

**Wood County Park District
Board of Park Commissioner's Minutes Regular Meeting
04/11/2023**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tom Myers at 3:04 p.m., at J.C. Reuthinger Preserve, 30730 Oregon Road, Perrysburg, OH. 43551.

2. Roll Call

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

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

Members of the Press: Clint Corpe – WBGU Radio, Jane Maiolo – Perrysburg Messenger, Jan Larson McLaughlin – B.G. Independent News, Roger LaPointe – Sentinel Tribune

Guests: Rex Huffman, Wood County Port Authority

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Myers stated the minutes from the 3/14/2023 board meeting was distributed to the board prior to the meeting. Ms. Wiechman moved approval of the 3/14/2023 minutes as presented. Ms. Headley seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

**4. Wood County Park District Greenhouse and Native Seed Nursery Overview
-Sanja Jennings**

Stewardship Specialist Sanja Jennings led the meeting attendees to the greenhouse for a presentation on the Wood County Park District greenhouse and native seed nursery. Ms. Jennings stated the Stewardship Department's main objective is plant conservation. She explained native plants that are dispersed in the Wood County Park District are protected by collecting the seeds, propagating them in refrigeration and freezer units that imitate the winter months, then germinating the seeds using a heating mat on their in-house built germination tables. Ms. Jennings stated the Stewardship Department is connected to nearby communities; e.g., growing plants for the Friends of the Parks Native Plant Sale and working with the Green Ribbon Initiative, Toledo Metroparks, Sacred Ground Project and National Wildlife Federation, as well as volunteer help from around the community. Ms. Jennings stated the number of plants that are generated

out of the Wood County Park District greenhouse is approximately 35,000 per year. She also stated there are raised beds for sandy species in the nursery just outside the greenhouse and in-ground beds for the Wood County plants. Ms. Jennings also stated there are over 20 species of trees and shrubs growing in their nursery. Woodland Specialist Justin Siler gave a tour of the trees and shrubs; including sumac, silky dogwood. He stated the specimens in the back of the nursery are all several years old and will eventually grow to 10 feet tall. Mr. Siler also stated they've successfully regerminated several oak trees and they are currently only an inch tall. Stewardship Coordinator Zeb Albert stated the Wood County Park District is one of the only organizations that sells native woody species, as well as native plants in general. Historical Farm Specialist Corinne Gordon stated the Stewardship department also starts plants and vegetables for their garden at Carter Historic Farm.

5. Chairman's Report

Mr. Myers acknowledged Corinne Gordon for appearing on WTOL to promote the Chick Tips program at Carter Historic Farm. Mr. Myers mentioned the Wood County Historical Museum Egg Hunt as being a phenomenal program for families in our community. He stated Backpacking Basics is coming up on May 10th and College Prep-Personal Finance Q&A is coming up on May 11th with both being at W.W. Knight Nature Preserve Hankison Great Room. Mr. Myers stated Kayak Demo Day is coming up on June 4th at Three Meadows Pond in Perrysburg.

6. Director's Report

Mr. Smalley stated the Wood County Port Authority has been doing tremendous work and have partnered with the Wood County Park District on the Chessie Circle Trail project several years ago. He stated the Wood County Port Authority is reaching out to the Park District to partner again regarding a portion of the Chessie Circle Trail that borders W.W. Knight Nature Preserve in Perrysburg Township. Rex Huffman stated the Wood County Port Authority has been in existence for 25 years. He stated the port authority has a body of laws that can be utilized to help promote economic development in Wood County. Mr. Huffman stated the Chessie Circle Trail project involved a bridge that crossed the Maumee River near the Ohio Turnpike that was very unique due to the time period it was built. He stated this bridge was unique due to having a turret to allow ships to pass through. After the settlement, a park with the historical turret on the Lucas County side was built and a plaque describing the bridge made in commemoration. Mr. Huffman stated the bridge was then removed with the understanding from the U.S. Highway Administration that if funds became available the bridge would be rebuilt. He stated the Wood County Port Authority is reaching out to Wood County Park District to help continue building the Chessie Circle Trail into Wood County and connect to W.W. Knight Nature Preserve. Mr. Huffman stated there are state funds available through Ohio Trail Fund and that deadline is 4/17/2023 and \$500,000 will be requested, along with the match from the Port Authority which will be approximately \$200,000. Mr. Huffman stated the Port Authority has also approached Rep. Marcy Kaptur for federal funding for the Chessie Circle Trail project. He stated the

cooperative agreement also states that Wood County Park District will be responsible for upkeep and maintenance of our section of the trail. Ms. Headley asked when this will move forward. Mr. Huffman stated the project could start in 2024. Ms. Wiechman asked for a completion date for the project. Mr. Huffman stated they will continue to pursue funding until the trail has been completed thru Millbury. Mr. Myers presented resolution 23-020 to the Board of Park Commissioners. Ms. Ferguson moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Cameron seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion approved.

Mr. Smalley stated the Wood County Engineers will be working with the Park District once again to complete tar and chip sealing at Bradner Preserve at the Timmons Road and Caldwell Road entrances. He stated a new entrance sign will be installed at the Caldwell Road entrance and will be an overall improvement for park guests. Mr. Myers presented resolution 23-021 to the Board of Park Commissioners. Mr. Cameron moved to approve the resolution. Ms. Headley seconded. Mr. Myers asked for the timeframe of completion. Mr. Smalley stated the project should be completed between 6/1 and 9/1, and access will not be an issue as there are other entrances to the park. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion approved.

Mr. Smalley stated the purchase of a new mower was added to our operating budget for this year for the Operations department. Rob Brian sought out three mower quotes and A.J. Boellner, Inc. came back with the lowest best estimate. Mr. Brian stated out of the six mowers currently in inventory, four of these were purchased from A.J. Boellner, Inc. Ms. Ferguson asked if A.J. Boellner, Inc. provides maintenance or does the Operations department complete their own repairs. Mr. Brian stated we do our own maintenance unless it's under warranty or something out of our range. Mr. Myers presented resolution 23-022 to the Board of Park Commissioners. Ms. Ferguson moved to approve the resolution. Ms. Wiechman seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion approved.

Mr. Smalley shared copies of the Wood County Park District Annual Report, Spring edition of the Oak Leaf, and flyers regarding the Native Plant Sale, May Bike Month, and Tick Smart Talk at Veteran's Memorial Building at Bowling Green City Park on 4/12/2023 at 7:00 p.m.

7. Departmental Reports

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

Mr. Myers stated there is a new employee introduction. Corinne Gordon, Carter Historic Farm Specialist, introduced new part-time employee Abigail Duncan to the board.

8. Approval of Payables

Mr. Myers stated the payables for the month of March were distributed to board members prior to the meeting and called for a motion to approve. Ms. Headley made a motion to approve the payables, Mr. Cameron seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried. Mr. Myers asked if the consulting services amount of \$11,268.00 was a previous resolution. Mr. Smalley stated it was the architectural fee for the Reuthinger Expansion project.

9. Old Business

No old business brought to the board at this meeting.

10. New Business

Andrew Kalmar stated the pre-construction meeting was held earlier today, 4/11/2023, regarding the Reuthinger addition and will begin approximately 5/8/2023. He also stated some minor grading needs completed around the pond at Reuthinger. Mr. Kalmar stated he and Zeb Albert met with a contractor and received an estimate of \$3,700.00 to complete this project. Mr. Myers asked about the timeframe for completion. Mr. Kalmar stated the contractor gave 94 days to completion. Mr. Myers asked if there will be a path installed at some point. Mr. Kalmar confirmed this.

11. Friends of the Wood County Parks

No report from the Friends of the Wood County Parks. Mr. Smalley stated Candace Weis apologized for her absence and encouraged everyone to attend the Native Plant Sale in May.

12. Hearing of Visitors

No visitors heard at this time.

13. Executive Session

Mr. Myers stated there will be an Executive Session regarding land purchase with no voting taking place. Mr. Cameron moved to enter Executive Session at 3:44 p.m., Ms. Headley seconded.

14. Adjournment

Executive session adjourned at 4:02 p.m.



Tom Myers, Chairperson



Christopher Smalley, Director

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