

Stark County Park District Park Board – Regular Meeting Minutes
Exploration Gateway at Sippo Lake Park, 5712 12th St. NW, Canton, OH 44708
May 3, 2022
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(AGENDA ITEM: 4)

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – The regular meeting of the Stark County Park Commission was called to order by Denise Freeland at 2:04 p.m.

A. Roll Call of Members

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Denise Freeland, Bill Bryan, Ralph Dublikar, David Regula (arrived at 2:25 pm)

STAFF PRESENT:

Daniel Moeglin, Executive Director/Secretary to the Board

Derek Gordon, Deputy Director

Barbara Wells, Financial Manager

Victoria Nickl, Staff Accountant

Justin Laps, Chief

Rick Summers, Operations Manager

Sarah Buell, Projects & Administration Manager

David Green, Education Manager

Aimee Engelhart, Marketing Administrator

Jared Shive, Public Relations Coordinator

Emily Rindfleisch, Projects Assistant

B. Adoption of Agenda

B. Bryan MOVED to adopt the agenda, which was SECONDED by R. Dublikar

DISCUSSION: None

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

Voting Aye: Denise Freeland, Bill Bryan, Ralph Dublikar

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. STAFF PRESENTATION

A. 2021 Annual Report (Exhibit A)

B. 2021 Community Survey (Exhibit B)

DISCUSSION:

- B. Bryan said he appreciates the presentation and the lessons to be learned from mining the data
- A. Engelhart noted that she also appreciates the analytics; digital media is powerful and at times overwhelming
- B. Bryan expressed that he does not want to wait another year for a marketing update, and would prefer to be updated in real-time when possible
- A. Engelhart agreed to provide him updates and thanked the Board for their time
- R. Summers asked if employees logging into the Parks' homepage counts toward the data, and J. Shive said no, it does not count if that is done on the Parks' internal network
- D. Gordon noted that the survey results provided great insights, included broad demographics and are very encouraging
- D. Regula asked if a presentation is ever done at the Stark County Fair, and A. Engelhart responded yes, before the Covid-19 pandemic

- J. Shive noted that he participates in outreach activities at least one-two times per week with booths, animal ambassadors and the FeLeap mascot
- D. Regula asked if J. Shive attends local festivals and he responded yes, including attending local farmers markets
- D. Moeglin inquired as to the success of outreach regarding the Stark County Fair
- J. Shive said there have been a mix of interactions, but there is a lack of *quality* interactions and foot traffic

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

WHEREAS, minutes from the April 5, 2022 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 5, 2022 Regular Park Board meeting as submitted.

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

DISCUSSION:

- R. Dublikar noted that the minutes did not reflect his name under ‘Members Present,’ rather, they had Bill Bryan’s name listed twice. The minutes are approved subject to these corrections.

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

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

5. FINANCIAL REPORTS

WHEREAS, the monthly Financial Report and Summary Financial Report for the period ending March 31, 2022 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, 2022 as submitted.

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

DISCUSSION:

- B. Wells provided a handout to the Park Board with a short summary of the monthly financial data to be considered for future meetings, rather than providing three separate reports
- D. Moeglin asked the Park Board to review the handout and to consider whether this is sufficient in place of three separate reports moving forward
- D. Freeland asked B. Wells to send the handout to P. Quick, and B. Wells agreed to do that

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

6. APPROVAL OF PAYROLLS AND BILLS

WHEREAS, copies of payroll and bills for the month of March 31, 2022 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, 2022 as submitted.

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

DISCUSSION: None

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Informational: Upcoming Events

DISCUSSION:

- D. Freeland mentioned not having the Informational Section uploaded to her OneDrive account
- V. Nickl said she would ensure all Park Board members have this uploaded as soon as possible
- B. Bryan asked whether there was a fishing derby held over the weekend in Canal Fulton, and J. Laps said yes
- D. Regula asked whether the Parks stocked the ponds with fish beforehand, and J. Laps said yes, on Friday
- D. Moeglin noted that updated derby participation figures will be part of next month's Board packet

B. Informational: Follow-Up from April 5, 2022 Park Board Meeting

DISCUSSION:

- B. Bryan reviewed the Parks' Work-Related Injuries & Illnesses, or 'lost-time' chart, and would like to see the OSHA benchmarking (calculated at over 200,000 hours), noting the Parks' rates from 2017-2021 are good
- D. Moeglin asked B. Bryan if he has a format or template to provide us from his employer, and B. Bryan said yes, but that the Parks should keep their template consistent with other Park districts

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION: #22-05-050: Whitacre Greer Land Usage Lease Agreement

WHEREAS, the Stark County Park District Board of Commissioners approved the Whitacre Greer Recreational Property Lease with Resolution: #06-04-029 for the provision of a lease over 2,000-acres (of which only about 500 acres has truly been utilized by the parks) more or less on property owned by Whitacre Greer Company, Inc., and situated in Stark and Carroll Counties, Ohio for park purposes; and

WHEREAS, the lease required an annual payment of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00) plus other services and materials as mutually agreed annually; and

WHEREAS, Stark Parks has proposed reducing the leased acreage from approximately 2,000 acres to approximately 500 acres situated in Carroll County that encompasses the Whitacre Greer Park in an updated Land Usage Lease Agreement attached as draft (Exhibit C); and

WHEREAS, Stark Parks proposes reducing the annual payment to One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) annually; and

WHEREAS, the new lease will have a term of one year with an option to renew it if needed for park purposes in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to authorize the Daniel J. Moeglin, Executive Director, to sign/execute Land Usage Lease Agreement and Memorandum of Lease with the Whitacre Greer Company, Inc. as attached as a draft (Exhibit C) pending approval to legal form and sufficiency by Attorney William Morris.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to approve the annual payment of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) annually for the Land Usage Lease Agreement and Memorandum of Lease with the Whitacre Greer Company, Inc.

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

DISCUSSION:

- D. Moeglin gave a brief outline of this resolution utilizing a board with a map
- R. Dublikar asked if there is any problem leasing property in Carroll County
- D. Moeglin responded that that is a legitimate concern of his and the Rangers, however, there is no other alternative at this time

- D. Freeland asked S. Buell if this is the location of where the camp would have been located and S. Buell responded yes, but that the family did not want to proceed with a camp

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

B. RESOLUTION: #22-05-051: Akron Children’s Hospital: K-9 Vehicle

WHEREAS, the Stark County Park Board of Park Commissioners approved Resolution #21-05-039 authorizing the trade-ins for vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the Park District (Parks) is in possession of the trade-in vehicles that included #3-2014 Ford Taurus-K-9 vehicle due to the pending delivery of the 2022 Ford F-350 ordered from Daystar Ford of Garrettsville in April 2021; and

WHEREAS, Justin Laps, Chief, received a request through the Ohio Department of Public Safety of Akron Children’s Hospitals Police Department need for a K-9 patrol vehicle; and

WHEREAS, Rick Summers, Operations Manager, confirmed with Daystar Ford of Garrettsville that the Parks could pay the Fifteen Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) trade-in value towards the purchase of the 2022 Ford F-350; and

WHEREAS, Akron Children’s Hospital has agreed to pay the Parks Fifteen Hundred Dollars \$1,500 for the purchase of #3-2014 Ford Taurus-K-9 vehicle; and

WHEREAS, there is sufficient funds in the Parks Operating Budget to encumber and expend the Fifteen Hundred Dollar (\$1,500.00) trade-in value towards the purchase of 2022 Ford F-350.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to authorize the sale of #3-2014 Ford Taurus-K-9 vehicle to Akron Children’s Hospital/Police Department in for Fifteen Hundred Dollar (\$1,500.00).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to approve the encumbrance and expenditure of the Fifteen Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) towards the purchase of the 2022 Ford F-350 to Daystar Ford of Garrettsville.

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

DISCUSSION:

- D. Moeglin explained that Akron Children’s Hospital approached SCPD regarding this, and noted that we are able to give to them for the same amount at the trade-in value, with no cost to the Parks
- B. Bryan mentioned meeting an Akron Children’s Hospital nurse at the FOSP meeting and, though he could not remember her name, noted that FOSP seems to have a good relationship with the hospital

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

C. RESOLUTION: #22-05-052: Trailway Easement & Roadway Access Agreement: Glendale Village Homeowners’ Association

WHEREAS, the Stark County Park District desires a trailway easement & roadway access agreement (Exhibit D) for access to the Vail Property and future trail connections from the Glendale Village Homeowners’ Association, Inc. for Parcel Nos. 10011689 and 10011720, south of the Vail Property on Everhard Road; and

WHEREAS, the Glendale Village Homeowners’ Association, Inc. agrees to the trailway easement & roadway access agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to authorize the trailway easement & roadway access agreement (Exhibit D) with Glendale Village Homeowners’ Association, Inc. for Parcel Nos. 10011689 and 10011720, south of the Vail Property on Everhard Road.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to authorize Daniel J. Moeglin, Executive Director, to sign/execute the necessary paperwork to complete the trailway easement & roadway access agreement for Parcel Nos. 10011689 and 10011720, south of the Vail Property on Everhard Road.

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

DISCUSSION:

- D. Moeglin provided a brief outline of this resolution, explaining that SCPD secured the easement; there is an existing pool; and we need to fix a culvert

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

D. RESOLUTION: #22-05-053: NatureWorks Grant Application: Fry Family Park Board Walk

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) administers financial assistance for public recreation purposes, through the State of Ohio NatureWorks Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the Stark County Park District (Park) desires financial assistance under the NatureWorks Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the Park desires to provide an accessible boardwalk for fishing and recreation at Fry Family Park; and

WHEREAS, the estimate to construct the project is Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00); and

WHEREAS, the Park is seeking One Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000.00) in Nature Works grant funds from ODNR;

WHEREAS, the Park intends to provide the balance of the project construction cost in the form of force account labor, equipment and park funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners that the Stark County Park District is approved to file this application for financial assistance and that Daniel J. Moeglin, Executive Director, is hereby authorized and directed to execute and file an application with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and to provide all information and documentation required to become eligible for possible funding assistance.

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

DISCUSSION:

- D. Moeglin provided a brief outline of this resolution, explaining the need for ADA access for the Fry Family Park Boardwalk

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

E. RESOLUTION: #22-05-054: State Capital Grant: Kent State University/Stark State College Campus Trail License and Easement Agreement

WHEREAS, the Kent State University/Stark State College Campus Trail (Campus Trail) is on the Trail and Greenway Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, Stark County Park District (Parks) received a grant from State Capital Funds for the construction of the Campus Trail, a 1.1-mile trail through the Kent State University-Stark (KSU) and Stark State College campuses, through Senate Bill (S.B. 310) Capital Improvement Community Recreation Project in an amount not to exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000); and

WHEREAS, the Parks must enter into a license and easement agreement with the State of Ohio, acting on behalf of Kent State University and Stark State College as a requirement of the grant and to be able to perform work on the Campus Trail.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to authorize Daniel J. Moeglin, Executive Director, to enter into a license and easement agreement for the Campus Trail Project.

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

DISCUSSION:

- D. Moeglin provided a brief outline of this resolution, explaining that this is just for the license and easement agreement
- S. Buell noted that the award letter was received last year, however, it has taken a year to obtain the land rights

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

F. RESOLUTION: #22-05-055: Quail Hollow Volunteer Association Partnership Agreement

WHEREAS, the Stark County Park Board of Park Commissioners approved Resolution #17-02-023 a partnership agreement with the Quail Hollow Volunteer Association (QHVA); and

WHEREAS, the QHVA Partnership with the Stark County Park District expires this year; and

WHEREAS, both agencies are reviewing the updated partnership agreement as attached in draft form as Exhibit E.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to authorize the Daniel J. Moeglin, Executive Director to sign/execute the Quail Hollow Volunteer Association Partnership Agreement (Exhibit E) pending approval to legal form and sufficiency by Attorney William Morris.

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

DISCUSSION:

- D. Moeglin provided a brief outline of this resolution, explaining that the agreement is still in draft form but needs approval to move forward to enter into the agreement
- D. Gordon mentioned having met with the QHVA and, while there is some anxiety over SCPD's vision, the dialogue showed they are collaborative and optimistic on finding a balance.
- B. Bryan asked if they had voiced any complaints regarding hunting at Quail Hollow
- J. Laps said he had only received maybe five complaints in total, and that SCPD plans on allowing hunting again this year
- D. Regula asked how many 'Days of Caring' groups come to the Parks in a year to volunteer
- D. Gordon said there are a lot; there is a good mix of companies, nonprofits and government entities, however, he needs to review and update this information
- B. Wells mentioned that Parker (Volunteer Coordinator) handles the scheduling of volunteer groups and activities
- D. Regula asked if SCPD can initiate an 'Earth Day' event with various companies and organizations
- D. Moeglin expressed wanting to keep companies and organization on long-term – such as potentially joining FOSP – rather than a one-time, one-day event.

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

G. RESOLUTION: #22-05-056: Stark County Commissioners Lease Agreement

WHEREAS, the Stark County Park Board of Commissioners approved a land lease agreement with the Stark County Board of Commissioners for the operation, maintenance, and management of various Stark County owned properties for park purposes in 1983; and

WHEREAS, the existing agreement with the Stark County Park District expires this year;

WHEREAS, both agencies are reviewing the updated lease agreement as attached in draft form as Exhibit F.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stark County Park District Board of Park Commissioners to authorize the Daniel J. Moeglin, Executive Director to sign/execute the modification of lease agreement with the Board of Stark County Commissioners (Exhibit F) pending approval to legal form and sufficiency by Attorney William Morris.

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

DISCUSSION:

- D. Moeglin provided a brief outline of this resolution, explaining that the length of the agreement is still being evaluated
- B. Wells and J. Laps noted that 32 years lines up with the Exploration Gateway building lease
- D. Regula inquired as to whether SCPD anticipates any stumbling blocks
- D. Moeglin replied no, just the revenues associated with any oil and gas rights; SCPD will not keep any mineral rights. SCPD will be compensated for any damage to trails, trees, etc.
- R. Dublikar asked for a copy of the final agreement, and B. Wells agreed to upload for him once available

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. 2022 Project List & Budget

B. Director's Report – Verbal at Meeting

- D. Moeglin discussed being on a 'welcome tour' for the first two weeks, reviewing all the 2022 projects with managers, stepping back to reevaluate as well, and inviting Park Board members to be part of the design and philosophy
- D. Moeglin and D. Gordon have agreed to split responsibility between the following departments:
 - D. Moeglin will oversee Administration (includes Projects, Human Resources and Volunteer Coordinator), Finance, Natural Resources (includes Wildlife Center) and Operations
 - D. Gordon will oversee Marketing, Information Technology, Education and Rangers
- D. Moeglin will attend meetings in the community sometimes with D. Gordon and sometimes separately, depending upon the situation
- D. Moeglin mentioned the Parks' reservation system is currently being updated
- D. Moeglin expressed many of his ideas, including:
 - Encouraging staff to think big and then go after the money, rather than vice versa
 - Reevaluating the Tam O'Shanter Clubhouse after reviewing the second floor barn details
 - Needing to build trails with long-term sustainability in mind; some trails need paved with asphalt rather than limestone
 - Considering the design/revision of the Administrative offices on the East Side due to aging infrastructure, and whether those facilities should be relocated
 - Demolishing or selling (with restrictions) the building at Molly Stark Park
 - D. Regula & B. Bryan both said they would like to be part of this discussion
 - S. Buell said the property can only be sold through an auction
 - D. Regula inquired as to the number of acres, and whether there are water and sewer connections
 - S. Buell responded that there are 40+ acres, and there are both water and sewer connections
- D. Gordon is now the chairperson of the Signage Committee, and he will be evaluating 'nature plays' and playground requests (active recreation)
 - D. Regula noted wanting to see more playgrounds in our parks

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT RESOLVED, to enter into Executive Session at 3:55 p.m. to consider 1) the employment of a public employee or official and 2) the purchase of property for public purposes, and/or for the sale of property at competitive bidding.

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

MOTION CARRIED on a roll call vote as follows:

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

11. RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT RESOLVED to reconvene from Executive Section into Regular Session at 5:08 p.m.

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

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

12. ADJOURNMENT

BE IT RESOLVED to adjourn at 5:09 pm. Next scheduled meeting: June 14, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. at the Exploration Gateway at Sippo Lake Park.

D. Regula MOVED to adjourn the meeting, which was SECONDED by B. Bryan

MOTION CARRIED on a vote as follows:

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

APPROVAL DATE: June 14, 2022

ATTEST:

Denise Freeland, Chairperson
Stark County Park Commission

Daniel Moeglin, Executive Director/Secretary to the Board
Stark County Park District

Victoria Nickl/Clerk to the Board
Stark County Park District