

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

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday September 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 6:31 pm by Paul Carpenter; President. Board Members attending and completing a quorum were: Paul Carpenter, President; Bob Best, Vice President (arrived late); and Marie Lane, Terry Berkey, Charlie Kohli; Members. Larry Frimerman, Executive Director; Brett Bellas, Operations Manager; and Pam Blough, Office Manager; were also in attendance. Guest: Brett Rodstrom, Western Reserve Land Conservancy.

**Business at Hand:**

1. Agenda was reviewed; move to approve by Kohli, second by Lane. All in favor.
2. The August 23<sup>rd</sup> Minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes by Kohli, second by Best. Carpenter, aye; Lane, abstain; Berkey, abstain. Motion passed by majority of quorum present.
3. The August Financials were reviewed. Motion by Kohli to approve. Second by Lane. All approved.
4. Expense worksheet for September reviewed. Motion to accept by Kohli, Second by Lane. All in favor.

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

**Move by Kohli at 6:35pm to go into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition. Second by Lane. Call of the Roll: Berkey, aye; Best, aye; Kohli, aye; Lane, aye; Carpenter, aye. Board moved into Executive session by unanimous vote. Back into regular meeting at 7:35pm.**

**Director's Report:**

- **Budget:** Budget submitted. \$1,160,026.85 certified General Fund 8/30/17
- **Security:** Worked with St. Moritz to replace security officer with Terry Laxton, with new hours, use of golf cart, etc. Have backup plans underway.
- **Parks/Trails Activities:**
  - **Camp Peet:** Awaiting Survey data from Slay. EPA requiring aerial with survey metes and bounds, location of draft pavilion and toilet before giving okay to go forward with pavilion and vault toilet. As soon as we receive it, we can turn around from EPA in 1-2 days.
  - **Friends of Conneaut Creek:** Still drafting plans for trail and parking lot consistent and ADA accessible with Brett.
  - **Red Brook:** Grant looking very good. No additional news. Many meetings, discussions of options.
  - **Upper Grand:** We had approved testing for haz mat for 5 additional remaining buildings to potentially demolish. Buildings nearly emptied, electric being cut to 8 bldgs prior to demolition by the Austinburg FD.
  - **Turkey Creek:** Awaiting Conneaut Council code revision for hunting. Most recent draft favorable. Site visit Scheduled for 9/27 w/ WRLC. Participated w Bob on Conneaut Greenspace Committee.

- **Hatches Corners:** Trail is about complete and the loop does connect. Awaiting CDC ok for trail boardwalk purchase from Riley. Kiosk in place.
  - **Lampson Reservoir:** Awaiting Contractor for crossing similar to a bridge at Lampson. At the eastern half, the wetlands enhanced now. New boardwalk opportunity. Benches, port-a-let, kiosk in place.
  - **Harpersfield:** Harpersfield Dam project continuing; addressed trashcans and other issues. Follow up with adjacent landowner for continuing discussion.
  - **Eyring:** Kiosk installed. Sign ordered. Contractor scheduled to begin installation this week for parking lot! Check dates for Grand opening.
  - **Greenway:** Sealing done- much activity scheduled. This includes Legislative Trails Caucus hike 10/5-7. Who wants to participate? – Trails Coalition meetings held, conference calls.
  - **Pymatuning:** Estimate in place to pursue; preparing to draft RTP application, work with Patterson for funds.
  - **North Shore Trail:** ODOT coming 9/15/2017, 10am. Briefing prep 9/14, 9:30am. Left msgs for Timonere.
  - **Indian Mound “Park”:** Awaiting ACPA signatures of redraft. Great meeting with Lenape Tribe representatives re possible partnership on this property.
- **In Lieu Fee, WRRSP and Prospective Conneaut Creek Emerald Necklace: Field visit with TNC 9/13. Site good but needs restoration. Could have impact. WRRSP follow-up made, additional O&G letter needed.**

#### Upcoming Dates:

- Sept 15 ODOT Site Visit 10am.
- Sept 17 Scenic Rivers picnic & Planning for 50th Anniversary
- September 19, Planning Commission presentation; Co. Comm; Governor’s office tour...., Best of County meeting.
- Sept 21 WRLC dinner and reception – RSVP
- Sept 22 ODNR state and federal grant workshop
- Sept 27 site visit Turkey Creek
- Sept 30 Megabucks For Parks
- Oct 5-7 Legislative Trails Caucus Hike on the Greenway
- Oct 14-15 Covered Bridge Festival- 10/14 ACMP presentation at Harpersfield
- Oct 21- TNC Conservation Nature Center Open House

**Old Business:**

1. ODOT Site visit for the North Shore Trail Project is scheduled for Friday September 15<sup>th</sup> @ 10am.
2. Mr. Kohli contacted Andrea Ireland; the IHTC caucus grant is in good standing.
3. Mr. Frimerman reported no progress on obtaining the Cragon property in the Harbor. (for parking).
4. Mr. Bellas is working on obtaining a new lease for the Roaming Shores parking lot. This parking area will abut the Greenway. With a new lease; the Metroparks can install a parking lot using grant funding.

**New Business:**

1. The Lenape Tribe may be interested in partnering with the Metroparks on land development.
2. Mr. Patterson will be setting up a meeting with legislators to help fund the development of the Pymatuning Valley Greenway Trail.
3. Ohio Legislative Trails Caucus Fall 2017 Three Day Hike on the Greenway will be held October, 5<sup>th</sup> through the 7<sup>th</sup>. The Board members will RSVP if they wish to participate.
4. Mr. Carpenter asked for a show of hands for approval to spend \$750 for an appraisal for the Balin property. Two votes yes. Three nay. Motion did not carry; a majority vote did not occur.
5. Grand Opening for the Eyring Wetlands Preserve was discussed. Mr. Frimerman will contact Mr. Eyring to see when he will be available.
6. The Board needs to set up a date to honor the Morrison Foundation with a plaque installation at the Greenway Maintenance Building. Mr. Frimerman will contact Louise Raffa for available dates.
7. Board approves the gazebo and boardwalk estimates to be submitted to CDC for the Conneaut Creek parks under the Placemaking Grant.
8. Mr. Frimerman recently attended NRPA Directors School in W. Virginia.

Adjourn: There being no further business; Mr. Kohli moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:33pm. Ms. Lane seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting Adjourned.

**Next Board Meetings:** October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 6:30pm @ 91 N Chestnut St Jefferson  
November 8th, 2017

Minutes to be approved: October 2017

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Paul Carpenter, President (or representative)

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Pam Blough, Clerk