

Ashtabula County Metroparks
91 N. Chestnut Street Jefferson, Ohio 44047

December 9, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners was held via video conferencing and called to order at 4:32 p.m. by Holly Mayernick, Board President. Board members attending and completing a quorum were Marie Lane, Vice President, Paul Carpenter, Charlie Kohli and Joe Tredent. Staff in attendance: Antoinette Green, Larry Frimerman, Brett Bellas, and Ranger Eric Dietrich

Guests in attendance: Sherry Bailey, Jeff Nash, Rob Juris, J.P. Ducro, Gloria Campbell

Marie Lane served as board clerk.

Agenda Review and Approval: Kohli moved to accept the agenda. Carpenter seconded. Roll call; all “aye”

Review and Approve:

Kohli moved to approve the November regular meeting minutes; Carpenter seconded. All in favor.

Tredent moved to accept the November 2020 budget report; Carpenter seconded. All in favor

Tredent moved to accept the Cross Fund Report; Kohli seconded. All in favor.

Carpenter moved to accept the November Payments (ledger); Tredent seconded. Roll call; all “aye”

Audience Participation:

Jeff Nash expressed concern over the bike lane on West Avenue, North of Route 20. He believes that it is public safety issue for the cyclists in that it is a daily occurrence for vehicles to “drag race” on that section of that roadway, and drive into the bike lane. He is concerned that injury will result to a cyclist or a pedestrian using the bike lane. He is recommending increased policing.

J.P. Ducro noted that he has received calls expressing some concerns regarding the trail; he inquired about the potential of adding some type of additional barriers to the lanes. He further expressed the potential of decreasing the width of the bike lanes, thereby widening the vehicle lanes, especially for emergency vehicles and other work vehicles.

President's Report:

Mayernick reported that she continues to work with staff on ways to utilize the volunteers, even though we are not currently engaging in organized park activities due to COVID-19. Perhaps we could hold some online events.

She further reported that she and Green are still working on goals for the staff for the coming year.

Staff Reports:

Kohli inquired as to whether there was a plan to reclaim the habitat in Red Brook in the area south of Carpenter Road. Green reported that the National Conservancy is planning on submitting a plan to the Board soon regarding the habitat restoration of this section.

Kohli asked for a status of the Capital Bill. Frimerman stated that it does still appear to be on track to pass before Christmas. Frimerman reported that Rep. Patterson is confident that we will be receiving some funding from this bill.

Green provided a 2020 recap: there was a marked increase of park usage, demolition of 16 buildings, additional trails opened, including the completion of the North Short Trail and the one-mile loop at Redbook; resurfacing of the parking lot at Red Brook; the start of the Red Brook habitat restoration project; completion of the Rock creek bypass, and total grant awards of \$4.8 million.

Tredent inquired as to the status of resuming organized activities. Green reported that she had contacted the health department, and such activities are not advisable at this time.

Carpenter reported that there was a lot of debris/trees covering the Greenway. The volunteer turnout to clear the trail was incredible. Carpenter commended Bellas for his relationship with these volunteers. Carpenter also thanked Ranger Dietrich for his assistance.

Kohli thanked the staff and his fellow board members for the work during this year.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Green reported that she was contacted by ODNR geologist Robert Blake regarding Red Brook as a potential location for a station to examine earthquakes in Northeast Ohio.

Action Required:

Tredent moved to amend the 2020 Certificate of Estimated Resources as follows: Under "Other Sources" fund No. 9402 to increase to \$1,171,192.00 and under "Other Sources" fund 9404 to increase to \$3,686,451.00.; Kohli seconded. Roll call; all "aye"

Tredent moved to increase the appropriations in expense and revenue in the budget as follows:
Fund 9402.910.100-410 increase to \$1,171,192.00 (revenue)
Fund 9402.910.100-601 increase to \$1,171,192.00 (expense)
Fund 9402.910.100-410 increase to \$3,686,451.00 (revenue)
Fund 9402.910.100-601 increase to \$3,686,451.00 (expense)
Carpenter seconded. Roll call; all “aye”

Kohli Moved to increase the health insurance line item in the budget. Carpenter seconded. Roll call' All, “aye”

Carpenter moved to approve the staff to proceed with the full PVT 1.2 TAP grant application;
Kohli seconded. Roll call; all “aye”.

Carpenter moved to approve the draft contract with EDG, subject to the review and approval by legal counsel. Kohli seconded. Roll call; all “aye”.

Tredent moved at 5:20 p.m. to adjourn the regular meeting and proceed to executive session to discuss property and personnel issues; Carpenter seconded. All in favor. Executive session commenced via video conferencing at 5:25 p.m. Green was invited to attend at 5:41 p.m.

Regular session, via video conferencing, was reconvened at 7:04 p.m.

Tredent moved to accept the transfer of sick time of Antoinette Green from the city of Conneaut and to recognize her years of service for the purposes of accrual based on the submitted evidence and in accordance with the Metroparks employee handbook; Carpenter seconded. Roll call; all “aye”.

Carpenter Moved to formerly adopt the Ashtabula Metroparks Rangers Handbook; Kohli seconded. Roll call; all “aye”.

Kohli Moved to increase the mileage rate from 42 cents per mile to 45 cents per mile; Carpenter seconded. Roll call; all “aye.”

Tredent moved to amend the board clerk/administrative assistant job description from part time/full time to full time; Kohli seconded. Roll call, all “aye”.

Carpenter moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020- 06, adopting temporary appropriations for 2021; Tredent seconded. Roll call, all “aye”.

Next meeting scheduled for January 13, 2021.

Holly S. Mayernick, ACMP President

Marie Lane, Acting Clerk