

**Wood County Park District
Board of Park Commissioner's Minutes Regular Meeting
08/08/2023**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tom Myers at 3:01 p.m. at Carter Historic Farm, 18331 Carter Road, Bowling Green, OH. 43402.

2. Roll Call

Tom Myers, present
Sandy Wiechman, present
Bill Cameron, present
Wendy Headley, present
Rebecca Ferguson, present

Staff present: Tom Belcher, Chris Dauer, Chase Fleece, Abigail Duncan, Jim Witter, Chris Smalley, Diana Ziems, Rob Brian, Anna Cotterman, Zeb Albert, Andrew Kalmar

Members of the Press: Jan Larson-McLaughlin – B.G. Independent News, Jane Maiolo – Perrysburg Messenger, Clint Corpe – BGSU Morning Show, Debbie Rogers – Sentinel Tribune

Guests: Candace Weis

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Myers stated the minutes from the 7/13/2023 board meeting was distributed to the board prior to the meeting. Ms. Wiechman moved approval of the 7/13/2023 minutes as presented. Ms. Headley seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

4. Program Presentation "The Importance of Preserving Your Garden" – Anna Cotterman

Anna Cotterman, Historic Farm Specialist, advised board members to put on the apron provided and start slicing the cucumber in front of them, because they are making their own snack this afternoon. Ms. Cotterman stated according to Feeding America, the United States wastes 119 billion pounds of food per year. To put this in perspective, Ms. Cotterman stated that is 130 billion meals or enough food to feed 1.3 million people for an average life span. She stated everything we consume creates a carbon footprint, including growth, production and transportation. Ms. Cotterman stated this amount of food in one year, as it decomposes, releases carbon dioxide and methane gas that, according to the USDA, produces the equivalent of 42 coal plants. Ms. Cotterman presented three ways to reduce this carbon footprint: Backyard gardens, buy local meat, and careful planning. Ms. Cotterman advised to remember the three "P's": Plan, prepare and preserve. She announced the cucumbers being sliced by the board

members are for refrigerator pickles, also made with onions and garlic from the Carter Farm garden.

5. Chairman's Report

Mr. Myers stated the Park District tent at the Wood County Fair was a big success. He stated during his three-hour shift with Jim Witter, there were 110 people that visited the tent. He thanked the Park District staff for their volunteer time and effort putting everything together. Mr. Myers stated there is Music at the Museum on 8/10 and 9/14 at 6:00 p.m. at the Wood County Museum. The last opportunity for Fire by the River at Otsego Park will be 8/11 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. He stated the last two dates for Paddle the Pond at W.W. Knight Nature Preserve will be 8/14 and 8/28 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The Mountain Bike Skills Camp opportunities will be coming up in September and October at Rudolph Bike Park. He stated the Glow Roll is coming up at Black Swamp Preserve on 9/15 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Mr. Myers stated the Scarecrow Workshop is coming up on 10/5 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Heritage Farm Fest at Carter Historic Farm will be 10/7 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

6. Director's Report

Mr. Smalley stated Chief Thomson and Sergeant Bateson wanted to advise the MARCS radios purchased through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance grant have arrived and have been paid in full. Because this is a reimbursement grant, they are completing the necessary paperwork to receive the funds before the end of the fiscal year, which is approximately \$30,000.00.

Mr. Smalley stated the ODOT roadway funds will be utilized towards the repaving of W.W. Knight Nature Preserve parking lot. They will be working 8/15 – 8/17 to complete the project. Mr. Smalley stated this project has been in the works for over a year and he thanked Andrew Kalmar for his efforts.

Mr. Smalley stated the Mercer Road and Cross Creek Road portion of the Northwest Water and Sewer District project is in full swing and the contractor is now working in front of Park District Headquarters. He stated this will be a very nice addition to the Park District and will allow us to be taken off the septic tank system. Mr. Smalley thanked our partners at NWWSD for their efforts.

Mr. Smalley stated the tar and chip project for the remaining two entrances at Bradner Preserve is moving forward thanks to our partnership with the Wood County Highway Department. He stated this project is slated for late August or early September, and Rob Brian advised prep-work is being completed on-site at Bradner Preserve this week. Mr. Smalley stated this project will help make visiting Bradner Preserve a much more enjoyable visitor experience.

Mr. Smalley stated the Wood County Port Authority is still moving forward with their attempts to fund the Chessie Circle Trail development. He stated the Port Authority

submitted applications to both CMAC and TAP through Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments for some funding opportunities on phase 2 and phase 3 of the Chessie Circle Trail project.

Mr. Smalley stated Park Police purchased a new patrol vehicle and have now found a vendor that all necessary vehicles accessories can be purchased, including sirens, lights, equipment racks. He advised this purchase will be over the usual \$5,000.00 board-required limit, at \$8,251.00. Mr. Myers presented resolution 23-031 to the Board of Park Commissioners. Ms. Ferguson moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Cameron seconded. Ms. Wiechman asked if this amount includes equipment installation. Mr. Smalley stated the installation will be completed by our partners at the Wood County Highway Garage. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Smalley thanked all volunteers from OCVN, Friends of the Parks and Park District staff that assisted with making the Wood County Fair booth a success. He stated the Wood County Fair is an important part of Wood County's identity and all of the staff's hard work is appreciated. Mr. Smalley advised a grand total tally of Wood County Fair visitors to our booth was approximately 2,500 folks. He thanked Jamie Sands for her fantastic efforts organizing the project, Programs and Stewardship for providing support, and Operations for putting up and securing our tent and set up the additional tent for other county offices.

Mr. Smalley stated the Pemberville Free Fair is 8/16 through 8/19 and Wood County Park District will be represented with a booth from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. each day. He invited board members to stop by and visit.

7. Departmental Reports

Mr. Myers stated the departmental reports were distributed prior to the board meeting for review. No additional discussion.

8. Approval of Payables

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

9. Old Business

No old business heard at this time.

10. New Business

Mr. Smalley welcomed Anna Cotterman as the new Historic Farm Specialist.

11. Friends of the Wood County Parks

Candace Weis stated the Friends of the Wood County Parks were happy to provide some great giveaways at the Wood County Fair, including foam jar openers and mini key chain tape measures. She complimented the Park District fair booth as being one of the best at the fair. She stated the Friends are busy with preparing their fall newsletter and planning their fall membership meeting. Ms. Weis stated they still need a speaker for their fall membership meeting and to contact her with any suggestions. She stated they are also preparing for their Fall Birdseed Sale and will also be selling mums. Ms. Weis advised they are also preparing for the Fall Native Plant Sale at Cedar Creek Preserve on 9/21.

12. Hearing of Visitors

Jim Witter announced that, as of today, 647.5 pounds of produce grown at Carter Historic Farm has been donated to The Brown Bag Food Project.

13. Executive Session

Mr. Myers stated there will be an Executive Session with no action taking place afterward regarding possible real estate acquisition. Ms. Wiechman moved to enter Executive Session at 3:29 p.m. Mr. Cameron seconded. A roll call was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

14. Adjournment

Ms. Ferguson moved to adjourn. Ms. Wiechman seconded. Meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.



Tom Myers, Chairperson



Christopher Smalley, Director

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