, which also was the construction manager for the overall project.

Emails from 2013 obtained by The Enquirer show the Park Board's project manager Dave Prather recommended sending the privately raised money through a completely public process, or at the very least requiring the foundation to sign documents agreeing to meet all city regulations regarding hiring and wages.

After a subsequent face-to-face meeting between Prather and Carden, however, those suggestions were scrapped. Instead, the contract was handled privately.

Cincinnati's Chief Procurement Officer Patrick Duhaney raised concerns over that arrangement in a memo written to City Manager Harry Black on Tuesday, saying he didn't have access to the contracts and couldn't tell who was liable for what work, or if those contractors met city ordinances regarding bonding and hiring practices.

"It is highly likely that those monies would be subject to the same performance bonding and procurement requirements as other improvements to City parks," Duhaney wrote. "A detailed analysis of what the Foundations's monies were used on and with which contractors is needed as soon as possible for the City to get a better sense of any outstanding risks."

'Robin Hood at his best.'

Officials from both the Park Board and Parks Foundation say what is important are the results. They hold up Smale, as well as other major park upgrades assisted with private donations as proof.

"Parks are a tremendous equalizer for everyone," foundation leader Neyer said. "We're proud of what we've been able to accomplish. Not everyone can have a nice backyard but we've made it so everyone has a nice place to go and enjoy the parks."

That sentiment echoes through City Council chambers.

Nearly every council member has jumped at the chance to heap praise on both organizations in the months after the failed levy, reminding the public that the oversight boards are volunteer roles.

Councilman Wendell Young is among them.

He and others have noted it was unfair how the Park Board, parks staff and parks foundation has been treated by the city administration. Young went so far as to say, yes, maybe these organizations are treated differently than other departments because so much of the money is donated by private citizens and corporations.

Young has heard whispers in the community that the scrutiny of an external audit might be scaring off donors and volunteers.

"If there is something nefarious going on in parks, it operates to the benefit of Cincinnati and not to the Park Board members, not to the Park Foundation members," Young said in a public meeting. "That's Robin Hood at his best."

Still, both agencies have moved quickly to change processes as a result of The Enquirer's questions.

Last month, the Park Board approved a new formal system that requires board approval before agency staff can ask for or receive any funds from the nonprofit foundation.

Foundation board Chairman Neyer and Executive Director Spieser said in interviews they are making other changes. Neyer said Klug's credit card has been canceled, and the foundation board is considering opening its meetings to the public.

"This will be more formalized and on paper," Spieser said. "We want transparency for our citizens and our donors as well."

But for some, the changes are too little, too late.

"They say now that they shouldn't have done it, but that's what they said last year" during the levy campaign, Mara said. "And now they are saying it again after they got their hand caught in the cookie jar."

"It's a little late to be correcting the problem."

This story has been updated to correct the name of the individual from the Park Board seeking payment for the mayor's event for the mayor from Amman, Jordan.

What we've reported previously

Enquirer reporters James Pilcher and Carrie Blackmore Smith have been reporting since before last autumn's park levy vote on finance issues surrounding Cincinnati's parks.

Among their previous findings:

- * The Park Board, a public body overseeing the parks, tried to donate \$200,000 to the pro-levy campaign last fall. The donation was rescinded within days after The Enquirer reported that it was made. By law, public agencies are not allowed to financially support tax levies or political candidates.
- * Park Board officials funneled publicly funded bonuses for Carden and Klug through the Parks Foundation, a private, nonprofit entity. The board also awarded the duo lucrative car allowances, expensive lunches and dinners and other questionable expenses using separate public funding. After this report, Mayor John Cranley called for an external audit of parks finances.
- * Park Board practices, such as allowing members to vote by proxy for two years and [usurping proper procedure related to public records](#), drew criticism from Ohio Auditor David Yost late last year. His office declined to comment for this story, but added it is in the midst of its annual financial review of Cincinnati and all its departments, including the Park Board. In an effort to straighten things out, the city has hired the Park Board a special attorney to align its bylaws and procedures with Ohio laws.
- * The park levy was to help address what was said to be a \$55 million backlog in park maintenance. Enquirer reporting, however, showed the Park Board is not systematic in the way it tracks or prioritizes such projects. (Parks officials have [requested an additional \\$4 million annually from City Council](#) to catch up on maintaining infrastructure that the park levy was supposed to fix.)
- * The Park Board did not put a \$43 million portion of the Smale Riverfront Park project out for competitive bids, relying instead on pre-existing "master service agreements" created for maintenance work, not new construction projects. This portion of the project relied on public funds from the city, county and state.
- * Much of the rest of the project was funded through private donations. Park Board Executive Director Willie Carden said initially the Park Board issued requests for proposals, or bids, for this work, which included the carousel pavilion. However, the agency only issued requests for qualifications, a different system not considered a bid, and then chose what Carden would later call "the most qualified and lowest bidder." He said he had misspoke initially but maintains this constituted a proper bidding process.

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[External Email] Public Comments 4/17

From Cynthia Duval <cynthia_lough@hotmail.com>
Date Tue 4/15/2025 9:46 PM
To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

I hope the Board is aware of the good use of public resources Director Barron is choosing to protect the delicate feelings of Prus Construction when large sections of flood guck still need cleared from several parks, including the CSO overflow at Burnet Woods.

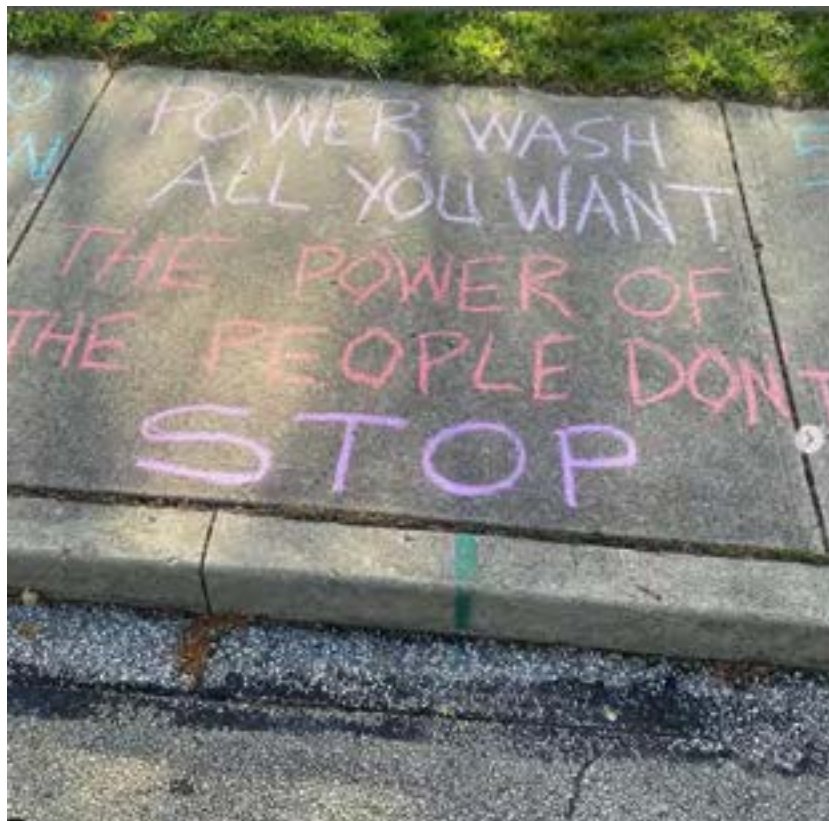


David Stradling is with **Preserve Burnet Woods.**

Yesterday at 1:31 PM · 🌐

Instead of fixing the crumbling infrastructure of Burnet Woods (dangerous stairs, nearly impassible roads), the great minds at Cincinnati Park Board decided it was more important to deploy two trucks, two men, and a power washer to remove sidewalk chalk protests against the dog park - about 3 hours before it is supposed to rain! Say what you will about the dog park, but this kind of leadership is unforgivable.





preserve_burnetwoods
Burnet Woods

preserve_burnetwoods HOW IT'S GOING: Parks deployed more resources this morning, at taxpayer expense, to powerwash away more chalk.

WHERE IT STARTED: With groundbreaking imminent on the dog park, resistance voices used sidewalk chalk at the site on Sunday to share facts, sketches of woodland animals, and ask again the project be stopped for community engagement. On Monday morning, @cincyparks sent a pressure washing crew to remove the chalk. On Monday night, chalk messages reappeared. On Tuesday morning, so did Cincy Park's crew to silence protest.

We're wondering if while they were there they powerwashed the toilet paper and E. coli off the sanitary sewer that overflowed just a couple weeks ago. Or if they cleaned the valley shelter and twigs that were submerged in filthy water before Summer Camp kids show up. Or why crews couldn't be tasked with cleaning the black fungus and urine off of Lone Star Pavilion and Millionaire's Club when Stewards of Burnet Woods and Burnet Woods Park Advisory Committee asked nicely over several years.

Or is the Park Board only interested in erasing the empirical facts.

[View insights](#) [Boost post](#)

♥️ 💬 📌

👤 Liked by uc4burnet and 115 others
8 hours ago

And before the fallacy diatribe about bullies begins again over sidewalk chalk - Director Barron's latest party line - please note that 26 people who have lied about accessibility, fundraising and motivation for this project are getting their way in bulldozing a greenspace over the objection of more than 3800 petition signatures, 400 public comments submitted both in writing and in person, two community councils, long-term park volunteers, and multiple reputable environmental organizations all advocating for the environment. So, I ask you, as some Commissioners clench a little harder to the grudges held from the CEF choice to withdraw their development proposal in 2020, who are the bullies again? It seems a very silly precedent for a Park Board to villainize the environmentalist community.

Cynthia Duval

[External Email] Public Comment: April 4/17/25

From Phillip Schaefer <phillip.schaefer36@gmail.com>

Date Wed 4/16/2025 2:59 PM

To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

You don't often get email from phillip.schaefer36@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email Communication

Hello Commissioners,

I'm following up on my March Board meeting public comment about CLM being understaffed with the data behind my math. Feel free to double check the calculations. I asked staff for accurate numbers, so I believe this is pretty accurate.

Parks has about 5,000 acres. 3,800 are natural areas.

If 3800 acres is hard to imagine, it's approximately 7.5% of Cincinnati.

$(50569 \text{ total acres} / 3800 \text{ natural areas in Parks}) \times 100 = 7.51\%$

2 full time Natural Resource Specialists + (5 part time seasonals @ 1450 hours per year = .725 positions each) = 5.625 full time equivalent

$3800 \text{ acres} / 5.625 \text{ staff} = 676 \text{ acres per staff}$. This number is lower than what I said but in the same ballpark.

As approved and proposed for 2 additional full time staff, the ratio would be:

$3800 \text{ acres} / 7.625 \text{ staff} = 498 \text{ acres per staff}$

With one full time NRS having left recently, right now there is only one full time NRS and the ratio right now is:

$3800 \text{ acres} / 4.625 = 822 \text{ acres per staff}$

CLM is also responsible for the 65 miles of trails in Cincinnati Parks. This would stretch from the Ohio River to north of Dayton.

Great Parks (3.9 times more natural area (14718 acres GP / 3800 acres CP)) has only 7 more miles of trails - 72 miles GP vs 65 miles CP. GP has a dedicated trails team made up of a manager, two full time staff, and a few seasonals.

Thank you,

Phillip Schaefer

[External Email] Public Comment April 17

From Denise Stepaniak <djtron1111@outlook.com>

Date Wed 4/16/2025 4:28 PM

To Kearney, Jan-Michele <jan-michele.kearney@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Victoria <victoria.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Albi, Anna <anna.albi@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Cramerding, Jeff <jeff.cramerding@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Jeffreys, Mark <mark.jeffreys@cincinnati-oh.gov>; scotty.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov <scotty.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Nolan, Evan <evan.nolan@cincinnati-oh.gov>; meeks.owens@cincinnati-oh.gov <meeks.owens@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Walsh, Seth <seth.walsh@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Aftab, Mayor <mayor.pureval@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Cc Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from djtron1111@outlook.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

External Email Communication

As a disabled resident of Cincinnati in particular the Clifton Gaslight neighborhood I am writing to please ask our mayor and city council members to please stop the construction of the dog park in Burnet Woods.

There is so much that needs to be taken care of at Burnet Woods already this dog park is a waste of taxpayers money. I also feel we have been deceived by being told this is a "universally accessible" dog park when the truth of the matter is we now know it is not.

There has been one construction company involved and I am not even clear if this project was put out to bid. I certainly know there was no community engagement / feedback. When the dog park was considered originally for Dunore Park the residents here in Clifton were engaged and our concerns were taken into account.

I unfortunately have not seen this happen for our neighbors who will be directly impacted by this dog park. (Correyville, CUF, etc..)

As a disabled person this is completely unacceptable & morally wrong. With all that we have going on in our country right now in the name of efficiency, cutting waste, fraud and abuse. This dog park in Burnet Woods seems like a good place to start saving taxpayers dollars on a park that is already available for all dogs and their owners.

If you chose to move forward while the vast majority of residents are opposed please understand the only difference we the people can make is with our vote come election time.

Sincerely,
Denise Stepaniak

[External Email] Public Comment 4/17

From Cynthia Duval <cynthia_lough@hotmail.com>

Date Wed 4/16/2025 4:47 PM

To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

 1 attachment (131 KB)

Sansalone Keke_2024 02 21_Private and Confidential Communication.pdf;

External Email Communication

Entering into public record/minutes of Cincinnati Parks as the influence of Cincinnati Parks Foundation Board Members on the Mayor in the appointment of Park Board Commissioners should be documented in Cincinnati Parks logs. This email was obtained via public records request and is attached. The text is copied below.

"From: Keke Sansalone

Sent: Wed, 21 Feb 2024 17:08:31 -0500

To: Aftab, Mayor

Cc: Angeleke Sansalone; Anthony M Sansalone

Subject: [External Email] Private and Confidential Communication

You don't often get email from PERSONAL INFO External Email Communication Learn why this is important

Dear Mayor Aftab,

I have been assured of your strict confidence of the contents of this email and it is only with that assurance that I write to you today.

I was first appointed to the Board of Visitors of the Bicentennial Commons (to fill a vacancy) by Mayor John Cranly in July of 2019. I was reappointed by him to serve a three year term effective January 1, 2020, and reappointed by you to serve another three year term, effective January 1, 2023. I was elected Chair of the Board of Visitors in April of 2022 and continue to serve as Chair. It is a privilege to serve our city, our parks and you and I thank you for the opportunity to do so. I have supported Cincinnati Parks with my time, talent and treasure for many years now and it is my sincere desire to continue to do so during my lifetime. It is why I believe it is important that I write to you today.

As you consider the future of the Board of Park Commissioners, I would like to document two occasions when I witnessed behavior by Park Commissioner, Jim Goetz that I believe you should be aware of.

The first Incident took place on July 23, 2020, on a "zoom call." The following individuals were on the call: Don Mellott, Cincinnati Parks Foundation (CPF) Board President; Keke Sansalone, CPF Board member and BOV appointee; Jennifer Spieser, CPF Executive Director; Rick Greiwe, BOV Chair, Will

Woodward, CFO for GCF; Steve Landers, CFO for CPF; Craig Sherman, CFO for Cincinnati Park Board; Kara Kish, Director of Parks; Jim Goetz, Park Commissioner, Brad Lindner, President of the Park Board, The purpose of the call was to discuss the possibility of moving some of the BOV restricted funds to the Parks Foundation, to hold and “save” for the restoration of the Gateway Sculpture, a special project agreed upon by the BOV and the Parks Department. Mr. Goetz did not want to proceed with the restoration of the Gateway Sculpture; Goetz wanted to focus on the fishing pier. Admittedly, (I understood more later) both were in need of repair, but the Gateway Sculpture had been identified prior to the fishing pier, the planning process for gateway had been going on for years and in reliance on the agreement made between the BOV and parks staff to prioritize the restoration of the gateway sculpture, the BOV 1) authorized and distributed to the City of Cincinnati the sum of 230,000 (two hundred and thirty thousand dollars) to pay for a study (Burgess and Nipple report) and 2) set aside one million dollars in a restricted account to pay for the restoration. Dismissing all of this in its entirety, Mr. Goetz informed everyone on the call that he had contacted the city solicitor’s office and his research and understanding of the BOV trust documents was that the BOV had no control over how the funds could be directed. Historically, the BOV and Cincinnati Parks staff have worked cooperatively to set priorities-a process that has worked well since 1988. Putting aside the substantive issues, I was most disturbed by the manner and tone in which Mr. Goetz spoke to everyone on that call and in particular to Mr. Rick Greiwe. Mr. Goetz was condescending, argumentative, adversarial and dismissive of the BOV and the time, energy and money expended by the BOV on the restoration of the Gateway Sculpture. I felt so uncomfortable with Mr. Goetz’s behavior that I texted both Rick and Jennifer and asked them to end the call. I don’t recall how the call ended, but I do recall how shocked I was and how I felt it was an “ambush” of the BOV. I would witness that same behavior again, at a BOV meeting almost two years later.

The second incident took place on April 15, 2022 at the Waterfront Board Room of the Cincinnati Parks offices. The following persons were present: The BOV: David Arends, Michael Burson, Kevin Flynn, Keke Sansalone, The GCF: Will Woodward, Phillip Latham, Jennie Geisheimer, Lisa Davis-Roberts. The Cincinnati Parks : Jenny Mobley, John Neyer, Lou Sand, Craig Sherman, Guests: James Goetz and Daniel Geeding. I was surprised to see Mr. Goetz as park commissioners do not normally attend BOV meetings. Dan Geeding was treasurer of Cincinnati’s Bicentennial Committee (1988) and has served on the BOV for many years. He is an advisor to the BOV and is invited to attend BOV meetings as a guest without any voting privileges. At this particular meeting, after the parks staff made their presentation, Mr. Goetz essentially “took over “ the meeting. He spoke at length about a number of things including the BOV trust documents, the parks budget and once again, the fishing pier. Mr. Goetz dismissed the restoration of the gateway sculpture. Mr. Geeding questioned Mr. Goetz and the conversation quickly escalated. Mr. Goetz’s behavior toward Mr. Geeding, a volunteer that has served our city and the Bicentennial Commons for many years, was disrespectful and dismissive. Mr. Goetz ‘s behavior was so disturbing and disruptive that I asked the park staff that he not be invited to future BOV meetings.

I seldom look backward, I prefer to focus on moving forward. I felt compelled in this instance to share my observations of these past incidents because only then can you make an informed decision about Park Commissioner Jim Goetz and his reappointment to the Park Board.

Respectfully yours,

Keke Sansalone"

[External Email] Public Comment April 17

From Denise Stepaniak <djtron1111@outlook.com>

Date Wed 4/16/2025 4:49 PM

To Kearney, Jan-Michele <jan-michele.kearney@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Victoria <victoria.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Albi, Anna <anna.albi@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Cramerding, Jeff <jeff.cramerding@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Jeffreys, Mark <mark.jeffreys@cincinnati-oh.gov>; scotty.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov <scotty.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Nolan, Evan <evan.nolan@cincinnati-oh.gov>; meeks.owens@cincinnati-oh.gov <meeks.owens@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Walsh, Seth <seth.walsh@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Aftab, Mayor <mayor.pureval@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Cc Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

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External Email Communication

As a lifelong resident of Gaslight Clifton and husband to both a disabled wife and uncle to a disabled niece, I am writing to please ask our mayor and city council members to stop the construction of the dog park in Burnet Woods.

Burnet Woods already has so much that is in a state of disrepair and this dog park is a waste of taxpayers money. The money being used for this dog park could be used for so many areas of the park that are not accessible to disabled residents or to repair so many areas in need of maintenance. I personally feel deceived by the park board and the city with the lack of a "universally accessible" dog park as was promised.

I certainly know there was no community engagement/ feedback. When the dog park was considered originally for Dunore Park the residents here in Clifton were engaged and our concerns were taken into account.

I unfortunately have not seen this happen for our neighbors who will be directly impacted by this dog park (Correyville, CUF, ...etc).

If the park board and city of Cincinnati are going to move forward with this dog park when the vast number of people are against it, then we the people can only use our vote come election time to make our voices heard.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Trondle

[External Email] Public Comment 4/17

From Cynthia Duval <cynthia_lough@hotmail.com>

Date Wed 4/16/2025 5:00 PM

To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

 1 attachment (137 KB)

Kangis Harry_2024 02 14_Very Concerned About PB Decision.pdf;

External Email Communication

Entering into public record/minutes of Cincinnati Parks as the influence of Cincinnati Parks Foundation Board Members on the Mayor in the appointment of Park Board Commissioners should be documented in Cincinnati Parks logs. This email was obtained via public records request and is attached. The text is copied below.

"From: Cramerding, Jeffrey (cramerjy)

Sent: Wed, 14 Feb 2024 18:53:42 +0000

To: Harry Kangis; Cramerding, Jeff

Subject: [External Email] Re: Very Concerned About Park Board Decision

You don't often get email from cramerjy@ucmail.uc.edu. Learn why this is important External Email Communication

Here is my correct city hall address so you have it.

Jeffrey M. Cramerding, J.D.

Director of Contract Administration

AAUP-UC

PO Box 210176

Cincinnati, OH 45221-0176

513/556-6861, Ext. 6

From: Harry Kangis <PERSONAL INFO on behalf of Harry Kangis

Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 2:56 PM

To: Cramerding, Jeffrey (cramerjy)

Subject: Fwd: Very Concerned About Park Board Decision

External Email: Use Caution

Jeff - I tried to blind copy you on this but it bounced back. Aftab called me shortly after I sent it, and I feel like he might finally be getting why the Commissioners seem to be in favor of Jim, even though it's mostly for the wrong reason. I sent the note to you and Mark, as I feel same way about Council. If they look the other way and renew Jim for 6 more years, I'm done.

Harry Kangis
PERSONAL INFO

Begin forwarded message:

From: Harry Kangis PERSONAL INFO
Subject: Very Concerned About Park Board Decision
Date: February 13, 2024 at 2:16:46 PM EST
To: Aftab Pureval <aftab.pureval@gmail.com>

Aftab -

I know you are getting a lot of noise right now about reappointing Jim Goetz to the Park Board. I am reluctantly adding my voice to that noise, as I am extremely frustrated that we are back to square one on this after months of assurances that a more positive outcome was in the works.

I have been on the Cincinnati Parks Foundation (CPF) Executive Committee for over 8 years now. We have had to deal with almost unending chaos from the Park Board during most of that time. First, it was the Enquirer exposes on considerable mismanagement of personnel and restricted funds at the Parks department, while the Foundation was being managed within the Park Board (illegally under state law by the way). There were multiple audits, and we even had IRS and FBI agents showing up to request copies of all CPF records. Thanks to great work by John Neyer, Jennifer Spieser and assistance from Dan Hoffheimer, we were able to recharter CPF as an independent non-profit entity in 2016. Since that time, our executive committee has worked very hard to make CPF a gold standard of good governance, and have raised millions of new dollars, added a number of new programs and much higher public awareness to benefit the Parks.

But the degree of difficulty in doing the above has been very high. We have been through 5 Parks Dept executive directors in just 8 years. When Mayor Cranley decided to replace some Commissioners, including Chairwoman Rosenberg, as their terms expired, we and the CPF staff faced threats and intimidation. Part of this was because we sided with the City's desire to require Parks projects to follow city purchasing and operating rules, many of which had been violated with the construction of Smale Park's first phase. We eventually led the effort to sign an MOU between the City, Park Board and CPF to clarify roles and responsibilities. We overtly supported the Mayor's choice of Jim Goetz to replace Diane Rosenberg on the Park Board.

I know you have already heard about several witnessed incidences of Jim Goetz berating and humiliating Parks staff members (including two prior Executive Directors in public meetings), CPF staff, and even some major donors. I personally witnessed his treatment of Kera Kish to be so disturbing that I called John Cranley to warn him that a toxic workplace suit could ensue. He asked me to speak with Molly North and I expressed my same concerns to her. We began quarterly top-to-top meetings with Brad Lindner, Jim Goetz, Don Mellott and myself. It became clear after a few of these that Jim was not willing to abide by the MOU requirement that all donor inquiries be sent to CPF, and in a few cases he threatened the staff and Executive Committee in my presence to "find a new fundraising partner" if we did not do what he was demanding of us. I imagine you have also heard about the incident when Jim accosted Lisa Diedrichs at a social event in a very intimidating manner, and that Molly was there to witness it.

I will spare you several more paragraphs of examples I could provide about this constant chaos. I ask you to consider the following as you decide who to appoint to Jim's expiring position on the Board:

1. The City Charter gives you the authority to appoint Commissioners. Much as you decided you wanted a new City Manager early in your tenure, there should be no explosions by making the win-win decision to thank Jim for his service but put someone in that position who will bring values, behavior, and a vision to the Parks that matches your own. Jim remaining means to many of us six more years of chaos, but the noise of not reappointing him will die quickly. I know you have been dealt a difficult decision here personally and politically, but I was lucky enough to have John Pepper as my personal hero all these years, and I do my best to live his principle of "do right things right. I am asking you to do the same right now. At a minimum, please do not vote on this in Council tomorrow, but take the time to do more investigation but you lock in another 6 years of chaos.

2. We have a very bright future for the Parks ahead if we can get beyond this. The extra funds from the railroad sale, potential new funding options from the Moeller Commission's work, and the additional capacity that Jennifer and her team have built to raise millions more in private philanthropy. Speaking for myself, if Jim is reappointed my wife and I plan to revoke our \$100k pledge to the Ault Park Foundation project and I will leave the fundraising steering committee. I will change my legacy bequest to say that no funds will be transferred as long as Jim is on the Park Board. There are several other CPF board members who will likely make similar decisions, including one person who is currently structuring a multi million dollar legacy pledge to CPF. Possibly the biggest risk to CPF is that Jennifer will tire of 9 drama and abuse-filled years and accept a job elsewhere.

Cincinnati has been my home now for 48 years. I love this City and our Parks System. I have devoted 100's of pro bono hours, and a lot of treasure, to make Cincinnati and its leaders the best they can be. But this is my tipping point; if Jim is reappointed, I am going to move my attention exclusively to making sure my 5 grandchildren still have a democracy to enjoy.

Harry Kangis"