

**Wood County Park District
Board of Park Commissioner's Minutes Regular Meeting
9/12/2023**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tom Myers at 3:01 p.m. at Bradner Preserve, 11491 Fostoria Road, Bradner, OH. 43406.

2. Roll Call

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

Staff present: Chris Smalley, Andrew Kalmar, Diana Ziems, Zeb Albert, Kristin Long, Sanja Jennings, Rob Brian, Steve Thomson, Jim Witter, Tom Belcher.

Members of the Press: Julie Carle (B.G. Independent News), Jane Maiolo (Perrysburg Messenger), Clint Corpe (WBGU – Morning Show), Marie Thomas (Sentinel Tribune)

Guests: Candace Weis, Jim Matthews

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Myers stated the minutes from the 8/8/2023 board meeting and minutes from the 8/31/2023 special board meeting was distributed to the board prior to this meeting. Ms. Wiechman moved approval of the 8/8/2023 and 8/31/2023 minutes as presented. Mr. Cameron seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

4. Stewardship Presentation: Native Plant Conservation & Seed Cleaning -- Zeb Albert

Zeb Albert stated the Stewardship department is in charge of land and natural area management for all 21 parks in the Wood County Park District. He stated one of the larger things they do is the Native Plant Project, which involves the promotion of plants native to Wood County and restoring them to the ecosystem. Mr. Albert invited board members to begin cleaning a native seed called gray-headed coneflower and gave instruction on how to clean the seeds. He asked the group what is considered a native plant and Ms. Wiechman responded it is a plant that is native to our area that grows all by itself. He also asked what is considered an invasive plant and Mr. Cameron responded it is a plant that takes over an area that it doesn't belong. Mr. Albert explained how all native plant seeds have different germination requirements and how the Stewardship department works to develop all of these plants. He stated after the seeds have been properly processed, they are distributed throughout the parks in the restoration and prairie areas as well as being grown in our greenhouse at J.C. Reuthinger Memorial Preserve. They are also grown and sold at the spring and fall Native Plant Sale, with the

fall sale coming up on 9/21/2023 at Cedar Creeks Preserve. Mr. Albert stated native plant species helps promote our local ecosystem and creates an environment that benefits all native species, including insects, bees, butterflies and birds. He stated there are programs for seed cleaning throughout the year at Park District Headquarters, W.W. Knight Nature Preserve and J.C. Reuthinger Memorial Preserve and usually last two hours. Mr. Albert stated all seed cleaning is completed by hand and mostly by volunteers on mesh screens that are built in-house and vary in size depending on what seed is being cleaned. He stated the seeds that are cleaned by hand each year are valued at approximately \$10,000.00. Mr. Albert then led the board members to an area at Bradner Preserve that was prepared for seeding. The board members distributed the gray-headed coneflower seeds throughout this area. Mr. Albert advised the seeds being planted now will begin to sprout in approximately three years. Mr. Myers commented that he has a renewed appreciation for our volunteers and all of their work in Stewardship and all departments.

5. Chairman's Report

Mr. Myers stated the last Music at the Museum will be 9/14. The Glow Roll is scheduled on 9/15 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Black Swamp Preserve. The Mountain Bike Skills Camp is scheduled on 10/1 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Rudolph Bike Park. The Scarecrow Workshop and Contest will be 10/5 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Carter Historic Farm. The Heritage Farm Fest will be 10/7 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Carter Historic Farm. Heritage Holiday will be 12/9 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Carter Historic Farm.

6. Director's Report

Mr. Smalley gave an update on the progress at the Bradner Preserve Timmons Road and Caldwell Road entrances. He stated the Wood County Highway Department is moving forward with preparations for tar and chip sealing this week with the idea of having the entrances open by the weekend. Mr. Smalley stated this will provide a much better experience for our park guests and our bluebird monitors at Bradner Preserve.

Mr. Smalley received an update on the Mercer Road Sewer Line Project from Clayton Brown with Northwestern Ohio Water and Sewer District. Mr. Brown stated the project should reach substantial completion by 9/22, with final completion by 9/29. Mr. Smalley stated at that time the Wood County Park District will have 120 days to contact our subcontractor to connect to the new sewer line.

Mr. Smalley stated the Park District has been working to clean out satellite areas and has come up with a list of equipment that needs to be deemed surplus. Mr. Myers presented resolution 23-035 to the Board of Park Commissioners. Mr. Cameron moved to approved the resolution. Ms. Wiechman seconded. Mr. Cameron inquired on the donation of radios to Fostoria Fire Department. Mr. Smalley stated that due to the grant worked on by Chief Thomson and Sergeant Bateson to obtain new Marc radios, we have our previous radios that can be repurposed to another emergency service agency. Chief

Thomson reached out to the Wood County Emergency Management Agency to see if any agencies would benefit from our repurposed radios, and Fostoria Fire Department would make good use of these radios for their personnel. Mr. Myers stated the right thing to do is to pay it forward and give the radios to our partners in Fostoria. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Smalley stated the Wood County Museum will have a grand re-opening and ribbon cutting 10/19 starting at 3:30 p.m. with an open house to follow from 3:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Smalley thanked the Wood County Park District Stewardship department for hosting Director Vogel from Ohio EPA and her administrative staff. Mr. Smalley stated the Stewardship staff gave a tour of J.C. Reuthinger Memorial Preserve, including the greenhouse and wetland area, showcasing their work to Director Vogel.

7. Presentation: Wayfinding at W.W. Knight Nature Preserve -- Andrew Kalmar

Andrew Kalmar presented Wayfinding at W.W. Knight Nature Preserve in lieu of Jamie Sands. He presented a smaller scale example of new signage being placed at W.W. Knight Nature Preserve. Mr. Kalmar stated there will be a QR code included that will route to park maps, rules and regulations, and the Park District website. Mr. Myers asked what type of material will be used for the signage. Mr. Kalmar stated it will be a very heavy, thick plastic that has the wording engraved. He stated the signage will be installed by our Park District staff and will begin at W.W. Knight Nature Preserve, with additional signage at other parks in the future.

8. Departmental Reports

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

9. Approval of Payables

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

10. Old Business

Nothing heard at this time.

11. New Business

Nothing heard at this time.

12. Friends of the Wood County Parks

Candace Weis stated the FWCP Fall Newsletter was mailed that morning to members. Ms. Weis introduced Jim Matthews as the new editor for the FWCP newsletter. She

stated the Fall Birdseed and Mum Sale order forms and information were also mailed out recently. Ms. Weis advised there is a QR code now included with the birdseed sale order form that will direct folks to an online order option. She stated the order pick up date is 10/7 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Midwood. Ms. Weis advised the Fall Membership Meeting is coming up in October. She stated FWCP provides the cash prizes for the Scarecrow Contest coming up in October. She advised the Fall Native Plant Sale is coming up very soon on 9/21 at Cedar Creeks Preserve and they will be there to assist with the sale.

13. Hearing of Visitors

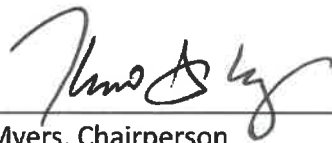
No visitors heard at this time.

14. Executive Session

Mr. Myers advised there will be no executive session.

15. Adjournment

Ms. Wiechman moved to adjourn. Mr. Cameron seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.



Tom Myers, Chairperson



Chris Smalley, Director

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