

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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday February 8, 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 6:30 pm by Bob Best, Vice President. Paul Carpenter, President was on vacation and absent. Board Members attending and completing a quorum were: Bob Best, Vice President; Terry Berkey, Member, Charlie Kohli, Member, and Marie Lane, Member. Larry Frimerman, Executive Director; Pam Blough, Clerk; Roger Corlett, County Auditor and MP Fiscal Officer; and Katherine Reidel, MP Legal Counsel, were also in attendance.

Business at Hand:

1. The January Minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes by Berkey, Second by Lane. All approved. Motion passed
2. Director reviewed expense worksheet with the Board. Motion by Kohli to approve bills/expenses, second by Berkey. All approved. Motion passed
3. December year end 2016 cash flow financials were reviewed. Motion to pass Resolution 2017-006 to accept financials by Kohli; second by Lane. Call of the Roll: Lane, aye; Berkey; aye; Kohli, aye; Best, aye. So passed by unanimous vote of members present constituting a quorum.

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

Jacob Sabo, Boy Scout Troop 34: Jacob made an Eagle Project presentation to the Board. He handed out his proposal and plans to construct a three sided Adirondack Bunkhouse and restore the historical fireplace/chimney if possible. The Board granted permission for Jacob to pursue the project pending EPA approval, as well as obtaining any other permits as necessary. The restoration of the chimney may need additional financial assistance from the Metroparks. The Board will decide on the restoration based on cost estimates and assessment from a mason.

Bill Zawiski, Ohio EPA: Update on Mill Creek dam removal project. The Metroparks can submit the application for WRRSP funding in a two year process. One year of planning and another for the execution. On site Public forums are suggested. Work on scheduling public engagement. OEPA could do programs for outreach/information if the park wishes. "Get to Know Mill Creek" day in July or August as an example. Public outreach in 2017 and work on the Application with OEPA and TNC. In 2018 submit the grant application. Historical review would be necessary.

JP Ducro, County Commissioner: Will work with the county to try to work out a plan for the Metroparks to utilize the Sheriff's Department. The County is currently working on county-wide budget review/issues.

Move to go into Executive Session at 7:22pm by Ms. Lane to discuss land acquisition. Second by Berkey. Call of the Roll: Berkey, aye; Best, aye; Kohli, aye; Lane, aye.

Back into regular meeting at 7:50pm.

Director's Report:

- Mr. Frimerman checked into private security firms for the Metroparks use. He suggests hiring St. Moritz who would provide a vehicle and patrol person for 20-40 hours a week on a monthly basis. The Board decided to update the park rules and regulations before hiring someone to enforce park rules. Ms. Lane will work on the legal wording of the updates. The Board will revisit the issue next meeting.

- Mr. Frimerman handed out a list of proposed 2017 Park Development Priority Plans for the Board to review and comment on at the next meeting/work session.
- The Board needs to add Stop Ahead signs to the sign project. Belding will make signs at an estimate of \$25 per. Mr. Berkey will check with Osburn Associates for another estimate. Speed limit signs will need to be posted as well. The Board is thinking 45 mph should be enough. They will check other snow trails for their policies.
- WRRSP Update: Pryately purchase agreement is in process.
- Car and truck bids went out to the local car dealers.
- The ad for the Operations Manager position will be posting soon through OPRA and NACPRO.
- Friends of Camp Peet Group Usage and Leave No Trace policies were updated.
- Herzog Rotary will take care of the railing damage as well as other maintenance needs for the time being.
- OPRA Communications Grant received in the amount of \$1500 for brochures.
- Conneaut Foundation Grant submitted for interpretive trail at Blakeslee in the amount of \$11,500.

New Business:

1. Motion by Ms. Lane to give the approval to Scout Jacob Sabo to start working on the proposed Adirondack Project at Camp Peet, pending EPA approvals and all necessary permits. Chimney restoration will depend on cost estimates. Second by Berkey. All in favor. Motion carried.
2. Mr. Kohli motioned to purchase four security gates from Capp steel at a cost of \$900 each for Upper Grand River MP. Second by Ms. Lane. All in favor. Director will order.
3. Discussion regarding the continuation agreement with the current caretaker at Upper Grand River Metropark. Board agrees the Director's proposal of paying out \$400.00 a month in mileage plus repair costs until June 1st is reasonable. Mr. Frimerman will handle and have Jose sign a volunteer indemnity waiver.
4. OPRA Conference will be held February 13th -15th in Sandusky. If any Board Members would like to attend- please advise the Director.

Old Business:

1. Ms. Lane moved to allow the Boy Scouts of America exclusive use of Camp Peet, and to close the park to the public once a year in order to honor the wishes of Clara D. Peet and the Trust agreement. The park will be closed June 19th through the 24th, in 2017. Second by Berkey. All in favor. Motion passed.
2. Mr. Kohli will attend the Great Ohio Lake to River meeting in Canfield on Thursday. He also proposes an overnight bike ride meet and greet exchange with Trumbull County Metroparks/ Greenway.

Adjourn: There being no further business; Mr. Berkey moved the meeting be adjourned at 9:16pm. Ms. Lane seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting Adjourned.

Upcoming Events:

Friends of Harpersfield Park "Pasta for Playgrounds" fundraiser dinner is Sunday February 11.
Friends of Conneaut Creek park cleanup May 6th

Next Board Meeting:

February 22, 2017 @ 6:30pm 91 N Chestnut St Jefferson
Minutes to be approved: March 2017