

ASHTABULA COUNTY METROPARKS

25 West Jefferson Street, Jefferson, OH 44047

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday April 13th, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Ashtabula County Metroparks Board of Commissioners was held at the Board Office meeting room at 91 N Chestnut Street in Jefferson, Ohio and called to order at 6:34pm. By Paul Carpenter. Board Members in attendance and completing a quorum were: Paul Carpenter, President; Bob Best, Vice President; Charlie Kohli, Member; Terry Berkey, Member, and Marie Lane, Member. Pam Blough, Clerk. The March Regular Minutes and Current Monthly Expense Worksheet were reviewed. February and March financials were reviewed. Motion to approve Minutes by Kohli, Second by Best. Motion to approve Financials by Kohli, second by Lane. Motion to approve bills/expenses by Lane, seconded by Kohli. All motions were passed by unanimous vote of aye except for Berkey regarding the financials: he voted nay; in which case financials passed by majority vote. Mr. Berkey noted he would like an explanation of the County bookkeeping formats by the County Auditor before he will approve. Also in attendance: Advisory Council Members and Friends of the Metroparks/public.

Presentation: Kristy Belaney; Butterfly and Pollinator Garden Project for Metroparks. Kristy presented the importance of preserving the Monarch Butterfly which may be endangered as well as other pollinators such as honey bees. Other Metroparks have programs in place and Kristy proposes the Ashtabula Metroparks start one. She is willing to Volunteer to plant and maintain a garden and write a blog for the Metroparks Website. The parks will be willing to purchase the plants and assist in ground preparation. The Board approves of the project and asks Belaney to work with the Board regarding choice of an area to plant and come up with a price proposal. Kristy will put together a list and follow up with the Board.

Audience Participation is limited to three minutes each and the Board thanks them for their input.

Greg Seymour: Plymouth Twp. resident; wanted to address his concerns for the Battles Road Metropark area and what plans are in place for development and security? Right now the property is undeveloped. Mr. Carpenter suggested that he and the neighbors form a "Friends" group regarding volunteer maintenance work and security efforts. Mr. Seymour agrees and will keep in contact with the Board.

Gary Hines: People for Parks. Requested permission to hold the annual "Megabucks" event at the Lampson Staging Area of the Greenway Trail. People for Parks would reserve the entire area for September 10th 2016. Kohli motioned to agree; Best seconded. All in favor.

Mr. Hines also mentioned the Greenway Trail Cleanup event his volunteer group will be conducting at the Lampson Staging area on May 7th. A dumpster has been donated for the event. A Meeting will be held this Friday at 5:30pm in Austinburg at Jewell's.

Scott Burgett: Friends of Metroparks. Suggested the Board rent a space at the Ashtabula County Fair and possibly the Covered Bridge Festival. Ideas would include a Metroparks photo contest where the top photos could be displayed and voted on by public. A survey for the Parks could also be accomplished by the Advisory Council. Who would man the booth? The Board asked Burgett to put together some ideas for the contest. Marie will check into the process of renting a space.

Andy Nowakowski: Permission to place concrete barriers on the overpass on the undeveloped Pymatuning Valley Greenway in Williamsfield. Mr. Nowakowski will donate the materials and labor. Motion by Lane to approve. Second by Kohli. All in favor.

Old Business:

1. Mr. Best would like to organize a press release and a Dedication for the two newly acquired properties: Clara D. Peet Preserve and the addition to Lampson Reservoir Metropark (Berardinelli). The Board needs to get the signage up first. Mr. Kohli would like the same press and dedication for the Orwell Parking Lot and the Ada Sutter Memorial Bench. He would like to hold these ceremonies this summer. The Board agreed.
2. Mr. Carpenter moved to go into Executive Session at 7:32pm regarding property lease/purchase. Inviting Mr. Jenks. Call of the Roll: Kohli-aye; Carpenter-aye; Lane-aye; Best, aye; Berkey, aye. By quorum present and unanimous vote, approval to go into executive session. So moved.
3. Back on the record at 8:23pm. Moved.
4. The Ashtabula Foundation Grant application for the construction of a Handicapped Accessible Observation Deck at Lampson Reservoir was denied. The initial approval was emailed to us in error, confirmed per call to Roberta Martin, Administrator at the Ashtabula Foundation. She apologizes for the error.
5. Update on the Letter of Intent that was submitted to the Conneaut Foundation for shelters. Our request was denied for the 2016 round.
6. NatureWorks Grant update: Mr. Best and Sue Ferritto will work on progress of plans.
7. Waterways Grant request for erosion control at Harpersfield: has been submitted; no word yet per Mr. Best.
8. Discussion of OHC riding the trails at Hatches Corners Metroparks: Board requires that the OH Council work with Mr. Hanneman on trail planning at Hatches Corners and that Mr. Hanneman be present when the group stakes the Trails. The Clerk will advise Kathy Braden of the OHC and give her Mr. Hanneman's contact information.

9. The Board discussed the NST Funds and the next phase. The Board determined that they want weekly updates from Smolen and require Dennis Bowman from Smolen Engineering to attend monthly Board Meetings. The Clerk will advise Mr. Bowman.
10. The March 8th Conference call with ACE regarding the Lamprey Barrier at Harpersfield was cancelled by the Corp. There have been no new dates set for the next conference call(s).
11. The Dam Inspection at Harpersfield: Mr. Kohli will be the contact person on behalf of the Board. Inspection will take place on May 4th at 2:30pm.
12. Mr. Berkey reports that the Rock Creek bypass negotiations with the old Rock Creek Aluminum Plant have been discontinued by the new owners.
13. Parks Signage Updates: Mr. Best has asked Conneaut to waive the signage application fees for the Conneaut properties. Directional signage installation requires State approval on any highways. Mr. Carpenter will take over the immediate signage needs on the new parks; Mr. Berkey will continue with the Greenway signage.
14. The Board approved Mr. Berkey's request for addressing the immediate maintenance needs of the Greenway. Motion by Mr. Best, second by Lane. All in favor. (maintenance of Kubota, leaf blower, various repairs).
15. Camp Peet update: The Board approved funds for the Camp Peet 2016 maintenance needs. The Peet Trust requested reimbursement to their account for legal fees incurred in transferring the donated property to the Metroparks in the amount of \$2165. In exchange, the Metroparks will pay for the maintenance work at Camp Peet for the 2016 season from general funds. Estimated maintenance amount to be around \$6000, the excess being a good will gesture in exchange for the donation. Friends of Camp Peet will be doing some of the Volunteer work.
16. PVGT update: Andy Nowakowski will volunteer some maintenance needed in Williamsfield.
17. The new website is currently up in Beta mode to enable the Board to review and edit content. Need pictures for Newsfeed from the upcoming Canoe Race at Harpersfield.

New Business:

1. The Board will attend the CDC Donor meeting to be held on May 26th at the Geneva Lodge. The clerk will send in the RSVP.
2. The Board has received a request from Austinburg Township for collaboration on applying for grants to construct a bike path in Austinburg; connecting to the Greenway. The Board states the need to work together with other entities of this nature in order to not be in competition for the same funds. Will review.
3. Motion made by Ms. Lane to allow Mr. Carpenter to move forward and hire mowing to be done at Lampson Reservoir. Second by Mr. Kohli. All present voted in favor.

4. Motion by Mr. Best; the Board should move forward and allow Infinity Resources to draw up a contract to present to the Board regarding staffing for the Metroparks. .
Second by Ms. Lane. All present and constituting a quorum were in favor by unanimous vote of aye. Ms. Lane will work on adjusting the wording of the ad.
5. After review of all attorney proposals submitted to the Metroparks for legal counsel, the general consensus after discussion; Katherine Riedel, LPA had the best option available. Mr. Best motioned that the Metroparks accept the proposal put forth by Ms. Riedel and hire her to be counsel for the Metroparks. Second by Mr.Kohli. All present constituting a quorum were in favor. Motion passed.
6. Mr. Best moved that the Board authorize the purchase of remaining web domain names from Larry Puraty, not to exceed \$16 per domain name. Ms. Lane seconded. All present constituting a quorum voted in favor. Motion passed.
7. Mr. Carpenter has noted another parcel of land along the river at the Austinburg Lowlands site. He will contact the out of state owner to see if they wish to donate the parcel.
8. Ms. Lane moved that the Metroparks Board enter into a three year lease agreement with the County for the office space at 91 N. Chestnut St. at the terms presented; with a change in wording to reflect negotiation options towards the lease end. The lease will include utilities and internet. Second by Mr. Kohli. All present and constituting a quorum voted in favor. Motion passed.
9. Mr. Best put forth a motion that the Metroparks submit a letter of support for Kevin Grippi and his application to the NRAC council. Second by Mr. Kohli. Motion carried by unanimous vote of quorum of members present.

Upcoming Events:

- April 14th, Advisory Council Meeting: Pizza Oven in Rock Creek 7pm
- April 16th, Clara D. Peet Preserve (Camp Peet) Friends of Camp Peet Cleanup.
- April 23rd Harpersfield Metropark Grand River Kayak & Canoe Race

Adjourn: There being no further business; Mr. Kohli moved the meeting be adjourned at 9:50pm. Mr. Best seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting Adjourned.

Next Board Meeting: May 11th, 2016 @ 6:30pm 91 N Chestnut St Jefferson
Next Work sessions: April 27th 2016, 6:30pm

Minutes to be approved: May 2016

Paul Carpenter, President/Chair (or representative)

Pam Blough, Clerk