

**Wood County Park District
Board of Commissioner's Minutes Regular Meeting
2/13/2024**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Sandy Wiechman at 3:02 p.m. at Wood County Park District Headquarters, 18729 Mercer Road, Bowling Green, OH. 43402.

2. Roll Call

Rebecca Ferguson, absent
Sandy Wiechman, present
Wendy Headley, present
Jonathan Smith, present
Kathleen Attwood, present

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

Members of the Press: Jane Maiolo – Perrysburg Messenger, Marie Thomas – Sentinel Tribune, Julia Carle – B.G. Independent News, Clint Corpe – WBGU Radio

Guests: Candace Weis

3. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Wiechman stated the minutes from the 1/9/2024 board meeting was distributed to the board prior to the meeting. Mr. Smith moved approval of the 1/9/2024 meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Attwood seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

4. Chairman's Report

Ms. Wiechman stated some of the Wood County Park District activities happening are the Parks Monitoring Forum coming up on 2/15/2024, Base Camp Stories series, Farm Breakfast on 3/3/2024 and 4/21/2024, Native Plant sale coming up on 5/4/2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

5. Director's Report

Mr. Smalley stated the Park District reviews the surplus property annually. He stated a list of current surplus property has been presented to the board, for their review. Ms. Wiechman presented resolution 24-005 to the Board of Park Commissioners. Ms. Headley motioned to approve the resolution. Mr. Smith seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Smalley stated the Park District was successful in acquiring grant funding from the state to replace the body worn cameras for Park Police thanks to Sergeant Troy Bateson

and Chief Steve Thomson. He stated quotes were obtained for different models, and Sergeant Bateson and Chief Thomson selected a model that is similar to cameras used by the Wood County Sherriff's office and manufactured by Midwest Public Safety for \$21,330.00. Ms. Wiechman presented resolution 24-006 to the Board of Park Commissioners. Ms. Headley motioned to approve the resolution. Mr. Smith seconded. Mr. Smith asked if the grant funds equal the cost of the body worn cameras. Mr. Smalley stated the cost adjusted slightly due to inflation, but that was added into the budget. Chief Thomson confirmed the cost did adjust by \$150.00, and this cost also includes video storage for five years. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Smalley stated Park Police would like to purchase a patrol truck to add to their fleet. He stated this would be helpful in preparing for events, moving large items, etc. The purchase of the Ford F150 4x4 Super Cab would be completed through Bauman Ford Oregon in the amount of \$45,434.04. Ms. Wiechman presented resolution 24-007 to the Board of Park Commissioners. Ms. Attwood motioned to approve the resolution. Mr. Smith seconded. Mr. Smith asked what type of cruisers are currently in the fleet. Chief Thomson stated five are Ford Explorers and one is a Dodge Durango. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Smalley stated Chief Thomson located a vendor, Northwest Ohio Emergency Equipment, to order all equipment needed to outfit the new Park Police truck, upon purchase, in the amount of \$7,925.00. Ms. Wiechman presented resolution 24-008 to the Board of Park Commissioners. Ms. Headley motioned to approve the resolution. Mr. Smith seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Smalley stated the blinds in the Hankison Great Room at W.W. Knight Nature Center are in need of replacement, and have reached the end of their functional life. He stated the operations department has done fantastic work trying to keep the blinds in working order. Operations Manager Rob Brian obtained a number of quotes from various vendors in our area, and chose Budget Blinds of Perrysburg for the amount of \$9,196.35. Ms. Wiechman presented resolution 24-009 to the Board of Park Commissioners. Mr. Smith motioned to approve the resolution. Ms. Attwood seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Smalley stated the W.W. Knight Nature Center entrance ramp is original to the construction of the building and has reached the end of its usable life. Mr. Smalley commended Park District staff in their upkeep efforts of the ramp over the years. Andrew Kalmar stated the current ramp is wooden with steel reinforcements. He stated the steel reinforcements are now virtually gone due to weather and salt corrosion. Mr. Kalmar stated the new ramp will be a concrete construction with a heating element that will extend to the parking lot. Mr. Kalmar stated the curb will be cut for accessibility at the end of the ramp and will add to the two other curb ramps. Mr. Kalmar stated the heating element is hydraulic, not electronic, and there will be a water heater in the building. Ms. Wiechman presented resolution 24-010 allowing Mr. Smalley to accept bids for and enter

into an agreement for construction services for the W. W. Knight Nature Center entrance ramp replacement. Ms. Attwood motioned to approve the resolution. Ms. Headley seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Smalley stated the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association annual conference was the week prior and banners were displayed using photos from park districts around Ohio. He stated a photo from the Wood County Park District was displayed, and the banner is now hanging in the Community Classroom.

Mr. Smalley advised The Blade featured an article on staff efforts at the greenhouse at J.C. Reuthinger Memorial Preserve. Jim Witter and Sanja Jennings were interviewed and photographed for the article. Mr. Witter stated media exposure is always good for volunteer recruitment, community building, and to promote upcoming events, such as the Native Plant Sale.

Mr. Smalley stated Park District Headquarters will be closed 2/14/2024 as all staff will be participating in the All Staff Work Day at Sawyer Quarry Preserve.

6. Departmental Reports

Ms. Wiechman stated departmental reports were distributed prior to the board meeting for review. No further discussion.

7. Approval of Payables

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

8. Old Business

Nothing heard at this time.

9. New Business

Craig Spicer stated they are now taking registrations for Wild Lights in 2025.

10. Friends of the Wood County Parks

Candace Weis stated the Friends of the Wood County Parks participated again this year during the Wild Lights weekend by providing hot chocolate and snacks and a place to warm up after enjoying the lights. Ms. Weis stated the Friends received a grant from the Bowling Green Community Foundation to provide more benches in the parks. Mr. Smalley stated four benches will be placed between B.G. Montessori school and Gypsy Lane Road on the Slippery Elm Trail and two benches placed at Carter Historic Farm. Ms. Weis stated the Friends will be providing park t-shirts to Wood County Park District staff to help celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Wood County Parks. Ms. Weis shared the Friends are drafting a Wood County Parks fielding guide and mindfulness journal. She

believes this will help make folks aware of the different habitats at the parks and to become more familiar with native species to Wood County. Ms. Weis stated she'd love to design a native plant t-shirt to be sold at Native Plant Sales in the spring and fall.

11. Hearing of Visitors

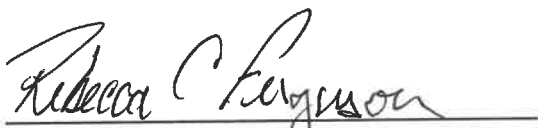
No visitors heard at this time.

12. Executive Session

No executive session at this time.

13. Adjournment

Ms. Headley moved to adjourn. Ms. Attwood seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.



Rebecca Ferguson, Chairperson



Chris Smalley, Director

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