

Stark County Park District Park Board – Regular Meeting Minutes
Exploration Gateway at Sippo Lake Park, 5712 12th St. NW, Canton, OH 44708

June 1, 2021

Page 1 of 6

(AGENDA ITEM: 3)

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – The regular meeting of the Stark County Park Commission was called to order by Denise Freeland at 2:01 p.m.

A. Roll Call of Members:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Denise Freeland, Bill Bryan, Ralph Dublikar, Pat Quick, David Regula

STAFF PRESENT:

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

Barbara Wells, Financial Manager

Corianne Kocarek, Clerk to the Board

Dani McGuinness, Human Resources Manager

Dave Pildner, Education Manager

Rick Summers, Operations Manager

Sarah Buell, Projects & Administration Manager

Justin Laps, Chief of Public Safety

Gage Kimble, Ranger

Jim Meyers, Ranger

GUESTS PRESENT:

David Waters, Quail Hollow Herb Society

Susan Smith, Quail Hollow Herb Society

Wendy Kimble

Chase Kimble

Shannon Miller

Dan Miller

Alexis Gram

Cherie Parker, Quail Hollow Herb Society

Gerald Schaefer, Quail Hollow Herb Society

B. Adoption of Agenda

D. Regula MOVED to adopt the agenda, which was SECONDED by B. Bryan

DISCUSSION:

None

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

C. Oath of Office: Ranger Gage Kimble

DISCUSSION:

J. Laps introduced G. Kimble and stated that he was hired as a Ranger Cadet at the Park District about a year ago. He received his training and certification from the Kent State University Police Academy

D. Oath of Office: Ranger James Meyers

DISCUSSION:

J. Laps introduced J. Meyers who comes to us from the Canton City Police Department where he served 25 years and ended his career with them as a field training officer

• **Reference 44**

J. Laps stated that the Park District is happy to have them both join the Public Safety team

R. Fonte stated that on May 28 a vehicle drove into Sippo Lake and the Park District is very grateful for the support from our rangers, Perry Township Police, marina staff, the Green Dive Team and a passer-by for the rescue of the driver. It was a team effort and will be on Fox 8 news this evening at 4 and 6 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

S. Smith thanked the Park District for installing a fence around the holly in the herb garden at Quail Hollow Park. She further thanked the Park District for installing the nearby bee hives. She stated further that the fencing will need extended around the perimeter of the garden. Smith further suggested the Park Distract install a black fence and pay for it utilizing donors. She explained that C. Parker has photos of the fence that is currently wrapped around the holly and that G. Schaefer has some water requirements he would like to share.

C. Parker showed each Park Board members and all staff present the photos of the fencing around the garden

G. Schaefer stated that the thin plastic that feeds the sprinkler system contains several holes and needs replaced due to the leaks. Also, that the submersible pump needs a light bulb installed so that people can easily know when it is on and running to prevent potential flooding of the garden. The Herb Society is prepared to install and pay for the new piping

S. Smith stated that the Herb Society requests to hear back regarding extending the fencing around the rest of the perimeter of the herb garden

R. Fonte stated that on-going conversations should be going through T. Householder and the operations contacts as well as any projects proposals

D. Regula asked how long the existing line is for the sprinkler system and if it is plastic or metal

G. Schaefer answered that the line is around 30 years old and it is plastic

D. Regula asked why it needed to be replaced

G. Schaefer stated it is leaking and is tough to repair due to being pressurized

D. Regula asked if the piping could be slid inside the new line to save costs. Regula also asked about the budget for the Herb Society

G. Schaefer stated that the group raises funds with their annual Craft and Herb Fair and spend roughly \$1,000 per year

R. Dublikar stated that according to the meeting minutes provided to the Board the Herb Society met with D. Pildner and T. Householder on May 14 and the items mentioned previously were talked about and in a subsequent communication.

At this meeting, T. Householder stated the water for the sprinkler system would be turned on May 18 and at that meeting

G. Schaefer spoke about potential issues with the watering system

G. Schaefer added that a light is needed for the pump

R. Dublikar asked if the Herb Society was not happy with the results of the meeting(s)

G. Schaefer spoke about improvements made to the controls so that volunteers no longer need to get into the Nature Center for watering controls

D. Regula stated that he appreciated G. Schaefer's forward thinking and that the Park District will continue to work on a compromise with the group

R. Dublikar stated that the Herb Society should continue to work with T. Householder. R. Dublikar further observed that it appears that the Herb Society wants to decide what needs to be done at Quail Hollow and expects the Park District to pay for their requests. R. Dublikar reminded the Herb Society that ultimately the Park Board will decided what to spend money on

C. Parker stated that the Herb Society would also like to make a profit from having garden tours and enclosing the garden could help this to happen by charging a fee to tour the garden

D. Regula requested that R. Fonte email the current partnership agreement with the Quail Hollow Herbal Society to the Board for review

3. STAFF PRESENTATION – Rick Summers, Operations Manager

R. Summers shared the following with the Park Board:

- The Operations Department consists of Construction, Facilities, Fleet and Parks and Trails
 - Construction: plans, coordinates and executes all aspects of construction and park maintenance activities
 - Fleet: maintains the fleet, including appropriate repairs and maintenance of a variety of park vehicles, equipment (mowers and attachments), and large tools
 - Facilities: maintains the facilities and is spread out across the county and includes a supervisor, mechanics and crew workers

• *Reference 45*

- Parks & Trails: divided into three regions: east, central and west
- The trails were packed with the COVID shut down and R. Summers shared photos of several projects that happened throughout 2020 and early 2021 including: repairing storm and flooding damage, installing interpretive signage, dock installation, removal of debris from the Aqueduct Bridge, purchased and utilized a new paver, installed flooring in the Quail Hollow Manor House, armored the Mindfulness Walk trail, chip and seal of portions of several trails, bridge construction at Quail Hollow on the mountain bike trail, installed a bike fix-it station at Lock 4, removed moss from trails utilizing baking soda, organized the Parks & Trails trailers in a uniform way, constructed a bridge at Petros Lake Park, and installed benches at various parks and trails.
- D. Regula asked if the Park District utilizes court ordered workers
- R. Summers stated that we have for clean-ups along the Towpath, some have worked out well

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

WHEREAS, minutes from the May 4, 2021 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 May 4, 2021 Regular Park Board meeting as submitted.

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

DISCUSSION:

None

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

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

5. FINANCIAL REPORTS

WHEREAS, the monthly Financial Report and Summary Financial Report for the period ending April 30, 2021 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 April 30, 2021 as submitted.

B. Bryan MOVED to adopt this resolution, which was SECONDED by D. Regula

DISCUSSION:

D. Regula asked if the Park District will receive any CARES Act dollars

B. Wells stated the Park District has had some bills reimbursed totaling around \$25,000

R. Fonte stated that we were reimbursed for extra cleaning supplies and items to separate employees as well as laptops. The District is not eligible for the big funds because we are not considered an “essential community asset”

B. Bryan asked if the infrastructure bill will offer any money for projects

R. Fonte answered that the Park District does not know since we’re in the “non-essential” category at this time

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

6. APPROVAL OF PAYROLLS AND BILLS

WHEREAS, copies of payroll and bills for the month of April 2021 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 April 30, 2021 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, Bill Bryan, Ralph Dublikar, Pat Quick, David Regula

- **Reference 46**

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Informational: Upcoming Events

DISCUSSION:

D. Freeland asked when the Friends of Stark Parks Rockin' and Rollin' event was scheduled

S. Buell answered July 24 at Tam O'Shanter Park

B. Informational: Employee Events and Provisions Policy

DISCUSSION:

R. Fonte stated that Summit Metroparks shared their policy that the Park District would like to implement. It is in draft form at this stage and we can answer any questions. It will be on the July Board agenda for approval

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION: #21-06-042: Naming of Fry Family Park Visitor Center

WHEREAS, the Stark County Park District has completed the Visitor Center at the Fry Family Park located at 2533 Farber Street in Magnolia; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the financial contribution Mr. Harold S. Fry made toward the Fry Family Park acquisition and in accordance with our donor policy, the park district would like to name the Visitor Center after him.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Stark County Board of Park Commissioners names the Visitor Center at the Fry Family Park: the Harold S. Fry Visitor Center.

B. Bryan MOVED to adopt this resolution, which was SECONDED by D. Regula

DISCUSSION:

R. Fonte stated it was the recommendation of staff given the history of the property. We felt this would be appropriate given Harold Fry's generosity

S. Buell stated that the Park District is working with Massillon Plaque on the design of the lettering

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

B. RESOLUTION: #21-06-043: Jackson Connector Trail-Tunnel: Utility Relocations

WHEREAS, the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners approved the phases of the Jackson Connector Trail-Tunnel as part of the 2020 Project List & Budget with Resolution #20-05-031 and as part of the 2021 Project List & Budget with Resolution #21-02-015; and

WHEREAS, the utility coordination for the project must occur in 2021 in order to prepare for a construction advertisement to bid in early 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Stark County Park District (SCPD) has Seventy Four Thousand and Eighty-Six Dollars (\$74,086.00) budgeted for utility relocations on the 2021 Project List & Budget; and

WHEREAS, the consultants on the project, ms consultants, LLC, have provided a revised estimate for the utility relocations in the amount of Three Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$375,000.00) for a total revised estimate of Three Hundred Eighty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Eight Dollars and Twenty-Six Cents (\$385,898.26) for utility relocations; and

WHEREAS, the SCPD has a remaining budget of Sixty Three Thousand One Hundred Eighty Seven Dollars and Seventy Four Cents (\$63,187.74) budgeted for utility relocations on the 2021 Project List & Budget leaving a balance of Three Hundred Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred Twelve Dollars and Twenty Six Cents (\$311,812.26); and

WHEREAS, SCPD partners in the Jackson Connector Trail-Tunnel: Jackson Township Trustees and Jackson Local School District, will share equally in the utility relocations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to update the Jackson Connector Trail-Tunnel utility relocations on 2021 Project List & Budget to the current revised estimate of Three Hundred Eighty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Eight Dollars and Twenty-Six Cents (\$385,898.26).

• **Reference 47**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to amend the 2021 Budget by an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Four Dollars and Eighty Four Cents (\$207,874.84) for a total of the partners share or One Hundred Three Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Seven Dollars and Forty Two Cents (\$103,937.42) from each partner for the Jackson Connector Trail-Tunnel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to authorize a transfer/s of funds in an amount of not to exceed Three Hundred and Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$375,000.00) from the Project Fund-Unallocated (072.28.0000.65000) to the appropriate accounts to complete the utility relocations required for the Jackson Connector Trail-Tunnel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to authorize staff to invoice the partners in the amount of One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$128,632.75) each.

B. Bryan MOVED to adopt this resolution, which was SECONDED by D. Regula

DISCUSSION:

S. Buell stated that this was due to the increase in the utility costs over what was originally budgeted. It wasn't until ms consultants was on board that we received an estimate. There are a total of eight utilities that need to be moved. The partners are covering their share and we do have an application through the Clean Ohio Trail Fund and hope to hear back in the fall if we are awarded the grant. Jackson Township has also applied for an infrastructure grant

R. Dublikar clarified if the estimate was an increase of \$375,000?

S. Buell answered that the estimate was for \$375,000 total

R. Dublikar also asked if this resolution gives the Park District permission to invoice the project partners

R. Fonte stated yes, that is part of the resolution

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

C. RESOLUTION: #21-06-044: Miscellaneous Land Acquisition Services

WHEREAS, the Natural Resources Advisory Committee (NRAC) grant program now requires an appraisal as part of the application process; and

WHEREAS, these services are related to the purchase, inspection or evaluation of land; and

WHEREAS, the Park Director recommends budgeting Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000.00) for land purchases and related services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to add Miscellaneous Land Acquisition Services to the 2021 Project List & Budget in an amount not to exceed Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000.00).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to authorize a transfer/s of funds in an amount not to exceed Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000.00) from the Project Fund-Unallocated (072.28.0000.65000) to the appropriate accounts to conduct the necessary appraisal or related services in preparation of grant applications recognizing that all grant applications will be presented to the Park Board for approval prior to filing said application(s).

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

DISCUSSION:

R. Fonte stated this is in response to a change of policy with the Natural Resources Advisory Committee (NRAC) that requires an appraisal as part of the application process

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

• **Reference 48**

9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- R. Fonte stated that the Park District is working with the volunteer groups to update the partnership agreements. We are responsible for the upkeep of the property and will continue working with the groups to strengthen the relationship
- The Park District has been approached by Arts-in-Stark about donating eight sculptures that are located in various places around downtown Canton. We identify Petros Lake Park as an "arts park" due to the amphitheater as well as the Mindfulness Walk. Creating an Art Walk utilizing these sculptures could fit in nicely. We're trying to determine the installation and signage requirements before recommending to the Park Board that we accept the donation
- We've offered to meet with a former professional golfer to explore his ideas for a driving range
- Have received opposition letters from Washington Township (May, 2021) and Marlboro Township (April, 2021)
- We are planning to improve trail surfaces on the Towpath near Lake Lucerne, the Massillon Sewer Plant and south of Craig Pittman. We also received a grant for sidewalk connections at the Iron Horse Trail

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT RESOLVED, to adjourn into Executive Session at 3:32 p.m. to discuss the employment of a public employee and prepare for negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment pursuant to division (G)(4) of this section of the ORC.

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

MOTION CARRIED on a roll call vote as follows:

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

11. RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT RESOLVED to reconvene to Regular Session at 4:25 p.m.

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

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

12. ADJOURNMENT

BE IT RESOLVED to adjourn at 4:30 p.m. Next scheduled meeting: July 6, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at the Exploration Gateway at Sippo Lake Park.

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

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

APPROVAL DATE: July 6, 2021

ATTEST:

Denise Freeland, 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 49**