

**Wood County Park District  
Board of Commissioner's Minutes Regular Meeting  
3/12/2024**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Rebecca Ferguson at 3:02 p.m. at W.W. Knight Nature Preserve Hankison Great Room.

**2. Roll Call**

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

Staff present: Steve Thomson, Jamie Sands, Tom Belcher, Rob Brian, Andrew Kalmar, Jim Witter, Chris Smalley, Diana Ziems

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

Guests: Candace Weis (Friends of the Wood County Parks), Marty Krauk (158 Hannum, Rossford, OH.)

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Ferguson stated the minutes from the 2/13/2024 board meeting was distributed to the board prior to the meeting. Ms. Wiechman moved approval of the 2/13/2024 meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Headley seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

**4. Walleye Run Presentation – Steve Thomson**

Steve Thomson stated the walleye run usually takes place as early as the last week in February and continues as late as May. He stated the most frequented areas along the Maumee River by fisherman starts by Orleans Park and ends by Jerome Road. Chief Thomson stated walleye can weigh up to 12-13 pounds and be 30 inches in length. He stated between March 1<sup>st</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup> fishing can only happen from sunrise to sunset, only a single hook can be used ½ inch or less in size, six fish per day, and 15 inches or less. Chief Thomson presented video showing how busy the Maumee river can get with fisherman during the walleye run. He also presented visual aids showing the area in and around Buttonwood Park that was affected by ice jams in 2015 and 2018, ultimately causing the Park District to discontinue seasonal camping at that location.

**5. Chairperson's Report**

Ms. Ferguson highlights several upcoming Wood County Park District programs. Building a Pocket Prairie is coming up on 3/16; Adopt a Garden informational meeting will be held on 4/2 from 6:00 p.m. to 7 p.m. at J.C. Reuthinger Memorial Preserve; Farm Breakfast – Off the Farm, 4/21 starting at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Ferguson stated the first breakfast had 129 visitors and the second had 106 visitors; The Spring Native Plant Sale is coming up on 5/4 in the Champions Building at the Wood County Fairgrounds from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Friends of the Wood County Parks members may visit the sale on 5/3; Nature Camp is coming up again this year. Ms. Ferguson stated there were approximately 30 participants at the last pre-COVID camp and we're hoping to bring those number again this year.

## **6. Director's Report**

Mr. Smalley stated the Park Police Policy Manual has updates in multiple categories. Because the Park Police Policy Manual is a living document, Mr. Smalley stated updates will come out throughout the year. Ms. Ferguson presented resolution 24-011 to the Board of Park Commissioners. Ms. Wiechman moved to approve the resolution. Ms. Attwood seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Smalley advised the state allocates funds every two years for use in park districts. He stated those funds are administered through the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), then ODOT contracts through the Ohio Department of Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) to finalize the distribution of funds. Mr. Smalley stated funds received will be used toward the drive and portions of the lots at William Henry Harrison Park in the amount of \$116,606.00. Ms. Ferguson presented resolution 24-012 to the Board of Park Commissioners. Ms. Headley moved to approve the resolution. Ms. Wiechman seconded. Mr. Smith stated he noticed \$126,000 in total will be received and asked if the difference would roll over to the next year. Mr. Smalley stated the difference will remain in the account with OPRA and can be utilized in the next fiscal year. Mr. Smalley stated the Park District is required to designate a representative to take charge of the program, and that representative is Andrew Kalmar. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Smalley stated the exterior of the W.W. Knight Nature Center is in need of staining every 8-10 years. He stated the last exterior staining was about 10 years ago, per Rob Brian, Operations Manager. He stated Mr. Brian has obtained some quotes from multiple organizations, with the lowest quote from Comte Construction Company for \$19,640.00. Ms. Ferguson presented resolution 24-013 to the Board of Park Commissioners. Ms. Wiechman moved to approve the resolution. Ms. Attwood seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Smalley stated the 2023 Wood County Park District annual report was completed by Jamie Sands and distributed to the board members. He stated the annual report will be available to the public later today at select park locations, as well as posted to the Park District social media. Mr. Smalley also noted the spring edition of the Oak Leaf newsletter was given to the board members. He commended park district staff for putting together

another great Oak Leaf. Mr. Smalley stated the Park District will be programming for the Solar Eclipse coming up on Monday, 4/8/2024. He stated the Park District will have three park locations set up as viewing areas that will have naturalists, park staff and volunteers on hand from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; William Henry Harrison Park in Pemberville, Bradner Preserve in Bradner and Carter Historic Farm in Bowling Green. Mr. Smalley stated Park District Headquarters will be closed Wednesday, 3/13/2024, due to the All-Staff Work Day at Cricket Frog Cove.

**7. Departmental Reports**

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

**8. Approval of Payables**

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

**9. Old Business**

Nothing heard at this time.

**10. New Business**

Nothing heard at this time.

**11. Friends of the Wood County Parks**

Candace Weis stated the Friends Membership Meeting is coming up on 4/14/2024 at W.W. Knight Nature Preserve Hankison Great Room at 1:00 p.m. She stated Anna Cotterman, Farm Coordinator, will be presenting at the meeting. Ms. Weis stated the Friends are preparing for the Native Plant Sale coming up on 5/3/2024 and 5/4/2024 at the Champions Building at the Wood County Fair Grounds. She stated over \$18,000.00 in native plants were sold in two days during last year's sale. Ms. Weis stated the Friends have added an advertisement in the Biggest Week in American Birding publication for the Native Plant Sale. Ms. Weis stated new member voting took place; Candace Weis voted in as president, Jim Matthews is vice-president, Laura Arnold is treasurer, Ranaye McLaughlin is secretary. Ms. Weis stated park benches have been purchased with the assistance of a grant received from B.G. Foundation and being installed this week. She stated work is continuing on the Wood County Parks Field Journal and Habitat Guide. Ms. Attwood asked when the field journal may be complete. Ms. Weis stated they should be complete by this summer.

**12. Hearing of Visitors**

Marty Krauk (158 Hannum, Rossford, OH.) stated the bluebird and bat houses at the Knight Preserve are in need of repair. Mr. Krauk stated he would be willing to volunteer to repair the bluebird and bat houses or perhaps this would be a good Eagle Scout

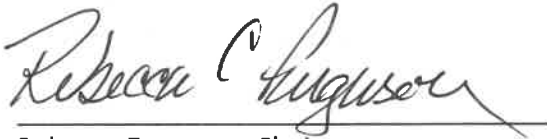
project. Mr. Smalley introduced Mr. Krauk to Jim Witter, Program Manager, and supervisor of the bird monitoring program to discuss options.

**13. Executive Session**


No executive session at this time.

**14. Adjournment**

Ms. Wiechman moved to adjourn. Mr. Smith seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.



Rebecca Ferguson, Chairperson



Chris Smalley, Director

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