

Stark County Park District Park Board – Regular Meeting Minutes
Exploration Gateway Rooms A & B (Lower Level)
March 5, 2020
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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 Denise Freeland at 6:01 p.m.

A. Roll Call of Members:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Denise Freeland, Ralph Dublikar, Pat Quick, Bill Bryan

STAFF PRESENT:

Robert A. Fonte, Park Director/Secretary to the Board
Corianne Kocarek, Executive Assistant/Clerk to the Board
Barb Wells, Financial Manager
Dani McGuinness, Human Resources Manager
Sarah Buell, Projects and Administration Manager
Rick Summers, Operations Manager
Dave Pildner, Education Manager
Justin Laps, Chief of Public Safety
Talula Wiater, Natural Resources Manager

GUESTS PRESENT:

Jason Yost
Annie Yost
Craig Fox
Bonnie Hunt
Linda Chen
Gerald Schafer
Aimee Engelhart
John Schuette
Tony Grosse
Karl Oprisch
Ray Poynter
Steve Lacher
Lisa Rinard
Jonathan Peterson
Sharon Burnely
Chris Lamb, Canton Audubon Society
Andy Wartling
Mark Walker
Neil Lloyd
Mindy Christy
Steve Smith
Troy Myers
Darren Mishler
Rob Hoover
Phil Skabar
Paul McCully

• **Reference 17**

Maryl Jonas
Loren Souers
Gloria Schreiber, Quail Hollow Volunteer Association
Paul Mutchler
Linda Mutchler
Diane Kiko
Ron Kiko
Dave Speakmon
Jon Norman, Stark County Farm Bureau
Foster A. Rose, Massillon Area Greenways, Inc. (MAGI)
Stephany Rose
Eric Pugh
Ryan Varga
James Woodworth
Dave Grabowsky
Christy Johnson
Debra Tournoux
Bob Nau
Ingrid Raber
Jim Raber
Bobbie & Dean Pugh
Jeff Dotson
Boris Slogar
Mike Stewart, Paris Township Trustee
Barbara Buck
William Buck
Paul Wallace
Randall Pero
Wayne Wallace
John Stutler
Phil Grimm
Paul Hess
Charles Ringer
Beth Conley
Tricia Durkin
Connie Rubin
Barbara Lewis
Rhonda Seaman
Cindy Petitti
BJ? Wade? (Illegible)
Jon O (Illegible)
Kenny Kocarek
H. Steven Poulos
Kimberly Lowe
Robert Wang, Canton Repository
Gust Callas
Rachel Montgomery
Mackenzie DiPietro
Mary Grueber
Kristin Lalama
Caitlin McCully

Sandra Burns
Sid Burns
Terry Klick
Tom Seifert
Samantha Clyde
Dennis Smith
Skyler McCully
Elizabeth Rings
Greg McKisson
Anne Martin
Marianne Eick

B. Adoption of Agenda

P. Quick MOVED to adopt the agenda, which was SECONDED by B. Bryan

DISCUSSION:

None

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Charles Ringer, Esq addressed the Park Board on behalf of his client, E. Pugh. C. Ringer presented the Park Board with 11 Exhibits and Documents pertaining to the Nickel Plate Trail for their consideration and possible action
D. Freeland thanked C. Ringer for his presentation and stated that the Park Board would discuss his presentation with the Chairman and legal counsel before responding

R. Dublikar asked if C. Ringer had ever heard of this issue during his time on the Park Board

C. Ringer answered that he did not know, but he did recall a group of farmers coming to complain. C. Ringer further stated that he loves bike trails and the Park District and wants the levy to pass

Steve Laucher stated his concerns with the Nickel Plate Trail South in Minerva and connecting to the proposed Market Street bridge. He questioned the process for applying for a grant without the right-of-way secured first
Chris Lamb of the Canton Audubon Society expressed the organizations support of the levy issue

Maryl Jonas, Stark Parks Volunteer expressed her support of the levy and asked people to consider what a “no” vote would mean

Gloria Schreiber, President, Quail Hollow Volunteer Association expressed the organizations support of the levy issue

Dave Speakmon expressed his concern for the Park District’s planning process and shared an alternate trail route for the Nickel Plate Trail South to the Market Street bridge in Minerva

John Norman spoke on behalf of the Stark County Farm Bureau Board and their opposition to the Park District levy and expressed their willingness to have both sides together to communicate

Foster A. Rose II, President, Massillon Area Greenways, Inc. (MAGI), expressed support of the Park District levy due to the fact it supports maintenance of current trails

Eric Pugh expressed his concerns with the Park District Board of Commissioners, the published Trail and Greenway Master Plan map and his opposition of the Park District levy

Dave Grabowski expressed his support for the Park District levy as a resident and business owner in Stark County
Mike Stewart, Paris Township Trustee expressed his concern of the communication process when the Park District plans for future projects

Connie Rubin, Stark County Park District Volunteer and former staff member provided some history regarding the Park District’s Trail and Greenway Master Plan development and spoke in support of the Park District levy

Barbara Lewis, neighbor to Stark Parks’ Sippo Lake Park shared history of the property around the Wildlife Conservation Center and expressed her support of the renewal levy

Gust Callas, Stark County resident shared some history of park changes throughout the years and expressed his support for the Park District levy

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

WHEREAS, minutes from the February 12, 2020 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 February 12, 2020 Regular Park Board meeting as submitted.

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

DISCUSSION:

None

MOTION CARRIED to approve the minutes on a vote as follows:

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

4. FINANCIAL REPORTS

WHEREAS, the monthly Financial Report and Summary Financial Report for the period ending January 31, 2020 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 Report and Summary Financial Report for the period ending January 31, 2020 as submitted.

P. Quick MOVED to adopt this resolution, which was SECONDED by R. Dublikar

DISCUSSION:

None

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

5. APPROVAL OF PAYROLLS AND BILLS

WHEREAS, copies of payroll and bills for the month of January 2020 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 payroll and bills for January 31, 2020 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: Denise Freeland, Ralph Dublikar, Pat Quick, Bill Bryan

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Informational: Upcoming Events

DISCUSSION:

R. Fonte added that the Massillon Museum Dedication is on Saturday, March 14, with a ribbon cutting at noon

B. Informational: Eagles' Nest at Walborn Reservoir

R. Fonte stated that the Park District is working with volunteers on when they will staff the deck with spotting scopes. R. Fonte also stated that longtime volunteer, Jim Kavalaris has retired from having scheduled times at the nest, but other eagle watcher volunteers will be there in his absence

• **Reference 20**

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION: #20-03-018: Maintenance of Banks in the Ohio & Erie Canal – Canal Fulton

WHEREAS, the City of Canal Fulton requires periodic assistance from the Stark County Park District (SCPD) with the maintenance of the Ohio & Erie Canal waterway for the operation of the St. Helena III Canal Boat at St. Helena Heritage Park; and

WHEREAS, the SCPD has the authority to maintain the banks of the Ohio & Erie Canal at St. Helena Heritage Park in the City of Canal Fulton; and

WHEREAS, the SCPD will rent and operate the equipment for the maintenance of the banks in the Ohio & Erie Canal at St. Helena Heritage Park in the City of Canal Fulton in an amount not to exceed Five Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Two Dollars (\$5,532.00); and

WHEREAS, the City of Canal Fulton will reimburse the Stark County Park District for the equipment rental and related rental costs in an amount of Five Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Two Dollars (\$5,532.00).

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to transfer funds for the equipment rental and related rental costs for maintenance of the banks in the Ohio & Erie Canal in an amount not to exceed Five Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Two Dollars (\$5,532.00) from the 072.28.0000.65000 (Project Fund-Unallocated) to 072.28.1013.64203 (Purchased Services-Property-Rental-Equipment/Vehicles) and to accept the reimbursement of funds from the City of Canal Fulton.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to authorize the Park Director to sign/execute any documents necessary for the equipment rental and related costs for the maintenance for the banks in the Ohio & Erie Canal.

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

DISCUSSION:

R. Fonte stated this project is being completed in partnership with the City of Canal Fulton. They will lease the equipment and Stark Park's staff will provide the manpower. The route will be from Lock 4 Park to St. Helena Heritage Park

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

B. RESOLUTION: #20-03-019: Nimisila Creek Preserve Phase II (Donzelli) – Demolition

WHEREAS, the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners approved the 2020 Budget with Resolution #19-12-101; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 Budget included demolition at a cost not to exceed Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) for the Nimisila Creek Nature Preserve Phase II Project; and

WHEREAS, asbestos testing was requested by the Stark County Health Department and completed at a cost of One Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$170.00) by Cardinal Group, INC.; and

WHEREAS, demolition of the existing structures located at Nimisila Creek Nature Preserve Phase II has been quoted in an amount of Twenty Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Eight Dollars and Sixty Four Cents (\$20,438.64) by Trident Restoration LLC; and

WHEREAS, the total estimated project cost is Twenty Thousand Six Hundred Eight Dollars and Sixty Four Cents (\$20,608.64) for the asbestos testing and demolition; and

- **Reference 21**

WHEREAS, the Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP) has approved the reallocation and reimbursement of the Six Hundred Eight Dollars and Sixty Four Cents (\$608.64) for the additional expenses related to the asbestos testing and demolition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to authorize a transfer of funds in an amount of not to exceed Six Hundred Eight Dollars and Sixty Four Cents (\$608.64) for the asbestos testing and demolition from the 072.28.0000.65000 Project Fund-Unallocated to Capital Outlay-Improvements Other Than Buildings (072.28.1013.65300) for the Nimisila Creek Nature Preserve Phase II Project.

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

DISCUSSION:

R. Fonte stated there was a change in the cost after the Park District completed the environmental survey that added an additional \$608.04 over the approved budget. The expense is 100% grant approved

B. Bryan asked about the asbestos removal

R. Fonte stated the inspection deemed that there was no abatement needed

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

C. RESOLUTION: #20-03-020: Public Comments Added to 5 Year Plan (2019-2023) Exhibit A

WHEREAS, the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners approved the Five-Year Plan, 2019-2023 "Creating Space for Everyone" with Resolution #19-06-049; and

WHEREAS, the proposed addition to the Appendix to include all public comments from each of the public meetings and online survey for the Five Year Plan was presented to the Park Board at the February Board meeting held on February 12, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Park Director hereby recommends the Park Board approve the addition to the Appendix to the Five-Year Plan, 2019-2023 "Making Space for Everyone" attached as Exhibit A.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to approve the addition to the Appendix to the Five-Year Plan, 2019-2023 "Creating Space for Everyone" as presented in Exhibit A.

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

DISCUSSION:

R. Fonte stated that one of the complaints the Park District received was that we were not taking into account all of the comments when the 5 Year Plan was published. This document amends the 5 year Plan to include all comments received at public meetings and in the online survey as an Appendix attached as Exhibit A to document that all public comments were recorded and considered when developing the 5 Year Plan

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

D. RESOLUTION: #20-03-021: Published Trail and Greenway Master Plan Map (Exhibit B)

WHEREAS, the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners adopted the original Stark County Trail and Greenway Master Plan with Resolution#: 99-011 and approved an update to the Trail and Greenway Master Plan with Resolution #13-09-072 after significant Park and Trail projects had been completed; and

WHEREAS, based on public comments, the Park Director recommends changing the published map, attached as Exhibit B, to clarify the future trail connections will be determined following public input, friendly sales and that sufficient funds are available to build and maintain new trails.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to approve the Directors recommendation to publish Exhibit B as attached.

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

DISCUSSION:

R. Fonte stated this resolution is in response to concerns that the Trail and Greenway Master Plan map is a threat. The new map only shows existing trails and clarifies that the future trail connections will be determined following public input, friendly sales and that sufficient funds are available to build and maintain new trails

E. Pugh asked if this updated map would prevent any grants from being submitted without affected landowners and townships being notified. The Park District cannot plan and take someone's property, that is eminent domain as long as that property owner doesn't know. If this map does not prevent that, do not waste the Park District's time

R. Fonte stated the answer is yes, future trail routes will not be added to the map without future friendly sales not eminent domain. Many of the projects are planning grants and public meetings are held. The Park District has always had public meetings preceding all projects beginning in 1997 when the original Master Plan was developed. (Several of those communities gave money towards the Master Plan)

E. Pugh asked further if land owners will be notified

R. Fonte stated the Park District always has public input and has no plans to take any property by eminent domain. An example is the Pleasant Valley Bridge grant. The right-of-way could not be secured to connect the trail to the proposed bridge so the money was returned to the grantor. Another example of a grant is that with the Jackson Tunnel connecting Jackson North Park with Jackson High School, the right-of-way was not secured before the Park District applied for the grant, but the owners were supportive of the project

E. Pugh asked the Park Board if this map will guarantee future trails will not go forward without land owners permission

R. Dublikar and B. Bryan asked how many times can they say the same thing? We do not take land by eminent domain

B. Bryan asked if there were any updates on the Jackson Tunnel

R. Fonte responded that it is on the Park's Master Plan to connect the high school with the area where the amphitheater is in Jackson's North Park

B. Bryan commented that it is currently a safety issue with crossing Fulton Rd.

R. Fonte stated that this project will be similar to the tunnel under Market Avenue in North Canton, the trail under the road will help address the safety issue of crossing a major highway

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

E. RESOLUTION: #20-03-022: Ohio Department of Natural Resources Waterways Safety Fund Grant – Water Trail

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio through the Department of Natural Resources Waterways Safety Fund administers financial assistance for public boating access under the Paddling Enhancement Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, SCPD is a partner in the Tuscarawas River Water Trail program; and

WHEREAS, the two sites identified as water trailheads are located at John Glenn Grove and Lake Avenue along the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath that runs parallel with the Tuscarawas River; and

WHEREAS, each site requires an estimated Five Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$5,500.00) for a total of Eleven Thousand Dollars (\$11,000.00) to make the water trailheads more accessible and usable for paddlers; and

WHEREAS, the Paddling Enhancement Grant Program funds are 100% reimbursable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to authorize the Park Director to apply for the Paddling Enhancement Grant in an amount not to exceed Eleven Thousand Dollars (\$11,000.00) through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to authorize the Park Director to sign/execute any documents necessary for the grant application and to provide information and documentation required to be eligible for the Paddling Enhancement Grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners agrees that it has and will obligate the funds required to satisfactorily complete the project under the terms and conditions of the Cooperative Agreement if the project is accepted for financial assistance from the Paddling Enhancement Grant.

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

DISCUSSION:

R. Fonte stated this would create more access points for put-ins along the Tuscarawas River in partnership with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Director's Report

R. Fonte reported that he had met with the Stark County Farm Bureau President and Regional Executive Director and Senator Kirk Schuring during which a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) had been developed which the Farm Bureau indicated tonight that their Board rejected. We are disappointed with the outcome, but will continue to work to finalize the Noxious Weed Policy that was part of the MOU and other issues the Farm Bureau was concerned with.

R. Fonte would like the Park Board of Commissioners to consider holding a Special Meeting to talk about two items:

1. Consider approving an access across the Sandy Valley Trail (former rail road) owned by Stark Parks to accommodate the purchase of a land locked parcel by 3/31/2020 after details of the proposed crossing easement are finalized, reviewed and approved by legal counsel
2. Consider additional appropriations to meet the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) deadline of April 1, 2020 for the Fulton Road tunnel design

R. Fonte stated that he would propose the meeting be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. at the Sippo Lake Clubhouse

B. Bryan requested staff to send the Park Board of Commissioners a notice

R. Fonte stated further the public forum planned on March 10th sponsored by the League of Women Voters and the Canton Repository has been cancelled due to not having anyone who would publicly oppose the Park District levy

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT RESOLVED, to adjourn into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, and/or compensation of a public employee or official.

P. Quick moved to adopt this motion, which was SECONDED by R. Dublikar

MOTION CARRIED on a roll call vote as follows:

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

11. RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT RESOLVED to reconvene to Regular Session at 7:56 p.m.

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

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

12. ADJOURNMENT

BE IT RESOLVED to adjourn at 7:57 p.m. Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. at the Sippo Lake Clubhouse, 5300 Tyner St. NW, Canton, OH 44708.

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

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

APPROVAL DATE: April 1, 2020

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