

**Wood County Park District
Board of Park Commissioner's Minutes Regular Meeting
10/11/2022**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sandy Wiechman at 3:03 p.m. at William Henry Harrison Park, 644 Bierley Ave., Pemberville, OH. 43450.

2. Roll Call

Sandy Wiechman, present
Kim Rose, present
Denny Parish, present
Tom Myers, present
Bill Cameron, present

Staff present: Chris Smalley, Diana Ziems, Corinne Gordon, Troy Bateson, Tom Belcher, Rob Brian, Jim Witter

Members of the Press: Roger LaPointe-Sentinel Tribune, Jan Larson-McLaughlin-B.G. Independent News, Jane Maiolo, Perrysburg Messenger

Guests: Candace Weis – Friends of the Parks president, Carl Cultrona – Enterprise Fleet Management

3. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Wiechman stated the minutes from the 9/13/2022 board meeting was distributed to the board prior to the meeting. Mr. Myers moved approval of the 9/13/2022 minutes as presented. Mr. Myers seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

4. Chairman's Report

Ms. Wiechman thanked all who attended the Rudolph Bike Park ribbon cutting ceremony. She also stated a thank you note was received from Wood County 4-H groups giving nice remarks for a few events held at the W.W. Knight Nature Center. Ms. Wiechman also reminded everyone of the Friends of the Parks Photo Contest and entries are due 11/30/2022. She also stated the Heritage Farm Festival is coming up on Saturday, December 10th, at Carter Historic Farm. Ms. Wiechman stated the award-winning geochase program is now at Slippery Elm Trail from 10/16-10-23. She also stated there is a Thanksgiving Food Drive coming up 11/12-11/19. She stated all donations will be going to Brown Bag Food Project and will be collecting at four locations – Carter Historic Farm, District Headquarters, Otsego Park and W.W. Knight Nature Preserve. Ms. Wiechman thanked everyone able to attend Farm Fest at Carter Historic Farm.

5. Director's Report

Regarding 2022 Capital Improvements, Mr. Smalley stated the Construction department completed phase one at the Park Police office space in Pemberville, OH., including installing a large A.D.A. ramp and other improvements. Mr. Smalley also stated a new interoffice phone system was installed at Park Headquarters. He also stated Programming has overseen the updating of the LOONA class displays at W.W. Knight Nature Preserve as well as the overlook display at Otsego Park. He also stated the Maintenance department has done a tremendous job at completing the concrete fence replacement project at Wood County Museum and created a mold and replacement system for future use. Mr. Smalley stated the Rudolph Bike Park has officially opened and stated all departments had a role in the opening. He commended all departments for a job well done and thanked everyone for their hard work. Mr. Smalley stated Cedar Creeks Preserve has been refocused on, including re-mulching the playgrounds and working on the trails.

Mr. Smalley stated the Starlight Road property has been owned by Wood County Park District since 1985 and is approximately one acre. He stated for several years Perrysburg Township has been maintaining this land and we are now in the process of transferring it to them. Mr. Smalley requested authorization from the board for authorization to quit-claim the property and Perrysburg Township has agreed to cover all related costs of filing, etc. Ms. Wiechman presented resolution 22-022 to the Board of Park Commissioners. Mr. Cameron motioned to approve the resolution. Mr. Parish seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Smalley stated after review section B of the Post-Accident Policy on drug and alcohol testing was not added to the Wood County Park District employee manual. Mr. Smalley requested authorization for this section to be added so that the employee manual will better reflect this policy. Ms. Wiechman presented resolution 22-023 to the Board of Park Commissioners. Ms. Rose moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Myers seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Smalley stated the pond at Reuthinger Memorial Preserve requires an aeration system per the Township regulations due to its size. Mr. Smalley stated Wood County Park District has already received a donation towards the aeration system from Kokosing for \$7,500.00. He stated Eric Scott looked into quotes for a new aeration system and decided upon a quote from Aqua Doc as the best. Ms. Wiechman presented resolution 22-024 to the Board of Park Commissioners. Mr. Parish moved to approve the resolution. Ms. Rose seconded. Mr. Cameron asked if the project is based on how big the pond could become. Mr. Smalley stated the project is based on the overall size of the pond. Mr. Parish stated this project is going to cost us just under \$1,300.00. Mr. Smalley confirmed this and stated this will give us a much healthier pond in the long term. Mr. Myers asked if this pond will be stocked with fish. Mr. Smalley stated his goal is to look into stocking this pond once it's been established. Ms. Wiechman asked if

water is able to be pulled from this pond. Mr. Smalley stated water should not be pulled from this pond. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Smalley stated every year an improvement project is added to the budget for the Slippery Elm Trail. He stated this year updating the drainage in a section was the focus. Mr. Smalley stated through consultation with the Wood County Engineer's office the best way forward is to contract Eric Palmer Trucking and Excavating to put together some catch basin and drain tile and connect into a nearby ditch. Rob Brian stated Palmer Excavating will be boring under the trail so it won't affect servicing and it will be a permanent solution to this issue. Mr. Parish asked if this will be started this fall. Mr. Brian stated it will be started this fall, after the crops have been harvested due to needing access to the field. Mr. Cameron asked if it will be draining toward Hammansburg Road. Mr. Brian stated it will be draining toward Rudolph Road. Ms. Wiechman presented resolution 22-025 to the Board of Park Commissioners. Mr. Myers motioned to approved the resolution. Mr. Cameron seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Smalley stated the W.W. Knight boardwalk project is ready to move forward after being put on hold for the past few years. He stated the Country Garden Club has contributed a \$4,000.00 reimbursement grant. Mr. Smalley stated Tom Belcher is putting together a comprehensive package to complete a larger section. He stated they were originally completing a smaller section for \$10,000.00, but due to need and costs we are going to compete a larger section for \$18,000.00. Mr. Smalley stated the boardwalk is a well-used feature on the site and the improvements will be appreciated. Ms. Wiechman presented resolution 22-026 to the Board of Park Commissioners. Mr. Cameron motioned to approve the resolution. Ms. Rose seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Smalley stated painting and sealing the William Henry Harrison shelter has been put aside due to not having the time and staffing to complete. He stated Ernsthausen Painting and Drywall did a good job at Otsego Park and was willing to submit a quote for this project due to time in their schedule. Mr. Smalley stated the amount of the quote from Ernsthausen Painting and Drywall was \$11,850.00. Mr. Brian stated the exterior of the shelters at William Henry Harrison park haven't been painted in the last 20 years. Ms. Wiechman presented resolution 22-027 to the Board of Park Commissioners. Mr. Myers motioned to approve the resolution. Mr. Cameron seconded. Mr. Myers asked if there were any additional quotes obtained. Mr. Smalley stated most the contractors contacted previously were booked the rest of the year. He stated Ernsthausen Painting was available to complete the project this year. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Smalley stated Carl Cultrona from Enterprise Fleet Management is present to go over the packet given to the board members titled Impact of Partnership. Mr. Smalley stated in the Wood County Park District fleet, 11 of the vehicles are over 10 years old.

Mr. Smalley stated Wood County is the 7th largest county in the state of Ohio, therefore our park district's vehicle fleet have higher road mileage. He stated the park district normally purchases two new vehicles a year to replace older vehicles and at that rate it will take approximately 16 years to replace all vehicles. Mr. Smalley stated he's exploring options for the vehicle fleet and Mr. Cultrona has a presentation prepared for Enterprise Fleet Management. Mr. Cultrona stated he's from Northeast Ohio and has worked for Enterprise for 10 years, with the last 5 years being dedicated to fleet management. He's worked with many governmental and private sector businesses to find ways to maximize their budgets. Mr. Cultrona stated Enterprise is a preferred fleet management provider for Sourcewell, which is a government purchasing cooperative that Wood County Park District is a member of and has been recently renewed for another 5 years. Mr. Cultrona stated he's worked with local groups such as Toledo Metroparks, Lucas County, Allen County, Auglaize County, Defiance County, Licking County. Mr. Cultrona put together a 10-year program for the board's review and once the fleet is fully phased in the Park District will save just under \$400,000 over that 10-year timeframe, with annual savings of around \$10,000.00 once the program is fully implemented. He stated this proposal reduces the average replacement period from about 13 years to 4 years, maximizing re-sale value and reducing maintenance and fuel costs. Mr. Cultrona stated an account representative would be assigned to the Park District to go over the fleet account 3-4 times per year to review. Mr. Cultrona stated Enterprise Fleet Management offers an equity lease, which is closer in similarity to a finance in that the Park District pays for the portion of time the vehicle is used. Mr. Cultrona stated Enterprise would assist with being pro-active in making sure to stay on top of vehicle ordering windows with decreasing productivity at vehicle manufacturers, and running analysis on what vehicles are eligible for replacement. Mr. Myers asked how the vehicles are displaced at the end of usage. Mr. Cultrona stated Enterprise will sell the vehicles with a flat contracted fee of \$400.00. He stated they review the vehicle to see if any reconditioning is necessary and obtain, per State of Ohio guidelines, three offers and handle all logistics. Mr. Myers asked how Enterprise approaches the prospect of electric vehicles. Mr. Cultrona stated, from a government standpoint, it's not recommended at this time. Mr. Myers asked Mr. Smalley about the estimated annual mileage listed for Park District vehicles, and stated 10,000 miles seems too low. Mr. Smalley stated an estimated 10,000 miles will be too low for the Park Police vehicles. He also stated Chief Steve Thomson advised a closer estimate would be 20,000 to 25,000 annual miles. Mr. Brian stated Operations vehicle mileage varies from 2,000 a year for the dump trucks, to approximately 10,000 a year for the mowing/landscaping vehicles, up to approximately 25,000 a year for a truck driven seven days a week. Mr. Parish asked if the vehicles provided are always new. Mr. Cultrona stated Enterprise has a used vehicle option, which is handy if a vehicle is needed immediately. Mr. Cultrona stated Enterprise's goal is to get our program as close to a rental leasing program as possible. Mr. Parish stated the Park District has 23 vehicles and instead of replacing each of these vehicles after a 10-year period, with this program, we could be replacing them after 4 years of use. Mr. Parish asked if the Park District would have the determination on what vehicle is replaced and when, after advisement from Enterprise.

Mr. Cultrona stated Mr. Parish is correct, Enterprise sets up meetings with clients to go over different vehicle scenarios. Mr. Parish asked how influential Enterprise would be in ordering new vehicles and helping to keep the production time low. Mr. Cultrona stated Enterprise is the largest purchaser of vehicles in the world besides the U.S. Government. He stated Enterprise works to leverage their buying power, working all the way to Detroit to help allocate for their clients. Mr. Parish asked where Enterprise's current interest rate is set. Mr. Cultrona stated it is currently around 7% - 8%. Mr. Parish asked how easily can Enterprise access vehicles from around the country, if a vehicle isn't available locally. Mr. Cultrona stated access to vehicles through Enterprise around the country is very easy and it's a benefit of being a national business. Mr. Cameron stated he'll have many questions and suggested board members email them due to this being a new adventure. Mr. Cameron requested a list of current Ohio government entities utilizing this program from Mr. Cultrona. Mr. Cameron asked for explanation of the stated savings for the taxpayers of approximately \$400,000 over 10 years. Mr. Cultrona stated this is taking advantage of the value of your fleet when it still has great value. Mr. Cultrona stated using the value of your current fleet to help offset the cost of the introductory cost of the program. Mr. Cultrona stated in the first year, they've recommended replacing nine trucks, and the cost of leasing nine trucks is calculated at approximately \$68,000. He stated currently the Park District is spending approximately \$80,000 to \$90,000 in cash on two vehicles. Mr. Cultrona stated the nine vehicles in question from the Park District's current fleet is valued at approximately \$55,000, or about \$6,000 per vehicle, to roll over into the replacement vehicles. He stated after the first lease term of the first nine vehicles, Enterprise is estimating to cut the Park District a check for \$112,000 in equity. Mr. Cameron stated this philosophy is very different from how the Park District currently replaces vehicles. Mr. Cameron stated he believes he'll need to do much more research and encouraged the board members to do the same. Mr. Parish asked what Mr. Smalley's timeline is for decision on this matter. Mr. Smalley stated he was shooting for the November board meeting, but it can be pushed forward if November isn't possible. Mr. Parish stated he believes a decision should be made beginning in January 2023, due to new board members being appointed and this being a long-term decision for the Park District. Ms. Wiechman stated she values Mr. Parish's opinion. Mr. Parish stated since he will be leaving after December, he believes he shouldn't be involved in decisions that could affect the Park District for potentially 10 years. Mr. Myers stated Mr. Parish's statement is fair regarding the Enterprise decision, and Mr. Parish could abstain from the vote if it is presented before January 2023. Mr. Smalley stated the goal was to get this idea presented to the board for consideration. Mr. Myers stated with this philosophy being so different from our current vehicle purchasing method, he wants to make sure this program truly makes sense financially and is a benefit to the Wood County taxpayers and the cost doesn't increase in the long run.

Mr. Smalley stated an Ohio Wildlife Identification Pocket Guide was given to each board member, compliments of Park Officer Mark Wagner, who recently hosted a hunter safety course. Mr. Smalley stated the issue with the bore head under the river has been

addressed and laying pipe shortly. He stated as a result, the entrances to William Henry Harrison Park will be affected. Mr. Smalley stated the park maintenance entrance will need to be utilized while work is being completed, and he is working with the City of Pemberville to keep the impact on the public to a minimum.

Departmental Reports

Ms. Wiechman stated the departmental reports were distributed to the board members

6. Approval of Payables

Ms. Wiechman stated the payables for the month of September were distributed to board members prior to the meeting and called for a motion to approve. Mr. Myers made a motion to approve the payables, Mr. Cameron seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

7. Old Business

No old business was raised.

8. New Business

No new business was raised.

9. Friends of the Wood County Parks

Ms. Weis stated the Friends of the Parks are wrapping up a successful year of activities. Ms. Weis stated she will be meeting with Mr. Smalley to discuss how to disperse the funds to the Park District. Ms. Weis stated they have one more event for 2022, the photo contest. Ms. Weis stated the bird seed sale was a success this year. She suggested using the funds from the bird seed sale to replace some of the bird feeders around the Park District. Ms. Weis stated the Fall Native Plant Sale was September 24th. Ms. Weis stated the Friends of the Parks fall membership meeting was last Sunday. She stated Dr. Lucy Long spoke at the meeting and discussed foods native to Northwest Ohio that aren't necessarily used as part of our main food source any longer. Ms. Weis stated overall it was a very good year for the Friends of the Parks.

10. Hearing of Visitors

Jim Witter stated the award winning Geochase program started Sunday. He stated it started at Sawyer Quarry, then will move to Slippery Elm Trail, then ends at Cedar Creeks Preserve at the end of the month.

11. Executive Session

No executive session

12. Adjournment

Mr. Cameron moved to adjourn; Ms. Rose seconded. The meeting ended at 3:58 p.m.



Sandra Wiechman, Chairperson



Christopher Smalley, Director

Wood County Park District Headquarters, 18729 Mercer Rd., Bowling Green, OH. 43402

