Stark County Park District Park Board – Regular Meeting Minutes YouTube Live – Virtual Meeting May 6, 2020 Page 1 of 9

(AGENDA ITEM: 3)

1. CALL TO ORDER — The regular meeting of the Stark County Park Commission was called to order by Andy Hayden at 2:03 p.m.

A. Roll Call of Members:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Andy Hayden, Denise Freeland, Ralph Dublikar, Pat Quick

STAFF PRESENT:

Robert A. Fonte, Park Director/Secretary to the Board Corianne Kocarek, Executive Assistant/Clerk to the Board Barb Wells, Financial Manager

B. Adoption of Agenda

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

DISCUSSION:

None

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT** (Public comments were accepted no later than 4 p.m. on Tuesday, May 5, 2020 to parkboard@starkparks.com)

R. Fonte Read: Josh Staley of Paris Township's Question submitted via email: "Will Stark Parks endorse and support the current proposed legislation at the State of Ohio, House Bill 476? This bill does not eliminate the power of eminent domain from a park district, but gives landowners protection against its use. Given that Stark Parks has stated it will not use this power to acquire land, this endorsement would be a perfect gesture to show citizens of Stark County how serious the park is about this issue. Furthermore, will Stark Parks publicly encourage other park districts to support this legislation through the organization Ohio Parks and Recreation Association?"

A. Hayden answered:

Thank you for your question regarding your position on pending legislation in Columbus.

The Stark County Park District has previously answered your question as to our position to not use eminent domain to take farmland for park purposes. Historically the Park District has not taken a position to lobby the state legislature on pending legislation even when it had a direct impact on the park district. For example, we took no position on the most recent 15% increase in the ODOT funds for park roads which directly increased park funds.

What we are looking into is to do a better job of communicating with the public since a lot of the challenges over the past year were confusion about things the Park District already does but the public didn't understand such as:

- Always have public meetings prior to new projects and review Board meeting schedule and accessibility to the public
- Publish our budget which we already do at every Board meeting; on our website; and in our annual report
- Exploring revenue other than taxes for operations (good job on capital projects need to do a better job on operations)
- Explore cost-cutting opportunities such as hard surfacing high maintenance trail sections

R. Fonte Read: Josh Staley of Paris Township's Question submitted via email:

Can you please describe the purpose of the funding source listed as State Capital Grant on line item 117 of Exhibit B, Budget in the amount of \$537,437.00

B. Wells answered:

This was a reimbursement from the 2017 State Capital Grant, the grant award was \$980,000.00 the total amount of that award was a contract for IAP Government Services Group to perform the Magnolia Mill renovation project and renovation that included a new roof, exterior facade, windows and doors, and electrical upgrades. They fully performed the contract leaving a remaining balance of \$12,643.15 for a total spent of \$967,356.84. The \$537,437.00 was the final disbursement less \$12,643.15 that was not spent

A. Hayden wanted to thank the public and Stark County Voters for supporting the most recent levy during these trying times. Whether we're in COVID-19 or not, it made it more problematic to get our word out to the public, but we want the public to rest assured that both before, during and after this pandemic we are facing the Stark County Park District has focused on the utilization of tax funds/publics resources as best as we possibly can with as much input from the public as possible and we'll continue to do that through the coming years and throughout the longevity of this levy and the funds that the taxpayers have made available and of the Park District's staff for their hard work in putting all of that together. Many thanks on behalf of the Park Board.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

WHEREAS, minutes from the April 1, 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 April 1, 2020 Regular Park Board meeting as submitted.

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

DISCUSSION:

None

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

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

WHEREAS, minutes from the April 29, 2020 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 April 29, 2020 Special Park Board meeting as submitted.

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

DISCUSSION:

None

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

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

4. FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

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

DISCUSSION:

A. Hayden inquired regarding the Grant Status Report if due to the current circumstances with staff do any of the dates need changed for status of completion?

R. Fonte answered that most of the grantors have stated their willingness to work with us. We have not officially applied to extend them yet because we do not know what date to extend them to until we get

fully operational again. All of the grantors that he is familiar with have stated they will not be draconian about deadlines

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

5. APPROVAL OF PAYROLLS AND BILLS

WHEREAS, copies of payroll and bills for the month of March 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 March 31, 2020 as submitted.

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

DISCUSSION:

A. Hayden asked for clarification regarding line 85 "Stark County Treasurer" and the "2019 First Half Real Estate Taxes" in the amount of \$30,341

B. Wells answered this is the property taxes the Park District pays in the year of acquisition

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Informational: Upcoming Events (All events are subject to the Ohio Department of Health "Director's Stay at Home Order")

DISCUSSION:

R. Fonte stated that the Spring Plant Sale is a drive up/pick up sale this year

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION: #20-05-030: Adoption of Telecommuting Policy

WHEREAS, it was determined by the Stark County Park District Director that there is a need for a Telecommuting Policy; and

WHEREAS, the recommended policy is attached as Exhibit A.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to adopt the Telecommuting Policy as attached as Exhibit A.

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

DISCUSSION:

R. Fonte stated that normally we would present the policy for review one month and have the Board adopt the policy the following month, but under the current situation we felt that we should get the policy in place since we are essentially operating under it with many people working from home. If it is determined the policy needs revised, it will be brought back to the Park Board for approval

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

B. RESOLUTION: #20-05-031: 2020 Project List & Budget

WHEREAS, all 2020 proposed county-wide projects and as well as individual department projects, have been reviewed and prioritized in Exhibit B; and

WHEREAS, the Park Director has proposed that the projects listed under "Category 1" be approved for inclusion in the 2020 Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to authorize the attached recommended 2020 Category 1 Project List & Budget Exhibit B.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to authorize the appropriation of funds from the Project Fund-Unallocated Account 072.28.0000.65000 as they become available in accordance with the previously approved budget (Resolution #: 19-12-101) and the herein approved 2020 Project List & Budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to authorize the Park Director to place for Public Bid or Request for Qualifications (RFQ's) those items exceeding Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to complete the 2020 Project List & Budget unless the items are purchased in accordance with park policies or from the state bid list.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to authorize the Park Director to award the contracts to the lowest and/or best bids or highest ranked qualifications submitted, provided the total project cost of each project does not exceed the original project budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to authorize the Park Director to sign/execute any contracts or change orders necessary to complete the 2020 Project List & Budget provided the total project cost does not exceed the original project budget as approved by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners.

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

DISCUSSION:

R. Fonte stated that there were two impacts on the Park District's budget this year. (1) The status of the levy and (2) the COVID-19 pandemic. The staff collectively worked hard to get the Park Board the Project List & Budget, however there are a couple of requested revisions:

- 1. Line 5 WRRSP was marked as federal, but they are actually state grants. This does not change the budget, but if the Park District were to receive over \$750,000 in federal grants it would subject us to a federal audit
- 2. We are requesting an update in an effort to lower our trail maintenance costs. We had separate line items to resurface the Mahoning Valley Trail with aggregate, as well as chip and seal and asphalt other portions of trails. We met this morning and rather than patch the Mahoning Valley Trail we propose moving that money into the Chip and Seal project. This would move line 65 (\$40,000) to line 35 to increase the Chip and Seal/Asphalt project by \$40,000. Additionally, once we looked at the entire list of trails we are recommending we additionally appropriate from line 123 (unallocated balance with funds of over \$300,000 that were not budgeted) an additional \$68,000 to line 35. We experimented with good success last year with Chip and Seal. The following are the sections of trails to be improved:
 - Petros Park chip and seal a portion of the trail that has constant washouts \$16,117.00
 - Middle Branch Trail near Veterans Park repair of damaged chip and seal \$7,659.00
 - Sippo Lake Main Park chip and seal of two locations that are steep inclines \$9,523.00
 - Sippo Lake Exploration Gateway Access Trail blacktop to connect to existing black top -\$4,960.00
 - Towpath north of Lake Lucerne blacktop connect to existing blacktop (footbridge to existing blacktop) - \$67,200.00
 - Hoover Trail blacktop connect to existing blacktop at the High School \$4,000.00
 - Towpath Lock 4 chip and seal south until the trail separates from the Canal \$17,440.00
 - West Branch Trail chip and seal near the Hall of Fame \$29,770.00
 - Mahoning Valley Trail chip and seal section from Gaskill to Union \$15,651.00

The Total project is \$172,320. This is all bid work in accordance to our bidding process. This will help to lower our maintenance costs. The operations department will continue to monitor and if new areas are identified, or if repairing of the chip and seal is needed they could be addressed in the coming year(s)

A. Hayden asked about line 2 (Middle Branch Trail at Veteran's Park) if this repair of the chip and seal included the south section that runs by Rice's Nursery

R. Fonte answered, yes and our staff met with Plain Township's Park District because the trail runs through their land and there is a drainage problem that is creating the washout, so the Park District will work with Plain Township to straighten out the drainage issue at the same time

R. Fonte explained that the Park District does not want to be aggressive in utilizing the contingency funds (unallocated balance) until we see what our revenues will be. B. Wells has done the best job she can to project the revenues which are lower than last year in terms of taxes and revenues from sales and rentals, but no one can predict what will happen the second half of the year

P. Quick remarked how she really liked the Chip and Seal surface from a traction standpoint in the winter time

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

C. RESOLUTION: #20-05-032: 2020 Budget: Certificates of Resources/Appropriation

WHEREAS, the Stark County Park District receives funding through various entities for project and land purchases; and

WHEREAS, funds in the total amount of Three Million Fifty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Five Dollars (\$3,053,795.00) are anticipated to be received in 2020 from the following sources:

- The Conservation Fund Two Hundred Three Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$203,800.00)
- Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program One Hundred Seventy Eight Thousand One Hundred Two Dollars (\$178,102.00)
- Bayer of North America Bee Care Program Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00)
- State Capital Grant Two Hundred Forty Five Thousand Dollars (\$245,000.00)
- Cleveland Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA) One Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$1,200.00)
- Natural Resources Advisory Council (NRAC) Nine Hundred Sixty Two Thousand One Hundred Forty Four Dollars (\$962,144.00)
- Clean Ohio Trail Fund Four Hundred Seventeen Thousand Dollars (\$417,000.00)
- Jackson Township Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00)
- Jackson Local Schools Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00)
- Ohio Attorney General's Ohio Law Two Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$2,250.00)
- Stark County District Library Two Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Eight Dollars (\$2,828.00)
- Deuble Foundation Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00)
- Stark Community Foundation Eighty Three Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Three Dollars (\$83,333.00)
- City of Canal Fulton Five Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Two Dollars (\$5,532.00)
- Ohio Department of Transportation Thirty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Six Dollars (\$37,526.00)
- State Capital Grant Five Hundred Thirty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Seven Dollars (\$537,437.00)
- Natural Resources Advisory Council (NRAC) One Hundred Eighty One Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Two Dollars (\$181,262.00)

WHEREAS, funds in the total amount of Two Hundred Thirty Two Thousand Dollars (\$232,000.00) are anticipated to not be received in 2020 due to the pandemic from the following sources:

- Revenue Rebudget User Fees Minus Sixty Five Thousand (-\$65,000.00)
- Revenue Rebudget Sales-Marinas Minus One Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (-\$125,000.00)
- Revenue Rebudget User Fees-Exploration Gateway Minus Twenty Two Thousand (-\$22,000.00)
- Revenue Rebudget Sales-Exploration Gateway Bookstore Minus Twenty Thousand (-\$20,000.00)

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the 2020 Budget by an amount not to exceed Two Million Eight Hundred Twenty One Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Five Dollars (\$2,821,795.00) for the completion of the 2020 Project List & Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to amend the 2020 Budget by an amount not to exceed Two Million Eight Hundred Twenty One Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Five Dollars (\$2,821,795.00) for the completion of the 2020 Project List & Budget.

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

DISCUSSION:

B. Wells stated this resolution is to get all of the money in place that the Park District is going to spend on grants and money that has been received for reimbursement. Also we talked about having lower money coming in so we wanted to do a negative certificate on those accounts. These all match up to the Project List & Budget

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

D. RESOLUTION: #20-05-033: 2020 Staffing Updates

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

WHEREAS, with the promotion of Justin Laps to Chief, we are proposing to eliminate his former position of Captain and create a new rank of Sergeant not to exceed an annualized increase of Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3,500.00), so as to have a rank officer on each shift without increasing current staff positions; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for reclassifying the remaining contingent employee position within the Operations Department to a full time Crew Worker I position to adequately maintain our Parks and Trails effective as of May 14, 2020; and

WHEREAS, to be prepared to respond to the unanticipated needs under the COVID-19 pandemic the Director and Financial Manager recommend the re-allocation of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00) from salaries for Enterprise seasonal employees to overtime for our current employees; and

WHEREAS, these recommended changes are within the 2020 Budget that was adopted with Resolution #19-12-101.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to add the rank of Sergeant to the Public Safety Department not to exceed an annualized increase of Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3,500.00); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to reclassify the contingent employee to a full time employee in the Operations Department as a Crew Worker I effective as of May 14, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to create an overtime category in the amount of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00) under Enterprises to be allocated to various departments as approved by the Director and Financial Manager as needed to continue to provide a safe environment to the public.

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

DISCUSSION:

R. Fonte stated all of the changes are within the current salary budget. We have eliminated Justin Laps' former position as Captain. We originally created that [the Captains] position when we knew Dan George was retiring. Chief Lap's hopes to be here for a while, but the Park District does want to create a promotion position of Sergeant to have a rank position on each shift at the cost of no more than \$3,500.00. Depending on who qualifies it equates to a 10 percent raise for a current staff member (this is not a new position). The other position was a Crew Worker I position. This gentleman was on staff as a contingent employee for the past year and has been doing a great job working on the Parks & Trails crew in operations. This does increase operating because of the benefits costs. The last item was to create a separate overtime category. Each department has overtime built into their budgets, but this would create a separate account under Enterprises (because there are no seasonal employees right now), conditioned upon he and B. Wells agreeing and each department submits the request in advance as needed to keep up with maintenance. We did not hire any seasonals or contract labor so we have to keep up with demands with our current staff. There are currently a number of staff on FMLA with the pandemic rules so we need to keep up with the demand in their absence

- P. Quick asked that even though the overtime is categorized under Enterprises it is for all departments
- R. Fonte stated that is correct, it is available to all departments
- A. Hayden asked if it was \$60,000.00?
- R. Fonte answered yes, \$60,000.00

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Director's Report

R. Fonte thanked the public and the staff for their support and reacting positively during all of the unforeseen challenges with the pandemic, and going from not knowing what our future is to knowing we have funding for the next 8 years and doing whatever was called upon them

One of the positives that came out of this was our usage being up 167%

The Mindfulness Walk (that we received the Governor's Award in Ohio) has just received a National Award from National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (NACPRO). He thanked the staff and community partners, Stark Mental Health and Recovery and local businesses who helped build that with us COVID-19 Status Update – we are one of 8 counties under the Governor's committee led by Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Director, Mary Mertz working on reopening criteria and guidelines. The group meets over conference call each Monday to discuss where each District is individually and where the State Parks are and how to move into the next phase to protect staff and the public. Locally, we started on Monday, May 4 that all staff are working their full 40 hours. Many are still working remotely, but are now clocking in/out on our KRONOS timekeeping system and more people are able to come in to work to keep up with day to day maintenance and projects. We have set posted building and occupancy limits for all of our buildings and workspaces and if people are working from home and need to come into the building they coordinate with their manager so we adhere to the space restrictions. Currently all buildings and restrooms are still closed to the public. We are reviewing along with the state officials about how and when we might open our restrooms. We have no predictions of when this might change. The Parks and Trails have remained open during the pandemic with our rangers occasionally reinforcing and educating the public regarding the social distancing order. There is signage throughout the Parks and along the trails about the order and maintaining the 6 feet of social distance.

The more densely populated areas are not having as good of cooperation as we are from the public. We have

posted special markings on the T-Dock at Sippo for social distancing and plan to have the docks at Walborn and Deer Creek marked as well. Educational programming is still taking place, but now moved online. Some are video and some are live. They have had 1,000s of views on the programs. The pandemic is teaching us a way to be more effective and reaching more of our population. Staff are wearing masks in accordance to our guidelines. The management team is meeting weekly to review the conditions and trying to keep up and implement changes. As a result of the staff all back and working, not everyone is working in their traditional job location. We are using staff throughout the parks as needed to keep them all productive. For example: some education programmers are working with animal rehabilitation or natural resources to help with invasive species control.

RESOLUTION: #20-05-034: Revise the Vehicle Use for Essential On-Call Exempt Staff During Ohio Department of Health "Director's Stay at Home Order"

WHEREAS, the Stark County Park Districts needs have changed with regard to the "Director's Stay at Home Order" and it is necessary to review the Vehicle Use Resolution approved with Resolution #20-04-025; and

WHEREAS, the Stark County Park District requires Park Board of Commissioner approval to take Stark County Park District vehicles to employees homes overnight for extended periods of time; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Trails Supervisor is "on-call" during the Ohio Department of Health "Director's Stay at Home Order" in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Park Director recommends the Park Board of Commissioners remove the Operations Manager and Construction Supervisor from the list of employees permitted to take Stark County Park District vehicles home with them to be responsive to emergencies during the "Director's Stay at Home Order" effective May 8, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Park Director recommends the Park Board of Commissioners continue to allow the Parks and Trails Supervisor to take a Stark County Park District vehicle home with him to be responsive to emergencies during the "Director's Stay at Home Order".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to remove the Operations Manager, Richard Summers and Construction Supervisor, Rob Hoover from list of employees permitted to take Stark County Park District vehicles home and continue to authorize the Parks and Trails Supervisor, Jason Yost to drive a Park District vehicle home to be responsive to emergencies during the Ohio Department of Health "Director's Stay at Home Order" in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic effective May 8, 2020.

P. Quick 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, Ralph Dublikar, Pat Quick

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT RESOLVED, to adjourn into Executive Session at 2:43 p.m. to consider the employment, promotion, and/or compensation of public employee(s) or official(s) and to prepare for a bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment pursuant to division (F)(4) of this section of the ORC.

R. Dublikar moved to adopt this motion, which was SECONDED by D. Freeland

MOTION CARRIED on a roll call vote as follows:

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

11. RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT RESOLVED to reconvene to Regular Session at 3:11 p.m.

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

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

12. ADJOURNMENT

BE IT RESOLVED to adjourn at 3:13 p.m. Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. at a location to be determined.

R. Dublikar MOVED to adjourn the meeting, which was SECONDED by D. Freeland

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

APPROVAL DATE: June 3, 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 • Reference 39