

ASHTABULA COUNTY METROPARKS
91 N. Chestnut St. Jefferson, Ohio 44047

June 10, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Ashtabula County Metroparks Board of Commissioners was held via video conferencing and called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Holly Mayernick, President. Board members attending and completing a quorum were Marie Lane, Vice President, Paul Carpenter, Charlie Kohli and Joe Tredent. Staff in attendance: Larry Frimerman, Brett Bellas, Joe Webb and Antoinette Green.

Guest: JP Ducro, Ashtabula County Commissioner and Gloria Campbell

Agenda Review and Approval: Kohli moved to approve the agenda; Lane seconded. All in favor.

Reviewed and Approved:

Tredent moved to approve the May 13, 2020 meeting minutes with corrections; Kohli seconded. All in favor

Tredent moved to approve the May 20 and 27, 2020 special meeting minutes; Kohli seconded, all in favor.

Lane moved to accept the May 2020 Budget report, the allocations Report, and the May payments; Carpenter seconded. All in favor.

Audience Participation: Gloria Campbell was in attendance; Ms. Campbell shared that there was a tree down at Indian Mound. She mentioned a tree stand and tires left at Turkey Creek and inquired about getting more concrete blocks to deter dumping.

Bellas responded that they are working on taking them down.

Ducro shared that there had been a community fun run on Sunday at Red Brook Metropark

President's Report:

Mayernick thanked the board for participating in building tours and would like to try and make it to all the parks.

Mayernick shared that the Auditors office has been taking care of Fiscal Management of Metroparks and moving forward would like to be able to purchase a license for "New World" in order to run reports and other items needed for financial purposes.

Kohli motioned to purchase the license for "New World" to allow the Metroparks access to reports, once Green is ready to proceed. Lane seconded. All in favor.

Mayernick reported that an additional computer will eventually be needed for the office for Green, the one currently in use is running slow and will need to be updated in the near future. Discussion regarding how to handle the purchase of a new computer, scanner/printer in addition to Bellas existing issues with his current computer. Trendent suggested a budget that would allow for the purchase of the update and any technology issues that exist with the current computers.

Lane motioned to authorize the update and purchase of a computer, scanner/printer and software needed for the computer of \$4,000.00. Tredent seconded. All in favor.

Mayernick also shared that her and Green had met with the County Auditor to discuss County IT services and the cost for the services they could provide to the Metroparks. The board discussed that the prices were reasonable in agreed that the County IT department would be the best option at this time.

Kohli motioned to accept the services that the county had and the hourly services that are provided. Carpenter seconded the motion. All in favor.

Staff Reports:

Green Reported:

Continuing to work on becoming familiar with the office, working with the Auditors office on the financials.

Still getting a lot of phone calls for reservations of pavilions and Camp Peet.

Spoke with Matt Smith with ODNR regarding soft shell turtles that nest along the Conneaut Creek at Indian Mound. Signage was suggested and put along the area for both hikers and kayakers to see.

Spoke with Bob Best regarding a few items including volunteer contacts.

Working on getting our domain for Ashtabulacountymetroparks.com and .org under our upkeep instead of Mary Hill.

Frimerman reported:

Harpersfield Metropark- US Army Corps of Engineers' Sea Lamprey Barrier Replacement Project was just about finished, a few items are being fixed as a result of some damage to the parking lots from the construction and the boat ramp access on the north side.

North Shore Trail: We had been waiting upon the agreement from ODOT between Mannik and Smith and the Metroparks. Even though ODOT uses a standard template we were waiting upon approval from ODOT and ODOT's draft contract language. ODOT rushed its review and drafting to get us the draft contract language the day before this meeting. As such, Mayernick said that Hamper would need to review, so action may not be taken at this time. Frimerman asked if we could do a verbal agreement pending the approval by Legal Counsel in order to keep the project moving forward.

Kohli motioned to moving forward with ODOT's NST agreement pending approval by Legal Counsel in order to keep the project moving forward. Lane seconded. All in favor.

Turkey Creek has continued to experience erosion on parts of the right of way for Old Lake Road, preventing normal culvert and roadway engineering to provide access to the park. Frimerman thought that there might be potential for partial funding of stabilization and/or repair. Discussion around what could be done given the severity of the shoreline erosion, and potential difficulties it is causing. It was agreed that the conversation would continue.

Bellas reported:

Upper Grand: cement was finished in the pavilion and picnic tables had been set up. In addition, the basketball court would be finished soon.

Camp Peet: the old gate was taken down and fixed. Also spoke with Harrison Cleveland regarding the shed and he reported that the shed was about done and depending upon what the Metroparks were planning he had some additional money available to fix the drainage issue.

Bellas shared the quotes for demo of a few buildings at Upper Grand and Ring Property. The board tabled any decision for demo at this time.

Regarding bathrooms, Bellas shared that he spoke with friends who work at other parks and at this time Lake County is still for Emergency use only, and Cleveland is closed.

The board continued to have discussion about how to maintain the upkeep of the porta-johns to what was being recommended. Tredent suggested that we find out what the cost would be for additional cleaning. Bellas said that he would check into it and come up with some additional cleaning times.

Marie motioned to open restrooms for Emergency use only and open the playground, but not the tunnel at this time. Carpenter seconded. All in favor.

Discussion revolved around having an extra day of cleaning and having it over a period of time and re-evaluating.

Tredent motioned to double the cleaning frequency for the next four weeks. Kohli seconded. All in favor.

Kohli asked about the Pavilions and what the official state policy was at this time. Tredent shared that he thought that Conneaut Township Parks pavilions were open. Discussion continued the pavilions and how it should be handled. Two thoughts came out of the discussion one being open for casual use but not for parties. The decision made that we continue to not have reservations at this time and remain closed.

Lane motioned to keep the pavilions closed at this time. Carpenter seconded. All in favor.

Webb reported:

Shared that ATV use continues to be an issue; new trails are being created. He also shared that there were six pending hearings, including that the courts were going to begin to have hearings in the near future.

Kohli shared that the Board was requested to amend its June 2019 Resolution regarding the US Bike Trail Route. Language was included in the Board material noting that the Board amend the 2019 resolution to include an acknowledgement that ODOT planned to include the North Shore Trail in the Bike Route Map and would include the Pymatuning Valley Greenway Trail and other projects when they are under construction. To this end, Kohli motioned to amend Resolution 2019-003 to include this new language. ... Lane seconded it to make the motion to amend the passage of 003. All In favor.

Carpenter made the motion to moving the bank credit card from Huntington Bank to Andover Bank. Lane seconded. All in favor.

Carpenter at the request of Mayernick shared Senator O'Brien visit to Red Brook per the invitation of Western Reserve Land Conservancy. The Land Conservancy has been scheduling visits as part of their lobbying efforts. O'Brien was impressed by the property and was really interested in additional parks that had primitive camping available. There was discussion around the current buildings in order for the Metroparks to open the Upper Grand there needs to be a decision about the buildings. Frimerman added, the "Green house" could be sold off instead of tearing it down, since it was purchased with Metroparks funds as a separate, un-encumbered parcel. Conversations continued about the septic and an estimate had been given for a package plant.

Mayernick shared that Larry had sent a report but it was sent after the deadline, she included that this would deserve a separate conversation at another time.

Mayernick asked the board how we should proceed. Lane suggested putting this on the agenda next month. Kohli asked if we could take this into a separate work session.

Tredent motioned to go into executive session to discuss potential real estate and/or personnel. Carpenter seconded. Mayernick called the Roll: Lane- aye, Carpenter- aye, Kohli- aye, Tredent- aye, Mayernick- aye. All in favor.

Mayernick announced that the Board returned from executive session at 8:22. No further information or action needed.

Tredent motioned to adjourn at 8:31 PM. Mayernick seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Holly Mayernick, Board President

Antoinette Green, Board Clerk