

ASHTABULA COUNTY METROPARKS
25 West Jefferson Street, Jefferson, OH 44047

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday June 14th, 2017

The second 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 6:30 pm by Bob Best; Vice President. Board Members attending and completing a quorum were: Bob Best, Vice President; Terry Berkey, Marie Lane, and Charlie Kohli, Members. Larry Frimerman, Executive Director; Operations Manager, Brett Bellas, and Pam Blough, Clerk; were also in attendance. Paul Carpenter, President had an excused absence. Chuck Riley and JP Ducro arrived late as members of the public.

Business at Hand:

1. Agenda was reviewed and approved by Kohli, second by Berkey. All in favor.
2. The May 24th Minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes by Lane, second by Berkey. All approved. Motion passed.
3. May Financials reviewed. Move to accept by Lane, second by Berkey, all in favor.
4. Expense Worksheet: Move to acknowledge by Kohli, second by Berkey. Reviewed and all approved.

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

Gary Hines-People for Parks. Presented People for Parks Event to the Board. Date: September 30th, 2017 from 5-8pm at Harpersfield Covered Bridge Metropark. They will be setting up on the South side at both pavilions. Requests: that they be able to post a sign closing the South side of the Park for the Event. That the ballfield be available for parking. That they be allowed to place campers (by the maintenance building on the Friday night before the event) and stay over-in order to set up and keep watch of the setup. That the Director issue a Special Permit in order to allow BYOB. The Board approved all requests. Mr. Hines will also be in contact with the Friends of Harpersfield Park and welcome their involvement.

Director's Report:

- Greenway Projects:
 - NST Tap Grant application: outcome of submittal, should be in by July.
 - PVGT: Mr. Kohli will contact Tim Martin, County Engineer regarding Trail Report and engineering prospects for the Pymatuning Valley Greenway development project.
 - Herzog Rotary Park: maintenance and repair issues have been resolved by the Rotary Club.
 - Mr. Bellas is preparing an RFP for the WRG slide repair.
 - The mower has been replaced; the breakdown was covered under the warranty.
 - Mr. Bellas will be preparing and releasing an RFP for paving a section of the WRG.
 - Mr. Berkey noted the parking area at the Route 307 Trailhead is in need of repair.
- Permit is still in process with Army Corps of Engineers for culvert placement at Lampson Reservoir Park.
- Ready to order an RFP for the shingle removal at Upper Grand River Metropark. Some buildings still need testing before tear-down. The gates have been repainted and replaced. Mr. Frimerman has allowed the old caretaker to use the house for June and July.
- Conneaut Creek Metropark: need to install steps to the Creek. OEPA and ODNR approval for placement is required. Matthew Smith will meet with Mr. Bellas on June 26th. RFP for paving of ADA trail in process. Mulch has been delivered for the Pollinator Garden.
- St. Moritz has declined to allow the security force to wear body cams. Claims to be a liability issue.
- Eyring property transfer has been delayed due to Planning and Health Department issues with survey. Either a variance or combination survey with Metroparks property will solve the issue. Pending.

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- Trail markers are in production. Mr. Bellas and Mr. Berkey have been working on set up.
- Representative Patterson will be holding a meeting with investors at the Board Office on June 20th. Board members are welcome to attend.
- The July 12th meeting was moved to July 19th. The Board will decide if another meeting will be required.

Old Business:

1. Mr. Kohli and Mr. Frimerman attended the Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition meeting today. Kohli would like to organize the Ashtabula County Trail Summit and invite partnership with Senator Obrien's Office. Mr. Kohli moved for the Metroparks Board to apply for assistance from the National Parks Service which is spreading responsibility to the Corridor Groups. Assistance would include support and organization. A suggested donation to the Industrial Heartland Trail Coalition of \$50 is included in the Cooperative agreement. Will the board accept that additional financial obligation? Second by Lane. All in favor, motion passed.
2. Roaming Shores Parking lot is next on the list for use from Road Tax Levy funding. Before RFP goes out, Mr. Bellas will walk the proposed site.
3. Mr. Frimerman distributed a first draft budget plan for each park; Board will review and discuss at an upcoming meeting.
4. Lamprey Barrier project is still on schedule.
5. JP Ducro mentioned pairing opportunities with the Geneva Lodge regarding programs and visiting parks. Birding movement in spring? Brochures? Weekend packages/programs for tourists? Mr. Ducro will facilitate a meeting.

New Business:

1. Mr. Best and Mr. Frimerman have been working on WRRSP projects and have submitted four for Fee in Lieu consideration. The City of Conneaut officially supports the Metroparks efforts.
2. Park brochures are in process of being created and printed.
3. Grand opening of two parks should be considered. (Conneaut Creek and Hatches). Need to recognize the Morrison Foundation, the McNichol's Foundation as well as others for their donations to the Metroparks in past years.
4. Mr. Bellas and Mr. Frimerman will walk the Redbrook Preserve Friday morning at 8am. Mr. Frimerman proposed that the Metroparks consider purchasing more parcels from Western Reserve Land Conservancy. The parking lot and trails will need repaving, as well as minor repairs and restoration.

Moved by Ms. Lane to go into executive session at 8:55pm to discuss potential land acquisition and personnel. Second by Best. Call of the Roll. All in favor. So moved.

Back into regular meeting at 9:33pm.

Mr. Berkey motioned to nominate Bob Best as representative for the Park Board, and to have him attend the Port Authority meeting on Friday to represent the 431 Mill Road property negotiations. Preference for transfer to WRLC or purchase outright. Second by Mr. Kohli. All in favor, motion passed. Adjourn: There being no further business; Mr. Kohli moved the meeting be adjourned at 9:45pm. Mr. Berkey seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting Adjourned.

Next Board Meeting: June 28th, 2017 (preceded by work session)

JULY 19TH, 2017 @ 6:30pm * 91 N Chestnut St Jefferson

Minutes to be approved: July 2017

Paul Carpenter, President (or representative)

Pam Blough, Clerk

*Note date change for July Meeting