

Ashtabula County Metroparks
BOARD MEETING - February 13, 2019
Meeting to be held at 91 N. Chestnut St Jefferson, Ohio 44047
MINUTES

- **CALL TO ORDER- 6:32 PM**
- **Roll Call of Board Members in Attendance: Best, Kohli, Lane, Carpenter.**
Also in attendance: Frimerman- Executive Director, Brett Bellas Ops Manager, Pamela Bradek, Shalana Satterwhite (new Rangers). Guests- Terry Berkey - former Board Member, Gary Hines - People for Parks and volunteer, Bill Gentile, volunteer.
- **Agenda Review and approval: Motion to approve as written by Kohli, Second by Lane, all in favor**
- **Review and approve:**
 - **January 9, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes, January 23, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes. Motion to approve both regular and special meeting minutes as written- Kohli, 2nd by Lane, all in favor**
 - **February 2019 Expenses/payables – Motion to approve- Kohli, 2nd Carpenter, all in favor.**
 - **January Financials – request by Best to add bldg. asset investment costs, revenues for Red Brook- Motion by Kohli, 2nd by Carpenter; all in favor.**
- **SWEARING IN OF PT RANGERS Bradek and Satterwhite – Mr. Best administered the Oath of Office swearing in both part time Rangers Bradek and Satterwhite.**
 - **Ms. Satterwhite introduced herself stating she was very excited to be a part of Metroparks, noting how much she enjoys being outdoors and riding bicycles, walking. She commented that she brings experience in law enforcement with East Cleveland Schools, Cuyahoga County Sheriff, Highland Heights, and currently also with her driving school and as a teacher. Bradek introduced herself stating how happy she is to be a Ranger in active law enforcement in Ashtabula County, citing past law enforcement experience with the Ashtabula Police Department as well as the Cuyahoga County Sheriff and Prosecutors’ offices. The Board welcomed both new Rangers into the fold.**
- **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3 minute limit each)**
 - **Mr. Berkey came to thank the Board and staff for the commemorative bench in his honor, indicating he would like it to be placed on the new part of the trail next to Real Alloy when that new part is developed. He is very grateful for the call from Larry indicating that Real Alloy had signed the purchase agreement to sell Metroparks the small piece of land needed to provide almost all of the connection between the two separated pieces of the Western Reserve Greenway Trail in Rock Creek (that separation being the reason for the Rock Creek “bypass”), adding that he had been working to try to get this transaction accomplished the entire time he was on the Park Board. Mr. Frimerman and the Board thanked Mr. Berkey for his efforts and dedication to Metroparks. Mr. Berkey added that he recently was appointed to the Ashtabula County Parks Foundation Board and was looking forward to helping Metroparks in that capacity.**
 - **Mr. Hines informed the Board that People For Parks will be holding the 2019 Annual fundraiser at Harpersfield on September 14. Mr. Carpenter mentioned that there is a Western**

Reserve Trap Shoot fundraiser to be held with date TBA at the WRLC reserve in south County. Hamper offered to check on the language and timing for the Board with respect to when the Board needed to act on the proposed levy for a potential prospective November ballot measure.

- **DIRECTOR'S REPORT/OLD BUSINESS (see short summary):**
 - Ranger – New Rangers, activities. Frimerman shared the signed “Employer-furnished Equipment and Gear forms the Rangers signed, indicating they would accept responsibility for returning and/or paying for gear fully paid for by Metroparks. Board members expressed appreciation for clarifying this.
 - Red Brook – Fire – working with insurance companies, contractors and Martinis. Martinis scheduled to reopen on February 19, Frimerman noted that Brett Bellas was doing a tremendous job and doing heavy lifting at the Red Brook site, coordinating with contractors, removing lockers, helping with disposal, working with Martinis. Frimerman mentioned that the roofer’s insurance accepted responsibility for the claim and that our insurance would be working with theirs and with Martinis’ insurance to assure that Metroparks’ exposure would be covered. Frimerman thanked the Board for providing staff the flexibility to respond to the insurance needs and contracting.
 - NST Next Steps – everything is still on track for getting the trail started in 2019; Comments and responses submitted by the contractor EDG; awaiting ODOT finishing the Environmental Review.
 - Pymatuning Valley Greenway Trail - COTF App, TAP LOI submitted, with requests for \$1.625M; *Frimerman asked for an affirmative motion to request \$250,000 in matching grant funds from the CDC for the 2020 Campaign for the Pymatuning Greenway, also noting Metroparks’ matching set aside funds for the project. It is a \$2.125M project, with a need for the additional CDC funds to complete the match needed to leverage the ODOT and ODNR funds. Kohli motioned, Carpenter 2nd; all in favor.*
 - Master Plan Update- Next Steps are to print out a revised map and matrix with planned and existing amenities and parks for prospective public forums and comments for some time in April - June. We are proposing to hold 4-5 public forums (Jefferson, Andover, Geneva, Ashtabula and either Conneaut or Orwell). Lane motioned to authorize expenditure of funds for hiring a facilitator for the forums, Carpenter 2nd; all in favor. Best mentioned Chris Hopkins of CT Consultants did a nice job on Conneaut’s Comp Plan process, and that EDG could also be a provider of this service. The Board authorized Larry to explore costs and follow up.
 - Various grant/real estate updates
 - Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Apps: Presentations 2/13 at NRAC (requests for \$1.1M); Frimerman reported that he presented at the District 7 NRAC meeting earlier this morning today and that things looked good for the \$330k Jones Acquisition and the \$770k Red Brook Restoration and Enhancement Projects requests. The NRAC Board will meet February 27 to score the projects, but assuming all okay, then they will recommend to the OPWC full funding for projects with funds available likely in May or June 2019. Frimerman also presented about the prospective change in the 2018 Indian Mound Project budget to move nearly \$20k from archaeological to demolition of the frequently flooding older brick bungalow and silo

remnants. This was approved by the NRAC (Chair Margie Bort had noted that OPWC had indicated it would be up to the NRAC to approve). Other grant apps updates: LWCF (\$351k app), CMAG (\$149k app), SOGL Request – ECT \$300k. Frimerman noted we would likely not hear from ODNR on LWCF and CMAG for a few months at least, but that he wanted to let the Board know we submitted a Letter of Inquiry for \$300k for the US FW Foundation's Sustain Our Great Lakes grant request for matching restoration funds at Red Brook to absorb any matching restoration costs that otherwise might be ascribed to ACMP for the COCF grant should the Land and Water Conservation Funds not come through.

- US FWS Private Lands Partnership- (ACMP match only equip use, labor). Frimerman also mentioned that he followed up on Best's conversation with US FWS Private Lands Coordinator for Ohio Lori Stevenson and they have agreed to partner with ACMP on restoration and habitat planning for Red Brook, Hatches Corners and Friends of Conneaut Creek.
- Update on grants awarded - WRRSP (closings within month?), Natureworks, etc. Frimerman noted that the oil and gas leaseholders had all agreed with the terms and conditions (including \$500/ea for the release of pipeline ROWs on Ring), but that the WRRSP funding sponsor MSD of Cincinnati was at loggerheads with Ohio EPA or OWDA and that we needed to find a backup sponsor. We may have one in Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District but are looking for the Sponsor whom can deliver funds to ACMP the soonest to not have this delay our closings too much. We have two landowners (Conneaut Gateway and Kaval) whom are anxious to close. Of these, Gateway is most anxious and is the smaller amount of the two. ACMP has the reserves to be able to close on Gateway (\$166k) with our own funds for reimbursement by WRRSP, but that Kaval (\$420k) would be too much for our cash flow to absorb.
- RealAlloy purchase agreement signed. This would be effective once approved by the Rock Creek Planning Commission. Frimerman is working with attorney Hamper and Rock Creek to make this happen. Carpenter will contact the other landowner regarding the .15 acre piece remaining to connect up the trail; Frimerman will coordinate with the Engineer's Justin Cline about a mutual time and/or of the setting of stakes for Huffman to visualize.
- Update on Different Parks/Trails. – After Frimerman's update, Lane mentioned that she was contacted by someone from Harpersfield re the 534 Corridor Trail from Spire, stating that the Trustees were hoping that ACMP would be willing to assume control of the trail after completion. The Board discussed, noting that such an action would put an unfunded burden on the Park District, but we would discuss with the Trustees to hear what they had in mind.
- In addition, Lane mentioned her conversation with a William Strack regarding his desire to donate 10 lots on Palmetto Drive in Geneva on the Lake that may be on Indian Creek, to Metroparks. Board asked Frimerman to contact Mr. Strack to follow up. (done).
- Progress on 2019 Workplan - Projects are moving along. Work with GGJ on the Natureworks Engineering as well as approvals on contracts for Roaming Shores Parking Lot. See Proposed contracts and awardees below:
- Harpersfield Sea Lamprey Project – Frimerman noted that the contractors are assuming full financial responsibility for any issues that arise out of the temporary dam failure, but that the contractors were requesting that they get another temporary dam in place soon and then cease work until July after the rains subside and the fish spawning ceases. This will impact the use of the north side of the park, particularly near the bridge, and of the parking area across from the gift shop. We will keep the Board apprised of any changes.

- Office estimates- Frimerman mentioned the new cost estimates received – this one from Chestnut Homes, for \$126k without the addition, and \$148k with the addition, but that this included replacing the roof and walls/windows, which were likely not needed (likely the costs would be in the \$116-138k range). Board members discussed the fact that we had applied for matching funds through LWCF grant and potentially other sources to offset our costs, and that it may well make it feasible to then do the office at Red Brook (or at least pay for much of the renovation for a nature space), but that the incremental cost of office space there would be small in comparison. No motions or decisions were made.
- **NEW BUSINESS**
 - Approvals of Expenditures, Projects and Contracts: Frimerman reviewed the list of attached staff recommendations for contracts/contractors and amounts presented.
 - Harpersfield: Backstop, volleyball, etc. – Summit for \$9122.84, motion Carpenter, 2nd Kohli all in favor
 - Harpersfield Naturescape Playground- Bearsplay for \$33,417.93; motion Kohli, 2nd Lane, all in favor
 - Various Parks- Picnic tables, bench- Engineered Plastics for \$9,707.50 (bench pd for by donation), motion Kohli, 2nd Carpenter, all in favor
 - Red Brook Tree Trimming- not to exceed \$1200, whichever is least expensive, motion Carpenter, 2nd Kohli, all in favor. Carpenter noted we could have a blanket approval for tree trimming at all the parks to avoid any delays within a certain budget allotment on a lowest cost basis. Carpenter motioned, Kohli 2nd, motion approved.
 - Red Brook Tree Removal- not to exceed \$2400, motion Carpenter, 2nd Kohli, approved.
 - Red Brook Electrical for Maintenance Bldg- TNR- lowest and best \$6500, motion Lane, 2nd Kohli, motion carried.
 - Indian Mound Demolition of house & silo, Hugh Ingram, \$16,400, Motion Carpenter, motion carried.
 - Indian Mound- Archaeological Survey- Mannik & Smith, \$18,700, motion Carpenter, 2nd Lane, motion carried.
 - New Ranger Equipment- Atwells, \$3600, motion Kohli, 2nd Lane, motion approved.
 - Various Parks- Property/Liability Insurance- Love or lower cost, not to exceed \$20,766, motion by Kohli, 2nd Lane. Motion Approved, with a requirement of a walkthrough of each of our parks to review liability and possible hazards.
 - Bylaws Change Adoption (from 1/9/19 Board meeting). Tabled to assure proper notice since Blough was not there to clarify- Motion by Lane, 2nd by Kohli, motion carried.
 - Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Motion by Kohli, 2nd by Lane. Roll Call. Best, Carpenter, Kohli, Lane all yes. Executive Session at 8:20pm.
 - Return from Executive Session at 9:05pm.
 - Motion for approvals of levels. Clarify please?? Motion by Carpenter, 2nd by Lane, all in favor.
 - Work Session to be held March 13, 5:30-6:30pm prior to regular Board meeting.
- **ADJOURN – Motion to adjourn by Kohli, 2nd by Carpenter, all in favor at 9:15pm.**

Robert Best, President