

Four finalists picked for MetroParks job

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The Erie MetroParks board has picked four experienced Ohio park administrators as finalists for the job of running the local park system.

The board will interview the four Thursday and Friday. After the board has talked to the last candidate Friday, it will discuss the four and see if it can reach an agreement on whom to offer the job to, said Tom Dusza, president of the Erie MetroParks board.

If the board can agree who is the best candidate, negotiations for a contract to bring him to Erie County will begin, Dusza said.

The four are:

■ **Stephen Dice** of Hinckley, who recently resigned as director of parks and conservation for Five Rivers MetroParks in Dayton. Dice also formerly worked as director of park operations for Cleveland MetroParks.

"I have toured Erie County with the former director, Jon, and I was impressed with the parks and impressed with the community," Dice said. "It just seems like a really nice package with the park system, the community and the lakeshore."

■ **Chris Cooperrider** of Chardon, parks superintendent for the city of Mentor.

■ **Michael Rorar** of Akron, park administrator for the Bath Township Park System.

■ **Douglas Nist** of Massillon, former parks superintendent for Massillon.

Dusza and the other two parks board members, Micah Vawters and Kurt Landefeld, said they were pleased all of the final candidates have experience with park operations and handling park budgets.

"They have experience, and they've worked in the field, and they've excelled in the work they've done," Vawters said.

Landefeld said he hopes to hire a director ready to lead the parks system for years to come.

The parks system is looking for a replacement for Jon Granville, the longtime director-secretary of Erie MetroParks. Granville resigned effective Sept. 7 to serve as the director of MetroParks of Butler County in southwest Ohio.

The parks board selected the four after reading applications from 44 candidates.