



MINUTES

Perry County Park District Board - Regular Meeting

January 9, 2023, 3:30pm

Somerset Courthouse

100 Public Square, Somerset, OH

I. Call to Order

Mr. Moore called the meeting to order at 3:36 pm

II. Roll Call

Present: Scott Moore; Fred Redfern; Sue Oberhauser; Jack Coll; Tami McAdams.

Absent:

Staff: Jessie Bennett - PCPD Naturalist;

Guests: Judge Luann Cooperrider; Jenny LaRue- PC Health Department; Anna Furste- BTA; Kennedy Walls (2021 PCPD intern); Jasmine Love (2021 PCPD intern)

III. Election of Officers for 2023 - Organizational Meeting

Mr. Moore asked for nominations for Chairman.

Ms. McAdams nominated Mr. Moore for Chairman. Ms. Oberhauser seconded.

Mr. Coll moved to close nominations, Mr. Redfern seconded.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Moore asked for nominations for Vice Chairman.

Mr. Moore nominated Mr. Redfern for Vice Chairman. Ms. Oberhauser seconded.

Ms. McAdams moved to close nominations, Mr. Coll seconded.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Moore asked for nominations for Secretary/Fiscal Officer.

Mr. Moore nominated Ms. McAdams for Secretary/Fiscal Officer. Mr. Coll seconded.

Mr. Redfern moved to close nominations, Ms. Oberhauser seconded.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

IV. Park Board Meeting Dates 2023 (February 2023 - January 2024)

Mr. Moore presented the 2023 meeting dates as the second Monday of the month at 3:30pm. Ms. McAdams noted that it was previously mentioned to change the time to 3:00pm, to accommodate those who may have other meetings in the evening after the PCPD meeting. She also commented that moving the meeting location around the county has been very successful over the past two years, resulting in many connections with the public and local officials. Discussion followed.

Ms. McAdams moved, Mr. Redfern seconded to continue to hold Board meetings the second Monday of the month at 3:30pm and continue moving the meeting location around the county to encourage community participation.

Motion carried by unanimous vote

Discussion on meeting locations followed and the Board determined that the 1st Quarter meetings will be held at the Somerset Courthouse and at the following community locations for the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Quarters of 2023.

A. April - June 2023 *(Corning/Junction City/Thornville)*

B. July - Sept 2023 *(New Lexington/Hemlock/Shawnee)*

C. Oct - Dec 2023 *(New Straitsville/Glenford/Roseville)*

The Somerset Courthouse will be considered the primary meeting location whenever a meeting is not being held in the various communities.

V. Approve January meeting Agenda Items / Request for additional/revised agenda items

Ms. McAdams moved, Mr. Coll seconded, to approve the January 9, 2023, meeting agenda.

Motion carried by unanimous vote

VI. Approval of December Minutes

Mr. Coll moved, Mr. Redfern seconded, to approve the December 12, 2022, Regular meeting minutes.

Motion carried by unanimous vote

VII. Financial Status of Park District and Approval of December Revenue and Expenses

Ms. McAdams advised that the County Commissioners have funded our employee with the amount we requested (\$8500 + medicare and OPERS = \$9473.25) and with \$1000 of the \$12,500 amount requested above employee expenses, to be used for operating expenses for the year. The Board discussed the Park District's financial status and December financial report. No approval motion or vote was made.

Mr. Redfern commented that he felt the Board should re-apply to the PC Board of Commissioners for some additional funding to cover operating expenses, outside of funds we will request from the Lodging Tax Fund. Ms. McAdams is to prepare documents to request Lodging Tax Funds reimbursement for the website (covered in 2022) and add our expected Chamber of Commerce membership at \$120/year.

VIII. Comments from the public/guests

Jenny LaRue, PC Health Department and prior PC Park District board member, was introduced to new board members and other guests. She updated the Board on the development of the ODNR Natureworks Grant-funded wetlands project on Lincoln Dr. (located beside the Health Department). The grant was for \$27,000. This park will be a County Commissioners' park. Soil and Water Conservation District has assisted with excavation/dirt work. Workforce Development will be assisting with boardwalk installation once ground conditions improve enough for activity. Ms. Walls and Ms. Love will be

assisting with a pollinator garden project. A grand opening is anticipated in the summer of 2023.

Additional comments from Ms. LaRue are in New Business - re: walking program collaboration.

Anne Furste - Buckeye Trail Association - New Straitsville Chapter

Ms. Furst introduced herself and described her position as Section Supervisor for the New Straitsville region. She gave the board an overview of the volunteer program and the projects that are done by them. She is looking for new local volunteers for trail adoption, trail maintenance activities, and partners for programs, hike guides, etc. They have monthly Chapter meetings and the Park District is invited to attend their meetings and activities. Ms. Furste collected board contact info to add us to their meeting and activity notices.

Ms. Bennett discussed partnering with BTA-NW Chapter to provide a trail program or activity for one or more of their monthly hikes in 2023. She and Ms. Furste will get together on setting up some partnership activities. Ms. Furste provided maps, brochures, and other information on the Buckeye Trail Association, as well as showed the Board a large map of the entire New Straitsville section. She advised the Board of several activities scheduled for the coming year.

Kennedy Walls and Jasmine Love - 2021 Park District Interns stated they came to the meeting to hear updates on the HB 377 Appalachian Community Grant. Mr. Moore provided an overview of input submitted by the Park District and advised that he'd heard that there was to be some response from the state around the end of January.

Judge Cooperrider discussed a property near Thornville that has the possibility of being donated to the Park District in the future, on the condition that activities there will be free for kids. She will follow up with the board as more information becomes available. The Judge also advised that Thorn Township has been invited to apply for the ODOT TAP grant (Transportation Alternative Program) for their proposed bike trail. She also asked the Board to partner with her on a "Bike and Board" event at Buckeye Lake. It will involve a bike ride and boarding the Queen of the Lake paddleboat for a trip on the lake.

IX. Programming Report

A. Upcoming programs and 2023 program schedule overview

Ms. Bennett provided an update on recent and upcoming programming and events. January 23 - 12pm, a PCPD presentation is scheduled at the Top Hat Restaurant in Junction City at 12pm, for the Perry County Health Network.

February 3 Ms. Bennett is doing two presentations on Spiders for classes at Holy Trinity Catholic School in Somerset.

In February, Ms. Bennett is planning to do her “How I Met Your Mother - Animal Version”. She is currently determining the date, time, and venue.

March 1 - 1pm -A program is scheduled for the New Lexington Library Homeschool Program, utilizing some of the new equipment purchased with the NAI grant funds.

Pickaway County Park District in Circleville has PCPD to partner to present our Spiders program at their facility. The Board approved doing this out-of-county program as a work-time event.

Woodcock watches will be scheduled in March and Ms. Bennett will be working on setting up a hike schedule for the year at various locations.

B. Grant applications - status

Ms. Bennett advised that she has now received all letters of support for her application for an ODNR Wildlife Education Grant and now only needs an OAKS# to submit. Ms. McAdams is working on obtaining the OAKS#.

Ms. Bennett set up and demonstrated for the Board, the new digital microscope and monitor that was purchased with the NAI grant funds.

C. Summary of items recently purchased

Ms. Bennett provided the Board with an overview of programming items recently purchased (in December). The County Commissioners office assisted by allowing the purchases to be made through the county’s tax-exempt Amazon account with the county’s credit card.

763.64 (750.00 NAI grant item award + 13.64)

238.26 (additional supplies purchased with much of the remaining 2022 budget funds)

D. USFWS Permit Application Status

Ms. Bennett advised that she has been issued a USFWS Migratory Bird Special Purpose Salvage Permit. This permit will authorize her to collect dead migratory birds, nests, eggs, and parts for educational purposes.

E. Appalachian Foundation Educator Grant

Ms. Bennett advised she is the recipient of an educator’s grant from the Appalachian Foundation, to be disbursed over five years. Some of the requirements of the grant are to remain in an Appalachian County, educate K-12 children, and attend required meetings. Her program offerings through the Perry County Park District will be a significant part of meeting her educator requirements for the grant. The Board congratulated Ms. Bennett on this accomplishment!

X. Old Business

A. HB 377 Appalachian Community Grant - collaboration update

Mr. Moore restated that he'd heard that there was to be some response from the State's Government Office of Appalachia around the end of January, to let specific and/or regional applicants know if they are in the running. He stated that there are at least 120 villages included in the applicant list. No additional information is available.

B. Silica Property Trail Marking Project

Mr. Moore advised he would be setting a date for him and other interested board members to recheck previously flagged trails and begin determining route revisions as necessary, and start planning the marking process, using recommendations from the Buckeye Trail Association personnel. Ms. McAdams reviewed several marking protocols mentioned by the BTA personnel at the December meeting, including their recommendation for line-of-sight, 2"x6" paint blazes at a height of 5-6ft. Mr. Moore suggested that we get an agreement from the County Commissioners to cover or reimburse the Park District, any expenses incurred for the trail markings.

C. 2023 Budget update

Mr. Moore advised that the budget update had been covered in the Financial Status discussion earlier in the meeting and moved on to New Business.

XI. New Business

A. Walking Program Collaboration with PC Health Department

Ms. LaRue described a program she would like to start to encourage walking activity throughout Perry County. Her goal is to have monthly walks that increase in distance and difficulty as people increase their health and fitness. She plans to have different people from various agencies and businesses lead these hikes. Ms. LaRue would like to partner with the Park District on some of the walks by having our naturalist lead several of the themed hikes. Ms. Bennett will work with Ms. LaRue to get on the schedule to lead some of the hikes. The Health Department and the Park District will collaborate to promote the walking program. Ms. LaRue hopes to have the monthly walks start around early summer.

Possible Ideas for Hike Leaders:

Walk with a Doc, Park Naturalist, Veterinarian, Nurse, Coach, Veteran, Teacher, County Commissioner, Park Board Member, Health Dept Sanitarian, Postmaster or Carrier, Job and Family Services representative, Transit representative, Mayor, etc.

B. Formal approval of final supplies order from December

Ms. McAdams advised the Board that Chairman Moore had given approval for additional supplies and equipment items to be purchased before the end of the 2022 fiscal year. The approval was given after the December meeting. The decision was

made in order to do one final supply order using most of the remaining funds available in the 2022 budget.

Ms. McAdams moved, Mr. Coll seconded, to approve Chairman Moore's decision in December to allow additional supplies and equipment items to be purchased before the end of the 2022 fiscal year. The total amount was: \$238.26, leaving \$21.88 unencumbered for 2022, which will roll back into the County Commissioners General Fund.

Motion carried by unanimous vote

C. Glenford Ft/Dutcher House Update

Mr. Moore advised that he noted during the late fall tour of the house with Penny Cox of the Soil and Water Conservation District that they are working on the house, determining the possible allocation of space, and making plumbing improvements. He gave a summary of an email from Soil and Water's Dave Snider, which advised the possibility of setting a meeting after January 17 to discuss the use of the Dutcher House and an MOU with the County Commissioners. Mr. Moore requested available dates from Board members during the week of January 17 that he will suggest to Mr. Snider.

D. Shawnee Trailtown Quarterly Meetings as a Member Entity

The Board discussed that the next meeting of Shawnee Trailtown will be held Thursday, January 26th // 6:00pm - 8:00pm - Tecumseh Commons (theater). The Park District's obligation for being a member entity is to have a Park District representative attend the quarterly meetings and report back to the Board regarding upcoming events/programs and other ways we can collaborate with them. Mr. Moore and Mr. Redfern advised they would attend the January meeting.

XII. *Adjournment

Ms. McAdams moved, Mr. Coll seconded, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous vote

Meeting adjourned at 6:09pm.

Next Regular Meeting - Monday, February 13, 2023, 3:30pm

Location: Somerset Courthouse

Reminder:

2023 Park Board Meeting Locations

- A. Jan - Mar 2023 (*Somerset Courthouse*)
- B. April - June 2023 (*Corning/Junction City/Thornville*)
- C. July - Sept 2023 (*New Lexington/Hemlock/Shawnee*)
- D. Oct - Dec 2023 (*New Straitsville/Glenford/Roseville*)