

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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday December 13th, 2017

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 6:32 pm by Paul Carpenter, President. Board Members attending and completing a quorum were: Paul Carpenter, President; and Marie Lane, Terry Berkey, Charlie Kohli; Members. Bob Best, Vice President; was excused, attended electronically. Larry Frimerman, Executive Director; Brett Bellas, Operations Manager; and Pam Blough, Office Manager; were also in attendance. Guests: JP Ducro; County Commissioner.

Business at Hand:

1. Agenda was reviewed; move to approve by Lane, second by Kohli. All in favor.
2. The November 8th and November 20th Minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes by Kohli, second by Berkey. Motion passed by majority vote. One abstention.
3. Expense worksheet for December reviewed. Motion to accept by Berkey. Second by Kohli. All in favor.
4. The November Financials were reviewed. Motion by Kohli to approve. Second by Lane. All approved.

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

JP Ducro-Update on the Board's request for Master Planning Grant Funding: The Planning Commission is meeting tomorrow and will decide on whether to approve a \$10,000 or \$15,000 donation to the Metroparks from the Significant Area Funds.

Moved by Lane at 6:36pm to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Second by Kohli. Call of the Roll: Berkey, aye; Kohli, aye; Lane, aye; Carpenter, aye. Board moved into Executive session by unanimous vote. Back into regular session at 6:43pm.

Director's Report:

- Rock Creek Easement: on hold, company is in the process of bankruptcy.
- Ranger Plans: Review job description. Discussion of arrest powers and citation issuance. Liability insurance costs. One part-time and one seasonal hire.
- North Shore Trail, EDG has drafted a fee schedule and a scope of work. ODOT will review route and engineering design.
- Mr. Frimerman is waiting for funding information before proceeding on a Parks Master Plan.
- Trails meeting this week with Representatives Wentling and Patterson at Conneaut Lake, PA, December 18th at 3pm to discuss the PVGT. Mr. Frimerman and Mr. Kohli will attend.
- RTP and Clean Ohio Trails Grants due February 1st, 2018 for Pymatuning Trail Development and WRG equipment requests.
- Mr. Kohli attended the Legislative Trails Initiative in Columbus last week. Countywide Trail Summit will be scheduled for next spring. Activity to highlight "The Year of the Trail".
- Potential of applying for Capital Improvements Grant to cover half the costs of the Indian Mound property; joint venture with the Lenape Tribe proposed by Mr. Frimerman.
- The Lamprey Barrier project at Harpersfield has been assigned a new project manager by the Army Corps of Engineers.
- FOCC Metropark on Blakeslee Rd: project for a trail to the creek will have to be moved to the future due to several issues for consideration: conservation easements, endangered species and the steepness of the bank. Agreed to use CDC Grant monies to create parking at Hatches Corners Road instead of a creek stairway for this round.

New Business:

1. Mr. Berkey moved to reduce the hours of the St. Moritz security guard beginning next week and terminate the security contract as of January 15, 2018, or as soon as the contract language allows. Second by Lane. All in favor, motion carried.
2. Mr. Berkey moved to approve the Position Description for Park Ranger, as presented by the Executive Director, with modifications added later if needed. Second by Mr. Kohli. All in favor. Motion carried.
3. The Board is satisfied with the language in the lease agreement between Martini's and Western Reserve Land Conservancy.
4. Ms. Lane moved to approve the purchase and sale agreement, and the amendment, for Redbrook Preserve. Second by Mr. Berkey. Three in favor. One abstention. Motion carried by majority.
5. The Board has no issue with snowmobiles at the Upper Grand Metropark this season, usage will be managed by the Grand River Trailriders. GRT will provide snow fencing to block the drive.
6. Motion by Mr. Berkey to move forward with the project to construct and open Battles Road Park as a youth fishing pond, assisted by Morrison Foundation funding if possible. ACMP will keep its commitment to get it open. Mr. Bellas has a list of 4-5 projects including a drive/parking area, signage, small shelter, picnic tables and hiking trail. Second by Mr. Kohli. All in favor. Motion carried.
7. Motion by Berkey to approve temporary appropriations for first quarter 2018 as presented. Second by Lane. Call of the Roll: all approved. Resolution 2017-018 so passed by quorum present.
8. Motion by Berkey that the Metroparks resolve to apply for State of Ohio Capital Improvement Budget funding and engage in a joint venture with the Lenape Tribe to acquire and improve Indian Mound Park. Second by Kohli. Call of the Roll: all approved. Resolution 2017-019 so passed by quorum present.
9. Motion by Berkey to resolve that the Metroparks apply for Clean Ohio Funds, approve provision of 25% match for Harpersfield land acquisition. Second by Kohli. Call of the Roll: all approved. Resolution 2017-020 so passed by quorum present.
10. Motion by Berkey to resolve that the Metroparks apply for Clean Ohio Funds and approve to provide the 25% match for acquisition of property in Conneaut known as Indian Mound. Second by Kohli. Call of the Roll: all approved. Resolution 2017-021 so passed by quorum present.
11. Lane motioned to table the Resolution presented to create a Peace Officer Program for the Parks until a couple of questions are answered. Second by Berkey. All in favor. Resolution 2017-022 so tabled for further review.
12. Motion by Lane to resolve to move forward with the purchase of additional acreage and buildings at Redbrook. Second by Berkey. Call of the Roll: 3 ayes, 1 abstention. Resolution 2017-023 so passed by majority of quorum present.
13. Mr. Kohli moved that the Board apply for RTP and Clean Ohio Trail funds for the Pymatuning Valley Greenway development. Second by Lane. Motion did not carry by majority of votes present. Motion denied.
14. Mr. Kohli motioned to apply for funding from the RTP and Clean Ohio Trail Funds for the design, engineering and construction of the PVGT; and to apply for a second smaller grant from the RTP fund to buy maintenance equipment for the Western Reserve Greenway Trail if allowed. Second by Lane, all in favor. Motion carried.
15. Ms. Lane moved for the Metroparks to purchase a snow plow for the GMC Metropark truck. Mr. Berkey seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
16. Ms. Lane motioned to approve the salary schedule as proposed by the Executive Director for 2018. Mr. Kohli seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Adjourn: There being no further business; Mr. Berkey moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:43pm. Mr. Kohli seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting Adjourned.

Next Board Meetings: January 10, 2018 @ 6:30pm @ 91 N Chestnut St Jefferson
Minutes to be approved: January 2018

Paul Carpenter, President (or representative)

Pam Blough, Clerk