

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

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tom Myers at 3:01 p.m. at Wood County Park District Headquarters, 18729 Mercer Road, Bowling Green, OH. 43402.

2. Roll Call

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

Staff present: Jim Witter, Steve Thomson, Andrew Kalmar, Rob Brian, Ian Sood, Tom Belcher, Zeb Albert, Jamie Sands, 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, Debbie Rogers – Toledo Blade

Guests: Candace Weis

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Myers stated the minutes from the 11/14/2023 board meeting was distributed to the board prior to the meeting. Ms. Ferguson moved approval of the 11/14/2023 meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Wiechman seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

4. Chairman's Report

Mr. Myers stated Heritage Holiday at Carter Historic Farm was a success with over 150 guests in a three-hour time period. Santa's visit was popular with the families that attended, along with the wassail that was served. Mr. Myers stated the Christmas Tree Recycling program will run from 12/26/2023 through 1/30/2024. He reminded folks that all tinsel, tags, ornaments, etc. must be removed from the tree before recycling. He stated trees can be dropped off at W.W. Knight Nature Preserve, Park District Headquarters, Otsego Park, William Henry Harrison Park, and North Baltimore terminus of the Slippery Elm Trail. Mr. Myers stated Wild Lights workshop will be 1/17/2024, and 1/19/2024-1/21/2024 for the Wild Lights weekend events.

Mr. Myers thanked Judge Woessner for appointing him to the Board of Park Commissioners. He stated his time with the Board of Park Commissioners was a learning experience and a great reminder of what we have in Wood County. He also thanked Chris

Smalley and Andrew Kalmar for their work and leadership and setting the tone for the Wood County Park District moving forward. He thanked the entire Wood County Park District staff for their phenomenal work, creativity and dedication. Mr. Myers thanked his fellow board members for a great six year run and encouraged them to keep the ball moving in the right direction.

5. Director's Report

Mr. Smalley stated the 2024 Operating Budget was presented to the board members for review prior to the meeting. He stated adjustments were made to capital improvements due to some project estimates being different than expected. Mr. Myers presented resolution 23-040 to the Board of Park Commissioners. Ms. Headley moved to approve the resolution; Ms. Wiechman seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Smalley stated the Local Park Improvement Grant recommendations were reviewed by park professionals from outside of Wood County Park District. He advised Andrew Kalmar led the park grant project this year. Mr. Myers stated after reading the array of project requests, he appreciated the time and effort put into this project and recognized the amount of need and activity in Wood County. Mr. Myers presented resolution 23-041 to the Board of Park Commissioners. Ms. Wiechman moved to approve the resolution; Ms. Ferguson seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Smalley stated the Rental Rate change suggestions were presented last month for board review as prepared by Chief Steve Thomson and his committee. Mr. Myers stated the proposed changes are fair, and given the comparative market we are still a great deal. Ms. Headley asked how many rental requests are received for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Mr. Smalley stated the proposed rental rate changes will offset not having availability of those two holidays; and more of our staff will have the opportunity to spend time with their families. Mr. Myers presented resolution 23-042 to the Board of Park Commissioners. Ms. Headley moved to approve the resolution; Ms. Ferguson seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Smalley stated the 2024 board meeting schedule has been presented and every year a new Chair and Vice-Chair are chosen. Mr. Myers advised Ms. Wiechman has agreed to remain Vice-Chair and Ms. Ferguson will be stepping into the Chair position for 2024. Ms. Wiechman stated she's looking forward to working together with all board members in 2024. Ms. Ferguson stated she's honored to be chosen for the position of Chair of the Board of Park Commissioners. Ms. Headley moved to approve the new position appointments; Ms. Wiechman seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Smalley stated in housekeeping there were a collection of vintage maps found around the Park District and presented to the board members to view. Mr. Smalley stated

updates have been reviewed for our reservation system through Emerge Inc. and a tentative agreement has been drafted to customize and upgrade our current process. Mr. Myers presented resolution 23-043 to the Board of Park Commissioners. Ms. Headley moved to approve the resolution; Ms. Ferguson seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried. Mr. Smalley thanked Tom Myers and Bill Cameron for their years of service to the Wood County Park District and the citizens of Wood County.

6. Departmental Reports

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

7. Approval of Payables

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

8. Old Business

Nothing heard at this time.

9. New Business

Nothing heard at this time.

10. Friends of the Wood County Parks

Candace Weis stated the Friends of the Wood County Parks have been working on their strategic plan for 2024, including financial budget, updating bylaws, and adding a financial plan. Ms. Weis recapped the Friends accomplishments in 2023, including the Spring and Fall Membership meetings, Photo Contest and Reception, Staff Appreciation Luncheon, Spring and Fall Native Plant Sales, assisting with Wood County Park District events and continued efforts of the History of the Parks committee.

11. Hearing of Visitors

Nothing heard at this time.

12. Executive Session

Mr. Myers stated there will be an Executive Session. Ms. Headley moved to enter Executive Session at 3:31 p.m. Ms. Ferguson seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried. Executive session ended at 4:10 p.m.

13. Regular Session Reconvened

At 4:10 p.m., Tom Myers made a motion to approve the recommendation to accept Jamie Sands' request to rescind her resignation. Ms. Ferguson seconded. A roll call vote was conducted with all in favor, motion carried.

14. Adjournment

Mr. Myers moved to adjourn. Ms. Ferguson seconded. Regular meeting adjourned 4:20 p.m.



Rebecca Ferguson, Chairperson



Chris Smalley, Director

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