



Minutes

Perry County Park District Board - Regular Meeting
July 10, 2023, 3:30 pm
Arethusa Springs Park
426 Fowlers Ln, New Lexington, OH 43064

- I. Call to Order
Mr. Moore called the meeting to order at 3:36 pm.
- II. Roll Call
Present: Scott Moore; Mr. Redfern; Sue Oberhauser; Jack Coll; Tami McAdams.
Absent:
Staff: Jessie Bennett - PCPD Naturalist
Guests: Penny Cox - Perry Soil & Water Conservation District
- III. Approve July Agenda Items/Request for additional/revised agenda items
Mr. Redfern moved, Ms. McAdams seconded, to approve the July 10, 2023, meeting agenda as amended, adding Item E in Old Business: Health Watch program update.
- IV. Approval of June Minutes
Mr. Redfern moved, Ms. Oberhauser seconded, to approve the June 12, 2023, Regular meeting minutes as presented.
Motion carried by unanimous vote
- V. Financial Status of Park District and Approval of June Revenue and Expense Report
Mr. Coll moved, Ms. Oberhauser seconded, to approve the June 2023 revenue & expense report.
Motion carried by unanimous vote
- VI. Comments from the public/guests
Penny Cox of Perry Soil and Water Conservation District gave a summary of recent and upcoming Soil and Water events, activities, and projects, including an upcoming Kayak Try It and Fishing Day at Lake Tecumseh on Aug 26. She advised that there will be ADA improvements at the gun club soon with an ADA fishing/kayak dock and paved drive down to the shelter house. A new gas line will be installed soon. Ms. Cox said that she and PCPD Naturalist Ms. Bennett had recently met to discuss programming plans and logistics of shared use of the Dutcher House. The PCPD office is set up and improvements continue to be made and planned for the condition of the house and utilities. Regarding PCPD programs at the Fort, Ms. Cox said they prefer not to have programs there too often. She said less often is preferable, for example not every other week, so as not to water down the appeal of the Fort to the public by having programs there too often. She and Ms. Bennett are coordinating S&W and PCPD program scheduling.

VII. Old Business

A. US Fish and Wildlife Service assessment of Glenford Fort properties (update)

Ms. McAdams advised that she had requested a summary of actions needed and timeframes from USFWS Biologist Ryan Morr. Mr. Morr provided the summary of actions needed and requested contact info for County Commissioner Ben Carpenter and PSWCD Dave Snider. Mr. Morr advised he would be calling them to discuss the status of the project request, action steps needed, and the possibility of the county providing the herbicide chemicals needed. He said he had a working draft of agreements that he would be sending to them soon for review, as the landowners. The Board received an email from Commissioner Carpenter that he expected to be talking with Mr. Morr on Tuesday, June 11.

B. Wilson Mound Property -Clean Ohio Funds Status

The Board discussed a potential list of projects and improvements for the Wilson Mound property. These will all need to be presented to the County Commissioners to see if there is interest in any of them and whether they would be eligible for Clean Ohio Funds usage.

C. Friends of the PCPD Membership Program (update -insurance question)

Ms. McAdams advised the Board that a response was received from CORSA regarding liability coverage for activities on private property. CORSA advised in an email on June 30, 2023, that:

“The park board is a covered board so any employees and/or volunteers of the park board would have our coverage extended to them for activities they are involved in for the parks (subject to the terms and conditions of our coverage agreement). We would like to have the waivers signed that include both the park district and the county. Our coverage would not extend to the property owners unless they required to be an additional insured under a written agreement.”

Discussion followed with the Board determining that based on the response from CORSA, they will continue to pursue the Friends of the PCPD membership and special event ideas.

D. Muskingum River Water Trail System - Steering Committee update

Mr. Moore and Mr. Coll have been invited to attend an upcoming, second Steering Committee meeting of the Muskingum River Water Trail System. Mr. Coll attended the first meeting a few weeks ago. The committee will be planning bike trail and water trail connectivity between Muskingum, Licking, and Perry counties. They will keep the Board informed of progress in the group.

E. Heart Watch initiative

Ms. Oberhauser advised that she made inquiries with several agencies regarding Heart Watch/AED program participation and learned that the main contact for the program is with the Fairfield Medical Center. Ms. Oberhauser will continue to reach out to make contact with them and learn more about the requirements for program participation. Mr. Coll said he learned that Jim Mickey of the Perry County Health Department was involved with the program. Ms. Oberhauser said she will also reach out to Mr. Mickey. Since ballfields had been mentioned as potential AED installation locations, Mr. Redfern advised that he'd learned that a county-wide high school softball league was being formed and hoped to find facilities for year-round training.

VIII. New Business

A. MORPC - Outdoor Recreation and Tourism: Task Team (Redfern/Moore)

Mr. Moore provided an overview of the MORPC task team meetings on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism. These meetings are focused on resilient, economic whole communities, connectivity between the communities, and economic diversification for outdoor recreation and tourism. The participating agencies include County commissioners, Job and Family Services, Buckeye Hills, and a few mayors and village administrators. There have been monthly and bi-monthly meetings since March. Other agency attendance at the meetings has been minimal, but Mr. Moore and Mr. Redfern have attended them all. They will continue to provide updates to the Board.

B. Request for Joint Meeting - Glenford Fort/Wilson Mound Planning

The Board and Ms. Cox discussed possible dates for a joint meeting of the Park District to stay connected and discuss issues and ideas for the Glenford Fort properties. Mr. Coll suggested that we try to meet quarterly.

IX. Programming Report (Bennett)

A. Programs

1. Recent

- Summer reading program provided at all six District libraries.
- New Straitsville 4th of July Picnic-PCPD participation canceled (staffing)
- July 8th mothing program -canceled due to weather. Rescheduled to Aug 5

2. Upcoming

- Aug 5 Mothing program (rescheduled)
- Planning monthly Storytime at the Fort (possibly 3rd Thursday)-beginning in August
- Planning monthly open house days for PCPD at the Fort beginning in August

B. County Fair staffing

The Board discussed the staffing schedule for the PCPD booth at the upcoming Perry County Fair. The PCPD booth will be in the Newlon building, booth #21. Ms. McAdams shared info gathered from the Agricultural Society about the booth rental: Booths must be set up by Sunday night 8pm on Aug 16. There will be security 24/7 and the building will be locked at night. Ms. Bennett is planning for a different table theme/activity daily.

C. Wildlife Education Grant application (update)

Ms. Bennett advised that she submitted the Wildlife Education Grant application (\$500) in June. The deadline was June 30. The new grant cycle will be July 1 - June 30, 2024. She will look into applying again in the next cycle.

D. Tent/Canopy purchase - cost

The Board agreed a tent canopy should be purchased and prefer one with the PCPD logo/name on it, if possible and affordable. Ms. Bennett and Mr. Coll stated that several agencies/businesses had this type at the Ludowici Founder's Day event (PC Transit, Park Nat'l Bank, JFS). Ms. Bennett will contact these agencies to learn who they used as a vendor

and research costs. Discussion followed regarding other current needs (office chair, shelving, bird seed for programs, etc)

E. Other Updates

Ms. Bennett shared that she hopes to hold a “Naturalist Gathering” at the Fort, possibly in October. It will be an opportunity for naturalists from other agencies to gather, network, and share program and event information.

Ms. Bennett will be producing a seasonal newsletter that will include program info and dates, item/donation requests, and acknowledgment for previous donations. The first edition will be ready for distribution at the Fair.

The Board and Ms. Bennett discussed increasing the frequency of Facebook educational/factoid-type posts and focusing on producing one, maybe two, virtual park intro tours by the end of September. She will be working with Steve Glade to produce videos for Glenford Fort and Finck’s Nature Preserve.

Goals:

- Facebook- minimum of one factoid/educational post per week to keep up our interaction and engagement with the public.
- Programs - minimum of one public program per month, especially during summer/fall season. Many of our programs in other months are provided to schools and libraries.
- Park intro videos - At least one video (two if possible) by the end of September

X. Adjournment

Mr. Coll moved, Mr. Redfern seconded, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous vote

Meeting adjourned at 5:47 pm.

Next Regular Meeting - Monday, August 14, 2023, 3:30 pm

Location: Hemlock, OH

Hemlock Community Church Shelter House,
8860 Main St SE, Hemlock 43730

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*)