

Ashtabula County Metroparks

Board Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2023 - 4:30 p.m.
Ashtabula County Engineer's Office
2nd Floor Conference Room
186 East Satin Street
Jefferson, Ohio 44047

Call to Order - 4:30 PM

Board members in attendance:

Marie Lane, President
Joseph Tredent, Vice President
Holly Mayernick, Board Member
Paul Carpenter, Board Member
Charlie Kohli, Board Member

Staff in attendance:

Antoinette Swegheimer, Office Administrator
Brett Bellas, Operations Manger
Laura Beattie, Fiscal Officer
Eric Dietrich, Park Ranger

Guests in attendance:

Jim Timonere, City of Ashtabula Manager
Mary Neary, Bike Patrol
J.P. Ducro, Ashtabula County Commissioner

Kohli moved to approve the agenda; Carpenter seconded. Roll call, "aye".

Beattie shared with the board that we received two grant reimbursements in March. \$45,501 from the Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program/Environmental Protection Agency for the Conneaut Creek Conservation Project and \$88,200 from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for the Rock Creek Connector. The total amount of \$133,701 has been receipted in Fund 2905.

Carpenter moved to accept the March 2023 financial reports as presented, including the Appropriation Status, Fund Summary and Payment Listing; Tredent seconded. Roll call, "aye".

Mayernick moved to accept the March 8, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes; Carpenter seconded. Lane and Kohli abstained. Roll call, "aye".

Presidents Report:

Lane addressed the board, courtesy reminded them of the upcoming Work Session, April 26, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. at the Ashtabula County Metroparks office and briefly reviewed the survey that Bellas provided the board. The board is to complete the survey with the scoring as 10 being the best. Please return to Bellas to tally the results for the Work Session.

Lane led a discussion regarding the June 2023 Board Meeting. The June 14, 2023 meeting date has been changed to June 7th, 2023 and to be held at Red Brook Metropark. We will hold the ribbon cutting ceremony at 4:00 pm and the board meeting will begin at 4:30 p.m.

Staff Report:

Swegheimer reminded everyone that the Annual Canoe and Kayak Race on April 22, will be held at Harpersfield Covered Bridge and hosted by Lake County Metroparks. April 22nd is also Earth Day. There is so much happening in the county that we have decided not to host an activity.

Swegheimer shared, the Metroparks have received an additional million dollars from Ohio Department of Transportation to assist with the Pymatuning Valley Trail. These funds were from the Transportation Bill.

The Pymatuning Valley Trail Bid will be advertised April 12th and April 19th. The Pre-Bid meeting will be held on April 20th and the bids are due May 3rd .

Kohli inquired as to the status of the Pymatuning Valley Trail and Andover Village. He asked if a committee had been established yet. Swegheimer responded, there have been discussions with Andover Village, and she has spoken to Rich Mead, Andover Village Administrator several times. A brief discussion was held. Swegheimer and Kohli will both be included in future discussions with Andover Village.

Bellas and Swegheimer have been discussing another "Behind the Scenes" walk that will begin at Gibbs Road and include the Blue Heron Rookery. This will give the public an idea of what this area is like.

Kohli asked for an update on the Rock Creek Connector. Bellas responded that he sent an email to the contractor and is waiting for a response. He will follow up with them the week of April 17th.

New Business:

Jim Timonere, Ashtabula City Manager distributed West Avenue Restriping Layout maps to the board members. He reviewed the modifications regarding a small portion of the trail on West Avenue. These modifications include new pavement, restriping, and signage. The project cost will be approximately \$100,000 and the project has gone out to bid. A brief discussion was held regarding the modification details and Ohio Department of Transportation communications between ODOT and Timonere. He stated, the Ohio Department of Transportation assured him the modifications will not impact the Ashtabula County Metroparks awarded grant funding for this trail. Lane requested Timonere draft an updated Memorandum of Understanding regarding the proposed modifications, etc.

Action Required:

Kohli moved to approve Resolution No. 2023-3 authorizing the request of funds from the Ohio Department of Transportation and designation of projects for Ohio Parks Districts Roadwork Fund FY 2024-2025 through the Ohio Parks & Recreation Association; Tredent seconded. Roll call. All in favor, "aye".

Kohli moved to accept the Ohio Department of Transportation and Local Public Agency (LPA) Federal Local-Let Project Agreement Amendment to receive funding up to a maximum of \$3,500,000 for the Pymatuning Valley Trail combined phases 1.1 & 1.2, signed by Brett Bellas, Ashtabula County Metroparks Operations Manager and Local Public Agency (LPA) Representative, as presented; Carpenter seconded. Roll call. All in favor, "aye".

JP Ducro, Ashtabula County Commissioner shared with the board a concern and request on behalf of a group of residents. He shared concerns for the lack of access to the Pymatuning Valley Trail and lack of areas in Ashtabula County for All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs). Ducro stated he understands the grant funding restrictions. Swegheimer shared additional information regarding the deed limitations as well. The request is to work with Metroparks and find a place that ATVs are allowed to be on. A brief discussion was held. Ducro shared that he is sympathetic for the All-Terrain Vehicle recreational activities and believes if allowed, it could increase tourism to the county. He offered to be available if the board would like to discuss this further.

Kohli moved to enter executive session to discuss property, legal and personnel at 4:54 p.m. Tredent seconded. Lane invited Swegheimer to attend the executive session. Amended motion to invite Bellas to attend executive session as well. Roll call, "aye".

Mayernick moved to end the executive session and return to regular session at 5:36 p.m.; Carpenter seconded.

Mayernick moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:36 p.m.; Carpenter seconded.

Upcoming:

Work Session

Wednesday, April 26, 2023 – 4:30 p.m.
Ashtabula County Metroparks Office
91 North Chestnut Street
Jefferson, Ohio 44047

Next Board Meeting

May 10, 2023 - 4:30 p.m.
Ashtabula County Engineer's Office
2nd Floor Conference Room
186 East Satin Street
Jefferson, Ohio 44047



Marie Lane, ACMP Board President



Laura Beattie, Fiscal Officer/Clerk of the Board