

**Wood County Park District
Board of Commissioner's Minutes Regular Meeting
11/14/2023**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tom Myers at 3:00 p.m. at Wood County Park District Headquarters, 18729 Mercer Road, Bowling Green, OH. 43402.

2. Roll Call

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

Staff present: Justin Siler, Steve Thomson, Alyssa Garland, Tom Belcher, Andrew Kalmar, Anna Cotterman, Jim Witter, Chris Smalley, Diana Ziems, Rob Brian, Jamie Sands

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

Guests: Candace Weis, Kathy Atwood, Ursula Kluge

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Myers stated the minutes from the 10/10/2023 board meeting was distributed to the board prior to the meeting. Ms. Ferguson moved approval of the 10/10/2023 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Cameron seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

4. Thanksgiving Food Drive at the Wood County Park District – Alyssa Garland

Alyssa Garland started the presentation with photos of the two gardens at Carter Historic Farm that were first planted by the Park District staff in 2019. Ms. Garland stated the first year's crop was very successful, but they did end up with a lot of wasted food. It was decided in 2020 to partner with The Brown Bag Food Project. Ms. Garland advised since the beginning of this partnership, Carter Historic Farm has donated almost 5,000 pounds of produce. She stated the Thanksgiving Food Drive at the Wood County Park District began four years ago to benefit The Brown Bag Food Project. Donation bins are located at Carter Historic Farm, Park District Headquarters, Otsego Park, Wood County Museum and W.W. Knight Nature Preserve and runs November 11th – 19th. Ms. Garland handed out copies of Thanksgiving Food Drive flyers to the board members.

5. Chairman's Report

Mr. Myers stated Heritage Holiday will be Saturday, 12/9, at Carter Historic Farm from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. He stated the Wild Lights workshop is coming up on Wednesday,

1/17/2024 from 4:00 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Wild Lights weekend will be Friday, Saturday and Sunday (1/19/2024—1/21/2024) from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

6. Director's Report

Mr. Smalley stated an updated copy of the 2024 Operating Budget was distributed to the Board of Park Commissioners for review. He stated the goal is to have a final 2024 Operating Budget passed at the December board meeting.

Mr. Smalley stated a copy of the rental rule changes were distributed to the Board of Park Commissioners at the October meeting for review. He stated Chief Steve Thomson lead a Park District committee that reviewed current rental rules and generated suggestions, a full report and summary report. Mr. Myers thanked Chief Thomson and the rental rules committee for their very thorough and fair work. Ms. Ferguson stated she appreciated the work involved regarding the reason for the changes in the summary report. Mr. Myers presented resolution 23-036 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 carried.

Mr. Smalley stated all board members received a copy of the proposed employee manual revisions to review. Ms. Ferguson stated she appreciated how easy it was to reach a compromise. Mr. Myers presented resolution 23-037 to the Board of Park Commissioners. Ms. Ferguson moved to approve the resolution. Ms. Headley seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Smalley stated Park Police Manual updates occur as new bills are passed and new laws are enacted. He stated the most recent updates are in the categories of child abuse, medical marijuana, abandoned vehicles and sexual assault investigations. Mr. Myers presented resolution 23-038 to the Board of Park Commissioners. Mr. Cameron moved to approve the resolution. Ms. Headley seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Smalley presented the board with a summary of recommended rental rate changes. He stated the same committee led by Chief Thomson reviewed current rental rates and completed a summary report. Mr. Smalley asked board members to review the summary and invited the board to reach out with any questions.

In housekeeping, Mr. Smalley stated the latest edition of the Oak Leaf was given to each board member and thanked Park District staff members Jamie Sands, Jim Witter, Andrew Kalmar for their efforts in putting it together and Diana Ziems to getting them assembled and mailed promptly. Also, in housekeeping, Chief Thomson stated the current Computer Aided Dispatch (C.A.D.) agreement together with the Wood County Sheriff is over twenty years old and is in need of updating and expansion. Chief Thomson stated Park Police rely on this system for multiple uses, including the ability to see other officers in Wood

County and complete reports. He stated this expansion would include more of the county agencies and promote better communication. Mr. Myers presented resolution 23-039 to the Board of Park Commissioners. Mr. Cameron moved to approve the resolution. Ms. Ferguson seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried. Mr. Smalley stated a preliminary draft of the 2024 board meeting dates was distributed for review and asked for the board member's thoughts and suggestions for locations. He stated the final schedule will be presented at December's board meeting.

7. Departmental Reports

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

9. Old Business

Mr. Smalley stated he expects to hear from the state regarding the Clean Ohio grant application status for the J.C. Reuthinger Memorial Preserve expansion soon.

10. New Business

Nothing heard at this time.

11. Friends of the Wood County Parks

Candace Weis stated their Fall Membership meeting, with guest speaker Deb Nofzinger, was a success. Ms. Weis stated the Friends are continuing their History of the Parks project and have, so far, compiled the most complete history to date of the Wood County Park District. Ms. Weis stated the Friends was asked to put together a basket for a fundraiser through Habitat for Humanity that included many aspects of the Park District and more. She stated Habitat for Humanity decided to keep it and present it as a house warming gift to the family moving in to their new home built in Grand Rapids.

12. Hearing of Visitors

Jim Witter congratulated Park District volunteer Hal Brown for being nationally recognized by the National Association of Interpretation as National Interpretive Volunteer of the Year.

13. Executive Session

Mr. Myers stated there will be an Executive Session regarding land acquisition. Ms. Ferguson moved to enter Executive Session at 3:27 p.m. Mr. Cameron seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

14. Adjournment

Ms. Ferguson moved to adjourn. Mr. Myers seconded. Meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.



Tom Myers, Chairperson



Chris Smalley, Director

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