

ASHTABULA COUNTY METROPARKS

25 West Jefferson Street, Jefferson, OH 44047

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday January 12, 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 6:31pm. Board Members in attendance and completing a quorum were: Vice President; Charlie Kohli, Paul Carpenter, Member; Terry Berkey, Member, Marie Lane, Member. Pam Blough, Clerk. Bob Best, President could not be in attendance due to vacation time. The December Regular and Special Minutes and Current Monthly Expense Worksheet were reviewed. December financials were not available. Motion to approve Minutes by Carpenter, second by Berkey. Motion to approve bills/expenses by Berkey, including the Smolen Eng Bill, Mr. Berkey will review the maintenance building electrical usage. Motion seconded by Carpenter. . All motions were passed by majority vote of aye. Lane abstained. Also in attendance: Advisory Council Members and Friends of the Metroparks.

Audience Participation is limited to three minutes each and the Board thanks them for their input. No participation was requested.

Mr. Kohli welcomed Marie Lane as the newest Board Member, she will be replacing the Commission of Mike Sords. Mr. Kohli congratulates Mr. Berkey on his recommission.

Larrie Puraty, Chairman of the 534 Corridor Committee discussed upcoming plans for the 534 Corridor and invited all to a Public Meeting being held at Spire Institute January 19, 2016 from 1-3pm and 5-7pm. A representative from ODOT will be on hand. Mr. Kohli will attend on behalf of the Board; Mr. Puraty will provide the Metroparks with a flyer.

Old Business:

1. Mr. Carpenter moved that the Board resolve to file an application for RTP assistance; resubmitting a grant request for Trail equipment to the RTP Fund in the 2016-2017 round; that Mr. Berkey is hereby authorized and directed to execute, file, and provide all documentation required to ODNR. Second by Mr. Berkey. Call of the Roll: Berkey, aye; Carpenter, aye; Kohli, aye; Lane, abstain. Resolution 2016-001 so passed by majority vote of members present.
2. Mr. Kohli updated the Board on the NST Grant: The City of Ashtabula approved the easements on their land. An extension was granted by the ODNR to December of 2016. Mr. Kohli has signed the extension paperwork which is on its way to Columbus

- for their signature. Goodwill still has to settle on a cost and route of any easement across their property.
3. Mr. Berkey will order the signage for Harpersfield, Lampson, Hatches Corners, and Friends of Conneaut Creek Metroparks. The Parks Foundation of Ashtabula County will cover the costs. The Board will volunteer to install the signage.
 4. Motion by Mr. Carpenter to allow the appraisal for the Austinburg Lowlands Grant to be under the Metroparks name. Second by Mr. Berkey. Ayes-3 Abstain-1. Motion passed by majority.
 5. Motion by Mr. Carpenter to sign the Website Agreement with Mary Ann Hill of Internet Marketing Solutions. Second by Berkey. Ayes-3 Abstain-1. Motion passed by majority vote.
 6. Motion to move forward as planned with the HERCA study at Mill Creek/Lampson Reservoir Metropark made by Mr. Carpenter. Second by Mr. Kohli. Ayes-2 Nays-1 Abstain-1. Motion denied. Upon further discussion, motion again by Carpenter, Second by Kohli, Ayes-3 Abstain-1. Motion carried by majority.
 7. Mr. Kohli passed out a draft of the 32 page agreement with Army Corp of Engineers regarding the Lamprey Barrier Project at Harpersfield. The Board will review. Great Lakes Fishery will operate and maintain, the Metroparks will be the landholder. Ms. Lane will review with an attorney; the Board will discuss further at an upcoming work session. The contract should be approved and signed by March.

New Business:

1. Mr. Berkey motioned that the Board apply to the Ashtabula Foundation for a Grant to build a handicapped accessible Observation Deck at Lampson Reservoir Metropark and that the Board allow Mr. Carpenter to send a Letter of Intent to the Ashtabula Foundation regarding the request for this Human Services Grant. Second by Mr. Carpenter. Ayes-3 Abstain -1 Motion passed.
2. Election of Officers for 2016: Motion by Mr. Berkey to nominate Mr. Carpenter for President with Mr. Best as Vice President. Accepted by Mr. Carpenter. Second by Mr. Kohli. Ayes-4. Motion passed by unanimous vote of members present.
3. Mr. Best has advised the Board that they should support retaining the Ohio Wild and Scenic River Advisory Council structure as is: 14 independent Councils existing in the State of Ohio, with their own local membership; and that the Board reject the new proposal as proposed by Gary Obermiller, Director Ohio Parks & Recreation of one Council Member being appointed from each Region to make one Council. The Ashtabula County Metroparks voted to support keeping the existing structure in order to have local input rather than putting control in the hands of outside appointees who are not familiar with our specific local landscape or attributes in Ashtabula County. Motion by Mr. Berkey that the Metroparks Board states that it does NOT support the change and wishes to retain the Councils as they are, second by Mr. Carpenter. Ayes-3 Abstain-1. Motion carried. A letter to the Sunset Review Committee will be sent to ODNR noting the Metroparks stand.

4. Camp Peet Status: monies have been received from the Trust and deposited into a Special Metroparks Account. Waiting for Chicago Title to complete the title transfer.

Upcoming Events:

- Advisory Council Meeting January 28th 6:30pm JAJH
- Work session January 26, 6:30pm at the Port Authority meeting room.

Adjourn: There being no further business; Mr. Berkey moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:42pm. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting Adjourned.

Next Board Meeting: February 9, 2016

Next Work Sessions: January 26th, 2016 February 23, 2016

Minutes to be approved: February 2016

Paul Carpenter, President/Chair (or representative)

Pam Blough, Clerk