

ASHTABULA COUNTY METROPARKS
91 N Chestnut St, Jefferson, OH 44047

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 14th, 2019

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 6:30 pm by Robert Best, President. Board Members attending and completing a quorum were: Robert Best, President; Marie Lane, Vice President; Holly Mayernick; Charles Kohli and Paul Carpenter; Members. Staff in attendance: Larry Frimerman, Executive Director; Pam Blough, Board Clerk; and Brett Bellas, Operations Manager. Guests: Gary Hines, Terry Berkey, People for Parks; JP Ducro IV, County Commissioner; Kathy Eisenberg, & reps from Ohio Horseman's Council; David Thomas, County Auditor and Metroparks Fiscal Officer.

Business at Hand:

1. Agenda was reviewed; moved to approve by Kohli, second by Lane. All in favor. Motion carried.
2. The July 10th, 2019 regular meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes by Mayernick, second by Lane. All in favor, motion carried.
3. Expense worksheet for August reviewed. Motion to approve by Kohli, second by Lane. All in favor. Motion carried.
4. The July Financials were reviewed. Motion by Kohli to acknowledge. Second by Mayernick. All in favor. Motion carried.

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

Volunteers: Ohio Horsemen's Council Ashtabula: Hatches Corners Picnic on August 25th, 2019 @ 4pm includes a group ride. OHC would like to make a cash donation toward the bridge installation project. Since Civic Development covered the cost, would they like to donate to another project? They will look into acquiring a r/w from the church property next door. New loop trail through the woods still needs markers. Could the PVGT have a path alongside the paved portion to accommodate horseback riders? Not paved and not stone or gravel. Larry will check.

Volunteer People for Parks Chair Gary Hines gave a Pac update. Tickets for Megabucks in the Park, September 14th available. Still looking for sponsors. The next "Get to Know your Parks" Open House will be held August 25th from 11am to 2pm at Harpersfield Metropark. Terry Berkey noted he was working on a power point presentation for the Board. A work session will need to be set up to discuss.

JP Ducro IV spoke on behalf of Steve Wychock, Volunteer at Red Brook Metropark: would like to start a Friends of Red Brook Metropark volunteer group. Would be happy to meet with the other volunteers to start a group and go over some of the repairs and lawn maintenance items that need addressing; above and beyond the normal daily maintenance of the Metroparks. The Board did advise of a Restoration Grant for Red Brook that has been recently awarded and the Metroparks will be starting that project in the next couple of weeks. Would the Metroparks be interested in a year round ice rink at the RBMP? JP also stated he would volunteer to be a guest server at the Megabucks event.

The Board acknowledged and thanked all the volunteer groups for their time and effort with the parks.

Director's Report:

- Ranger Update-salary increase and promotion pending. Mr. Best suggested grants from Homeland Security to assist in Ranger salaries should be researched.
- PVGT Update –Tap Grant should be approved soon. RFQ should go out in November
- NST-Update-Meeting with EDG, Metroparks, City of Ashtabula and ODOT was held on Monday to go over approval of design. Except for calling for the exclusion of bollards on West Ave by the City, approval was met.
- RE Updates:

WRRSP: Awaiting three Environmental Covenants to be signed by the OEPA Director and forwarded to the **OWDA** for final approval and release of funds.

New WRRSP: Kaval Restoration may have to wait for next round, pending nomination by Cleveland Museum of Natural History and their readiness to move on their own property nominations.

Review of 2019 Work plan: Will the sledding hill be ready by this winter? Yes. Will there be lighting for the sledding hill? Staff will review what is currently installed and what may be needed. Will kayak program still be held in September? Probably, but Upper Grand Metropark may not be available; suggestions for the program to be held at Lampson Reservoir since we have a pier and access to shallow water. Will Roaming Shores/Greenway parking lot be completed by this fall? It is on track to be completed, we are just awaiting approval from ODOT on the bidding packet, and then the project can go out for bid.

Marketing and outreach; Partnering with City of Conneaut on possible Federal Grant monies to assist in keeping shoreline erosion at bay at Turkey Creek Metropark. Larry gave a draft handout of the “talking points” for the Board of what the Metroparks has accomplished since the levy passed; he will accept input and suggestions before finalizing. Larry and the Board plan on reaching out to civic and government groups this fall to inform them of the many parks now open in the county.

Old Business:

- 1.

New Business:

1. Transfer \$40 K from WRLC to CS for Upper Grand Driveway. Move Kohli 2nd _Mayernick._
2. The Board approved the project for the Upper Grand Driveway Improvement. Staff to go out and get quotes. The Board approved moving appropriations from 800.003 Other Expense WRLC fees to 601 Contract services to cover all or part of the expenditure for the project. WRLC fees will be encumbered upon receipt of WRRSP reimbursement monies. So motioned to adopt by Kohli, second by Mayernick. All in favor. Motion carried.

Board Minutes
August 14, 2019

3. New Trail Proposal for Upper Grand: Snowmobile Trail: No vote needed. All members in agreement. WRLC is fine with the proposed snowmobile trail at Upper Grand MP since it follows existing driveways and pipeline R/W.
Comments:
4. Moved by Mayernick to go into executive session at 8:01pm to discuss personnel and salary. Second by Carpenter. Call of the roll: Best: aye; Lane, aye; Mayernick, aye. Kohli, Aye; Carpenter, Aye. All in favor by call of the roll.
5. Back into regular session at _____ so moved by _____, second by _____. All in favor.
6. _____ made a motion to approve _____. _____ seconded. All in favor. Approved.

Adjourn: There being no further business; _____ moved the meeting be adjourned at _____. _____ seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting Adjourned.

Next Board Meetings:

6:30pm
September 11th 2019
October 9th 2019

Next Work Sessions:

Minutes to be approved: September 2019

Robert Best, Board President (or representative)

Pam Blough, Clerk