

Ashtabula County Metroparks Board Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2022 - 4:30 p.m.
Lampson Staging Area Metropark
2540 Lampson Road
Austinburg, Ohio 44010

Call to Order- 4:35 PM

Board members in attendance: Marie Lane, President; Paul Carpenter and Holly Mayernick

Staff in attendance: Antoinette Swegheimer; Brett Bellas; Eric Dietrich and Laura Beattie

Guests in attendance: Mary Jane Wheeler, Bike Patrol; Mary Neary, Bike Patrol; Heather and George Pizon, residents; Joel Specht, Music on the River; Brian Haytcher, Star Beacon and JP Ducro, Ashtabula County Commissioner

Mayernick moved to approve the agenda; Carpenter seconded. All in favor, "aye".

Carpenter moved to accept the June 15, 2022 Regular Board Meeting Minutes; Mayernick seconded. All in favor, "aye".

Beattie stated due to the increase in fuel prices, services and audit the amount of \$24,700 will be decreased from line-item Other Contractual Services 1000-710-399-0000 and the line-items below will be increased:

- \$4,000 Operating Supplies and Materials (Fuel) 1000-320-420-1012
- \$1,000 Operating Supplies and Materials (Fuel) 1000-110-420-1012
- \$15,000 Land and Improvements (Lawn Care) 1000-320-395-1007
- \$4,700 Auditing Services 1000-710-342-000

Note These line-items are within the general operations fund 1000.

Mayernick moved to accept the June 2022 financial reports including the Appropriation Status, Fund Summary and Payment Listing; Carpenter seconded. Roll call, "aye".

Audience Participation:

Wheeler requested the following items regarding the Austinburg Trailhead and Greenway Trail:

- Add Signage with the verbiage "Please take your waste bags to be disposed of with you" and to be placed at each bag dispenser. Pizon suggested a sign that states "clean bags only".
- Remove the pet bag dispensers if we do not provide a place for the patrons to dispose them. Pizon suggested a sign that states "clean bags only".
- Act on the flooding issue and take care of the 5-6 parking spaces that are affected.
- Add another day to the port-a-john cleaning service.
- Increase the Park Ranger presence. Dietrich provides assurance to the bike patrollers and the patrons of the trails.

Specht shared information on the upcoming Music on the River Festival, August 6-8, 2022. He submitted his application to the office for the special event and wanted to give some additional information on the festival. This is an all-donation music festival and musicians attend from all over. The committee has selected the Harpersfield Covered Bridge Metropark even though the bridge is under construction. This is an excellent place to play. They have not had their event in 2 years due to Covid-19. Lane asked how long this event has been taking place. Specht stated he believes it began in 2007.

Ducro thanked the Bike Patrol and volunteers for all their wonderful work and keeping the trails nice. He also wanted to recognize the Metroparks request and explain the results of the American Rescue Plan Act Funds. Ducro stated they received requests for 14.5 million dollars and only had 5 million dollars in funds. They were sorry that they were not able to approve the Metroparks requests. Although they could not grant our request, the Commissioners wanted to state they support the Metroparks and believe the Metroparks are a wonderful asset. He commented that he will share any information that he has on grant opportunities in the future. He would like to see everyone work together as a community and possibly partnering with others for grants in the future.

Ducro stated that he was asked to present concerns about the prohibited all-terrain vehicles on the Pymatuning Valley Trail. On behalf of others, he asked the following:

- Would the board allow all-terrain vehicles on the trail until the construction begins? This is prior to the grant funds being used.
- Would there be enough room on the side of the trails to add a trail that they could use.

Ducro asked the board if the Metroparks would speak at township trustee association meetings and share the vision of the Ashtabula County Metroparks. This may help the public understand why there are restrictions. It was suggested that we could share some of the agreements with the state that specifically speak on the all-terrain vehicle restrictions.

Ducro shared that he does understand that the restrictions are due to safety and funding.

Presidents Report:

The Upper Grand River Metropark ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at 4:30 PM and the Regular Board Meeting at 5:00 PM.

Staff Report:

Swegheimer shared the following:

- The YO! Opportunities participants have begun this month.
- Dietrich will be attending his annual certification.
- The Ashtabula District Library bookmobile will be at Red Brook Metropark, July 25 and Upper Grand River Metropark in August.
- We will schedule a "Behind the Scenes" at Friends of Conneaut Creek and will notify the board when the date has been determined.
- Community Counseling asked us to assist them with their challenge for "Rise up July".
- The Ashtabula County Fair will be 8/9-8/14/22. She passed the sign-up sheet to the board in case they would like to participate at the Metroparks booth.
- The Red Brook Metropark pool house has been removed.

Action Required:

Mayernick moved to approve Resolution No. 2022-6 authorizing the application to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources through the State of Ohio NatureWorks grant program for what is known as the Ring property Public Access Implementation project; Carpenter seconded. Roll call, "aye".

Carpenter moved to approve Resolution No. 2022-7 authorizing the application to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources through the Recreational Trails Program for financial assistance to create a Storybook Trail at Malek Metropark also known as Malek Park and Indian Mound Metropark; Mayernick seconded. Roll call, "aye".

Carpenter moved to approve Resolution No. 2022-8 authorizing an agreement with the Lock Joint Tube Ohio, LLC to exchange park property in Ashtabula County; Mayernick seconded. Roll call, "aye".

Mayernick moved to adjourn the meeting and enter executive session at 5:09 pm for the purpose of discussing property and personnel; Carpenter seconded. Lane invited Bellas and Swegheimer to join executive session. Roll call, "aye".

Mayernick motioned to adjourn executive session and return to regular session at 5:32 pm; Carpenter seconded.

Carpenter motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:33 pm; Mayernick seconded.

Upcoming:

- Upper Grand River Metropark Ribbon Cutting Celebration
August 10, 2022 @ 4:30 pm
- Next Board Meeting
August 10, 2022 @ 5:00 pm
Upper Grand River Metropark
3199 Cork Cold Springs Road
Austinburg, Ohio 44010



Marie Lane, ACMP Board President



Laura Beattie, Fiscal Officer/Clerk of the Board