

Stark County Park District Park Board – Regular Meeting Minutes
Sippo Lake Clubhouse
October 2, 2019
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(AGENDA ITEM: 3)

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – The regular meeting of the Stark County Park Commission was called to order by Andy Hayden at 2:05 p.m.

A. Roll Call of Members:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Andy Hayden, Denise Freeland, Bill Bryan, Ralph Dublikar, Pat Quick

STAFF PRESENT:

Robert Fonte, Director
Barbara Wells, Financial Manager
Corianne Kocarek, Clerk to the Board
Dani McGuinness, Human Resources Manager
Sarah Buell, Administration & Projects Manager
Talula Koch, Natural Resources Manager
Rick Summers, Operations Manager

GUESTS PRESENT:

None

B. Adoption of Agenda

D. Freeland MOVED to adopt the agenda as amended, which was SECONDED by P. Quick

DISCUSSION:

None

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

Voting Aye: Andy Hayden, Denise Freeland, Bill Bryan, Ralph Dublikar, Pat Quick

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. STAFF PRESENTATION – Talula Koch, Natural Resources Manager

T. Koch presented the following to the Park Board regarding the Natural Resources Department:

- A video was shared that was presented to attendees of last month's Friends of Stark Parks fundraiser – Wild Night for Wildlife. The video featured the Joseph J. and Helen M. Sommer Wildlife Conservation Center and work that is being performed by staff and volunteers
- She then presented a PowerPoint show with background and updates within the department:
 - The Department's Mission Statement: Dedicated to the conservation and management of native wildlife and their habitat through research, education and quality animal care
 - Natural Resources Management Current Staff: 2 Natural Resources Specialists, 1 Natural Resources Technician, and 2 Seasonals
 - Staff in the Natural Resources Department perform the following projects and tasks – baseline pollinator surveys, wildlife management, invasive species management, bioswale management, native habitat installations, chestnut forest project, water quality, fish management, community events and programs
 - Baseline pollinator surveys have been completed this year at Fry Family Park in Pike Township, Petros Lake Park in Perry Township and Quail Hollow Park in Hartville
 - Vegetation inventory and analysis in partnership with professor Jennifer Clevenger from Walsh University at Quail Hollow Park

• **Reference 92**

- Wildlife management: white-tailed deer spotlight surveys, white-tailed deer camera surveys, Canada Goose deterrent installation and Canada Goose control
- Invasive species management: removal and treatment of non-native invasive vegetation (including: Purple Loosestrife, Reed Canary grass, Garlic Mustard, Phragmites, Japanese Knotweed, Oriental Bittersweet, Privet, Bush Honeysuckle and Poison Hemlock)
- Bioswale installation: bioswales are landscape elements designed to concentrate or remove debris and pollution out of surface runoff water
- Native habitat installation: utilizing a new seed drill native habitat has been installed at the Zimber Ditch properties in North Canton and at Fry Family Park in Pike Township. Staff is working with marketing on interpretive signage to explain what the process to park visitors
- Chestnut forest project: staff is working at Fry Family Park to plant a grove of Chestnut trees. They will then train volunteers to collect seeds and plant the trees in other Stark Parks
- Water quality: parameters that are measured include – pH, Turbidity, Oxygen, Temperature, and Conductivity. They also added algae sensors to monitor spikes in blooms
- Fish management: electroshocking, fish habitat creation and use sonar to locate fish structures underwater
- Trail maintenance: staff installs bat and squirrel boxes, assists the operations department when all hands are on deck (when there is flooding, or a significant storm), along with performing inspections of dams and other areas that are eroding to identify what will need addressed
- Wildlife Rehabilitation Current Staff: 4 Full Time Staff (1 Supervisor, 2 Rehabilitation Specialists and 1 Receptionist), 3 Part Time Staff, 6 Unpaid Interns and 7 Seasonals – plus 150+ volunteers
 - Wildlife Rehabilitation in a nutshell: providing quality animal care to native Ohio wildlife, educating the public, providing programming on native wildlife, creating opportunities for young professionals seeking employment in animal care
- The department participates in several community events and programs throughout the year including: Fishing Derbies, Woodland Encounters, Fall Fest, Ranger for a Day, Nature Series programs, Spooky Science – Beech Creek, Earth Day, various special requested programs, Bio Blitz, Eagle Scout projects, intern pop-up programs and Wild Outdoor Women’s weekend (WOW)

DISCUSSION:

None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

WHEREAS, minutes from the September 4, 2019 Regular Park Board meeting have been submitted for review.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to approve the minutes from the September 4, 2019 Regular Park Board meeting as submitted.

B. Bryan MOVED to adopt this resolution, which was SECONDED by R. Dublikar

DISCUSSION:

None

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

Voting Aye: Andy Hayden, Denise Freeland, Bill Bryan, Ralph Dublikar, Pat Quick

WHEREAS, minutes from the September 10, 2019 Special Park Board meeting have been submitted for review.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2019 Special Park Board meeting as submitted.

P. Quick MOVED to adopt this resolution, which was SECONDED by D. Freeland

DISCUSSION:

None

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

Voting Aye: Andy Hayden, Denise Freeland, Bill Bryan, Ralph Dublikar, Pat Quick

5. FINANCIAL REPORTS

WHEREAS, the monthly Financial Report and Summary Financial Reports for the period ending August 31, 2019 have been submitted to the Board for review.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to approve and accept for audit the Financial Reports and Summary Financial Reports for the period ending August 31, 2019 as submitted.

B. Bryan MOVED to adopt this resolution, which was SECONDED by P. Quick

DISCUSSION:

A. Hayden asked if the Body Armor grant was complete and if it was all received at once

B. Wells stated that all of the Body Armor was received

A. Hayden stated it would be helpful to remove the grants from the status sheet once they are complete

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

Voting Aye: Andy Hayden, Denise Freeland, Bill Bryan, Ralph Dublikar, Pat Quick

6. APPROVAL OF PAYROLLS AND BILLS

WHEREAS, copies of payrolls and bills for the periods ending August 31, 2019 were submitted for the Board's review in accordance with Resolution #98-133.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to approve and accept for audit the payrolls and bills for August 31, 2019 as submitted.

D. Freeland MOVED to adopt this resolution, which was SECONDED by R. Dublikar

DISCUSSION:

A. Hayden asked what is included in the electric charges? Why are there so many?

B. Wells stated they are for lights and electricity in shelters, as well as any buildings on various park properties

A. Hayden inquired about the Face Painting charge at Fall Fest – what is included in the price?

B. Wells stated it is for two artists and supplies at \$87.50 per hour

P. Quick asked about the change in the naming of the construction account number

B. Wells stated these are expenses separate from the operations department specifically for new construction

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

Voting Aye: Andy Hayden, Denise Freeland, Bill Bryan, Ralph Dublikar, Pat Quick

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Informational: Upcoming Events

DISCUSSION:

None

B. Informational: Stark Parks Inclusion Vision Stand

DISCUSSION:

None

C. Informational: Stark Parks Diversity and Inclusion Policy

DISCUSSION:

D. McGuinness stated the Park District heard from the public during the 5 Year Planning meetings that they mentioned wanting to see more diversity in our parks, with regards to programming, employment and

• **Reference 94**

Americans with Disabilities (ADA) opportunities. A committee was formed in early 2019 to address this initiative. The Park District wanted to propose a Diversity and Inclusion policy to be inclusionary of all R. Dublikar suggested stopping the statement after “those who have been historically marginalized” to include all

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION: #19-10-074: 2020 Tax Levy Rate and Amount

WHEREAS, the Stark County Park District Board of Commissioners in accordance with the provisions of law has previously adopted a Tax budget for the next succeeding fiscal year commencing January 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, The Budget Commission of Stark County, Ohio has certified its action thereon to this council together with an estimate by the County Auditor of the rate of each tax necessary to be levied by the Board of Park Commissioners, and what part thereof is without, and what part within the ten mill limitation, there be it.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners, Stark County, Ohio that the amounts and rates, as determined by the Budget Commission in its certification, be the same are here by accepted; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that there be and is hereby levied on the tax duplicate of said Park District the rate of each tax necessary to be levied within and without the ten mill limitation as follows; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to accept the tax rate of 1.00 mil and the amount of Seven Million Four Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Four Dollars (\$7,004,484.00) as determined by the Budget Commission.

P. Quick MOVED to adopt this resolution, which was SECONDED by B. Bryan

DISCUSSION:

B. Wells stated that this 2020 budget utilizes the current levy projections. When the new levy is in place as of November 5, 2019, the Park Board will not see another budget because since the levy is voted on and approved by the public, the Budget Commission allows this as an approval

A. Hayden stated that the Park Board’s goal is to be a conduit to the public and they have a duty to fully understand what is being asked of the public

A. Hayden then asked for further clarification of the replacement and .2 additional

R. Fonte stated that the cost increase to a homeowner with a value of \$100,000 is \$1.39 more per month or \$16.68 per year. The total annual cost is \$42 per year. A fact sheet was also made available to the Board

MOTION CARRIED on a roll call vote as follows:

Voting Aye: Andy Hayden, Denise Freeland, Bill Bryan, Ralph Dublikar, Pat Quick

B. RESOLUTION: #19-10-075: Request for Project Description Update: Canalway Center Exhibits to Canalway Center Game

WHEREAS, the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners approved the 2019 Project List & Budget that included the Canalway Center Exhibits in the amount of One Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$1,530.00) as part of the 2019 Departmental Project List with Resolution #19-02-018; and

WHEREAS, the project description for the Canalway Center Exhibits needs to be updated from the original project submitted to change the project from display for exhibits to supplies to support the enhancements of the exhibits by creating interactive game; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to update the project description for the Canalway Center Exhibits from the original project submitted to add supplies to support the enhancements of the exhibits by creating interactive game.

D. Freeland MOVED to adopt this resolution, which was SECONDED by R. Dublikar

DISCUSSION:

R. Fonte stated that the original project description focused on exhibits and supplies, this resolution would change the project description to support the enhancements of the Canalway Center by creating an interactive game

MOTION CARRIED on a roll call vote as follows:

Voting Aye: Andy Hayden, Denise Freeland, Bill Bryan, Ralph Dublikar, Pat Quick

C. RESOLUTION: #19-10-076: Grant Acceptance: Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) Foundation Program Development Grant

WHEREAS, the Stark County Park District applied for a grant through the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association Foundation in July of 2019; and

WHEREAS, the grant funds a Canalway Center Game titled, OhioBio: Can you survive the tale?; and

WHEREAS, Stark County Park District was awarded grant funds in the amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00); and

WHEREAS, the project total is Two Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$2,100.00); and

WHEREAS, the Stark County Park District is responsible for match in the amount of One Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$1,100.00); and

WHEREAS, the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners approved the 2019 Project List & Budget that included the Canalway Center Exhibits in the amount of One Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$1,530.00) as part of the 2019 Departmental Project List with Resolution #19-02-018.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners accepts the grant award from the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association Foundation in the amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00).

B. Bryan MOVED to adopt this resolution, which was SECONDED by P. Quick

DISCUSSION:

P. Quick asked if this was the grant that went along with the previous resolution

B. Wells answered, yes, you voted on changing the project information to match the grant

MOTION CARRIED on a roll call vote as follows:

Voting Aye: Andy Hayden, Denise Freeland, Bill Bryan, Ralph Dublikar, Pat Quick

D. RESOLUTION: #19-10-077: Auction of Sprinkler Heads

WHEREAS, the Stark County Park District Board of Commissioners approved the public sale of Sprinkler Heads at the Tam O'Shanter Property with resolution #19-01-018 on January 2, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Stark County Park District Staff removed 192 TORO sprinkler heads from the Tam O'Shanter Park grounds; and

WHEREAS, Operations Manager, Rick Summers, has determined that auctioning the sprinkler heads in November will be the most efficient way for the Stark County Park District to dispose of the sprinkler heads; and

WHEREAS, Kiko has a large auction on Saturday, November 2, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Kiko charges a commission of Twenty (20%) to Twenty Five (25%) depending on the total; and

WHEREAS, the following TORO sprinkler heads and quantities are part of Stark County Park District Inventory:

- Model 670 = 52 each
- Model 730 = 66 each

- Model 750 = 51 each
- Model 854 = 6 each
- Model DT-30 = 3 each
- Model 780 = 5 each
- Model DT-50 = 4 each
- Model 834 = 5 each

WHEREAS, Kiko needs information regarding the sprinkler heads and a signed agreement by October 9, 2019 in order to advertise.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to authorize the Park Director to execute the agreement and any other documents that may be necessary to auction the sprinkler heads on behalf of the Stark County Park District Park Board of Commissioners pending approval of said documents as to legal form and sufficiency by Attorney William Morris.

B. Bryan MOVED to adopt this resolution, which was SECONDED by R. Dublikar

DISCUSSION:

A. Hayden asked how much the sprinklers were valued

R. Fonte answered that they are older systems that can be used for people looking for parts, if they do not sell, the Park District will scrap them. R. Fonte indicated he did not know what value they have

MOTION CARRIED on a roll call vote as follows:

Voting Aye: Andy Hayden, Denise Freeland, Bill Bryan, Ralph Dublikar, Pat Quick

E. RESOLUTION: #19-10-078: Termination of Mercy Gatehouse Lease

WHEREAS, the Stark County Park District is the lessee of certain real estate owned by the CSAHS/UHHS-Canton, Inc., dba Mercy Medical Center referred to as Gatehouse located at 1320 Mercy Drive, NW; Canton, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Stark County Park District has been approached by The Canton City Park Department to release our interest in the property to allow for Canton City to take over ownership, maintenance and operations of this facility; and

WHEREAS, the Stark County Park Director has met with the Owners, CSAHS/UHHS-Canton, Inc. dba Mercy Medical Center and they were supportive of this change.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stark County Board of Park Commissioners to terminate the lease agreement with Mercy Medical Center’s Gatehouse within 30 days of the Stark County Park District receiving written confirmations from The City of Canton Park Department and Mercy Medical Center that they have entered into a written agreement to transfer said property to The City of Canton Park Department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to authorize the Stark County Park Director to sign all necessary documents to accomplish the termination of said lease.

P. Quick MOVED to adopt this resolution, which was SECONDED by D. Freeland

DISCUSSION:

R. Fonte stated that initially Mercy wanted a trail from the hospital into the Canton City Park, but that did not happen because the logistics could not be worked out. The City of Canton has a new Park Director who has a vision for the building. The City of Canton has also applied for Natural Resources Advisory Council (NRAC) funding to buy the Gatehouse. R. Fonte has drafted the agreement such that both parties (The City of Canton and Mercy Medical Center) will agree before the Park District terminates the lease

MOTION CARRIED on a roll call vote as follows:

Voting Aye: Andy Hayden, Denise Freeland, Bill Bryan, Ralph Dublikar, Pat Quick

- **Reference 97**

F. RESOLUTION: #19-10-079: 2019 Project List & Budget Revision-Tam O’Shanter-Closing of Phases III and IV

WHEREAS, the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners approved the application of grant funding for Phase III with Resolution #17-11-070 and Phase IV with Resolution #18-10-050; and

WHEREAS, the Park District has received grants from the Clean Ohio (CO) Conservation Fund program for the acquisition of open space in Jackson Township; and

WHEREAS, the grant funding for Phase III is in an amount not to exceed Two Million One Hundred Nine Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Five Dollars (\$2,109,695.00) for the acquisition of the Jackson Township Property; and

WHEREAS, the grant funding for Phase IV is in an amount not to exceed Two Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,200,000.00) for the acquisition of the Jackson Township Property; and

WHEREAS, the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners approved the Tam O’Shanter Project-Phase III as part of the 2019 Project List & Budget with Resolution #19-02-018; and

WHEREAS, the Natural Resources Advisory Council (NRAC) recommends combining Grant Phases III and IV with the revised budget including a total Grant award of Four Million Three Hundred Nine Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Five Dollars (\$4,309,695.00)

Acquisition	\$3,946,067.00
P&I	\$168,000.00
Site Improvements	\$1,582,192.00
Contingencies	<u>\$50,000.00</u>
Total Project Cost	\$5,746,259.00

CO Funding	\$4,309,695.00
Local Share	\$1,002,564.00
Private Contribution	<u>\$434,000.00</u>
Total Funding	\$5,746,259.00

; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the 2019 Project List & Budget by an amount not to exceed One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) for the completion of the combined Grant Phases III and IV for the acquisition of the Jackson Township Property due to a time lag in receiving NRAC Reimbursements that will occur before the end of 2019, but not prior to the closing of the final phase of the Tam O’Shanter Purchase.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to designate Robert A. Fonte, Park Director, as agent and authorize the Park Director (agent) to sign/execute the grant agreement and any paperwork necessary to complete the Tam O’Shanter Project subject to approval to legal form and sufficiency by Attorney William Morris; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to accept the Grant award based on the Natural Resources Advisory Council recommendation of combining the Grant Phases III and IV by an amount not to exceed a total project cost of Five Million Seven Hundred Forty Six Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Nine Dollars (\$5,746,259.00) including a total Grant award of Four Million Three Hundred Nine Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Five Dollars (\$4,309,695.00) for the completion of the Tam O’Shanter Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to amend the 2019 Project List & Budget by an amount not to exceed One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) for the completion of the combined Grant Phases III and IV for the acquisition of the Jackson Township Property.

B. Bryan MOVED to adopt this resolution, which was SECONDED by R. Dublikar

DISCUSSION:

R. Fonte stated that Attachment A projects the estimated funding needed for closing of the final purchase of Tam O’Shanter. Until the Park District receives the final survey data these are all estimates

B. Wells stated that the survey will provide confirmation of where the 7.5 acres (closing 2) is included with regards to the contract

R. Fonte also stated the second part of the resolution is the recommendation from the Natural Resources Advisory Council (NRAC) to combine grant Phases III and IV. The NRAC budget includes restoration and improvement funds within the combined Phases III and IV which will also be determined at the October 10, 2019 NRAC meeting

MOTION CARRIED on a roll call vote as follows:

Voting Aye: Andy Hayden, Denise Freeland, Bill Bryan, Ralph Dublikar, Pat Quick

9. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

A. 2019 Project List and Budget

DISCUSSION:

None

B. Director’s Report

DISCUSSION:

A. Hayden asked where the Stark Parks booth was located at the 720 Market on September 29

B. Wells answered that it was on the other side of the pavilion, turn left from the pavilion and it was the last booth on your right

R. Fonte spoke about the correspondence regarding HB 288. He further stated that Stark Parks has not had to use eminent domain for trail right-of-way. This bill and discussion was originated from an Ohio park director who was not open to discussing before using eminent domain in his county. Park Districts should have the same power as other entities like utilities have – it makes it easier to work with them. The Park District takes the stance of trying to communicate with land owners first and if they do not agree to an easement, we wait and usually the land will become available at a later date for trail connection

R. Fonte then updated the Park Board on the follow up conversation with Mr. Lokken from the September 4, 2019 Park Board Meeting. Staff met to review the ordinance, reached out to the Federation and Berkley Fishing Club for their feedback. Once that feedback was received, Captain Laps reached out to Mr. Lokken with five possible alternative locations

D. Freeland asked if the clubs understand exactly what Mr. Lokken is proposing

R. Fonte stated that Captain Laps and R. Varga of our Natural Resources department reached out to them for feedback

D. Freeland suggested Mr. Lokken provide a presentation to the clubs to demonstrate how he would/would not interact with fishing

R. Fonte stated if Mr. Lokken opposes the smaller lakes as options, the Park District will revisit with him

R. Fonte reminded D. Freeland and P. Quick to contact Judge Park to renew their appointment for the Park Board

12. ADJOURNMENT

BE IT RESOLVED to adjourn at 3:29 p.m. Next scheduled meeting: November 6, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. at the Sippo Lake Clubhouse.

B. Bryan MOVED to adjourn the meeting, which was SECONDED by P. Quick

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

Voting Aye: Andy Hayden, Denise Freeland, Bill Bryan, Ralph Dublikar, Pat Quick

APPROVAL DATE: November 6, 2019

ATTEST:

Andy Hayden, Chairperson
Stark County Park Commission

Robert A. Fonte, Director/Secretary to the Board
Stark County Park District

Corianne Kocarek/Clerk to the Board
Stark County Park District

- ***Reference 100***