

**WOOD COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 10, 2019**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Myers at 3:30 p.m. at Park District Headquarters, 18729 Mercer Road, Bowling Green, OH.

2. ROLL CALL

Tom Myers, present
Dennis Parish, present
Bob Hawker, present
Bill Cameron, present
Sandy Wiechman, present

Others present: Neil Munger, Jeff Baney, Rob Brian, Todd Nofzinger, Eric Shiffler, Jim Witter, Zeb Albert and Corinne Gordon.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Myers stated the minutes of the November 12, 2019 regular meeting were distributed to the Board and asked if there are any additions or corrections. Mr. Hawker moved approval of the November 12, 2019 regular meeting minutes. Mr. Cameron seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Myers reported that this is Bob Hawker's final meeting. Board members and Mr. Munger expressed thanks to Mr. Hawker for his many years of service and expertise.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2020 Operating Budget – Mr. Munger stated the budget includes 2.5% cost of living increase. Mr. Munger stated the Beeker property closing will take place in 2020. The total operating budget is \$4,444,502.36.

Mr. Hawker moved to approve Resolution 19-034 establishing the 2020 Operating Budget for the Wood County Park District. Seconded by Mr. Cameron.

The Board discussed staffing changes within the stewardship department. All in favor. Motion carried.

Clean Ohio Grant – Mr. Munger stated he received the official notification in today's mail of the grant award of \$224,715 for the acquisition of the Beeker property. Closing will take place in 2020 and a survey is currently underway. The grant will pay for half of the property and half of the seeding project. Mr. Munger stated the Park District will take ownership in July and in the fall the stewardship department will seed the property to a prairie. Responding to Mr. Hawker, Mr. Munger stated that the Park District received the highest score of all grants submitted.

Sawyer Interpretive Center Climbing Wall – Mr. Munger reviewed progress at the center explaining that the bird friendly glass that was delivered is not what was ordered. New glass has been ordered causing a slight delay for installation of the windows. The goal is to open the center in Spring 2020, around Earth Day. Mr. Munger then stated one of the main features of the building will be a rock climbing wall. Mr. Munger stated two quotes were received. The first quote was from 2Scale at \$34,600 and the second from 2020 Exhibits at \$22,201.23. Mr. Munger requested acceptance of the low quote, with funding coming out of this year's budget.

Mr. Parish moved to approve Resolution 19-035 authorizing Neil Munger to enter into an agreement with 2020 Exhibits for the construction of a climbing wall at the Sawyer Quarry Interpretive Center for the amount of \$22,201.23. Seconded by Mr. Cameron. All in favor. Motion carried.

Wood County Historical Society Board Appointment – Mr. Munger stated that the Board of Park Commissioners appoints two members to the WCHS Board. Mr. Munger stated his term is up and recommended Corinne Gordon as the appointment.

Ms. Wiechman moved to appoint Corinne Gordon to the Wood County Historical Society Board. Seconded by Mr. Cameron. All in favor. Motion carried.

North Coast Inland Trail – Mr. Munger discussed the North Coast Inland Trail (NCIT) which presently extends from Elmore in Ottawa County through Sandusky and Huron Counties ending at Elyria in Lorain County. Plans are being developed to complete the section of the trail from Elmore to Genoa in Ottawa County, leaving the abandoned rail line from Genoa to Millbury in Wood County as the final leg for development. Mr. Munger recently met with the Ottawa County Park District to discuss the acquisition and development of the NCIT as it enters Wood County. Mr. Munger pointed out that the Ottawa County Park District does not have a levy or funds for operation. They have been in discussions with Poggemeyer Design to assist them with seeking grants for the acquisition of the abandoned rail line and then development of the trail. The next step of the process is to conduct a title on the abandoned rail line. Representatives from Poggemeyer have looked into the title search and estimate the cost to be approximately \$3,000. Mr. Munger asked the Board if they would be willing to commit funding for the title search. Mr. Parish pointed out that he is sensitive to using funds for another county. Mr. Munger noted it's for the trail in Ottawa and Wood County and it's the first step to getting the trail in. The Board discussed the Wabash Cannonball Trail noting that eventually the plan is for the WCT to extend to the Indiana state line. Once a connecting route is established through northern Wood County from Walbridge to the Perrysburg/Maumee bridge we will be linked from the Indiana state line to Cleveland. Mr. Munger stated the Chessie Circle Trail extends from the W.W. Knight Nature Preserve north through Toledo. Wood County will eventually become a hub for cycling activity with the W.W. Knight Nature Preserve right in the middle. Mr. Munger stated that he is eager to assist with this project. Mr. Cameron suggested preparation of a formalized agreement working with Ottawa County.

Mr. Parish moved that the Wood County Park District provide up to \$5,000 to research property titles for the connection of the North Coast Inland Trail from Ottawa County to Wood County. Seconded by Mr. Hawker. All in favor. Motion carried.

Local Park Improvement Grant Program Recommendations – Mr. Munger stated the grant review committee met recently to provide recommendations and noted that every entity that applied will receive some funding this year. Mr. Parish explained that the Park District is giving back to the townships and communities within the county so that they can reinvest in projects in their own communities. Mr. Munger stated that the Park District awards \$100,000 in grants annually. Mr. Munger stated every entity is encouraged to submit an application for each of the three grant categories. Mr. Parish requested the total figure that was requested be forwarded to the Board. This could assist the Board in potentially increasing the \$100,000 grant to a higher figure in the future.

Mr. Parish moved to approve Resolution 19-036 approving the recommendations of the Grant Review Committee for Local Park Improvement Grants to be awarded in 2019. Seconded by Mr. Cameron. All in favor. Motion carried.

6. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Mr. Myers stated departmental reports were distributed and asked for questions. Mr. Parish asked about creation of an annual report highlighting the many projects and programs throughout the year. Mr. Munger agreed that this is a good idea and will work with Jamie Sands on this report. Mr. Witter noted that the Oak Leaf often highlights upcoming and recently completed projects. Responding to Ms. Wiechman, Sergeant Shiffler stated they are still awaiting delivery of the new Tasers.

7. APPROVAL OF PAYABLES

Mr. Myers stated payables have been distributed and asked for questions. Responding to Ms. Wiechman, Chief Nofzinger stated the repeater repairs are for units within the officer's cars and not covered by the sheriff's department.

Mr. Parish moved to approve payables for the month of November. Seconded by Mr. Cameron. All in favor. Motion carried.

8. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Wiechman mentioned an article regarding the Polar Bear Plunge noting that Perrysburg Township has proposed charging for the event. The Board discussed access on Hull Prairie Road noting that Buttonwood is blocked off so there is no access into the park.

9. NEW BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

10. FRIENDS OF THE WOOD COUNTY PARKS

Nothing at this time.

11. HEARING OF VISITORS

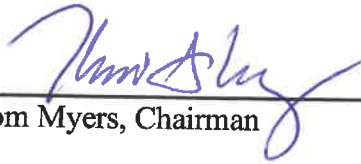
Mr. Witter described some new programs including animal self-defense classes. The Board suggested coyote and deer encounter programs be considered.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Nothing at this time.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Parish moved adjournment. Ms. Wiechman seconded. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.



Tom Myers, Chairman



Neil A. Munger, Director

Wood County Park District
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