

Licking Park District Commissioners
Minutes of Regular Meeting – November 16, 2022

Board Chair Mr. Kiracofe called the November 16, 2022, Regular Meeting to order at 6:00pm at the James Bradley Center, Infirmary Mound Park.

I. Roll Call

Present: Mr. Moseley, Mr. Bradley, Mr. Kiracofe, Mr. Jenkins, Mr. White

Staff: Ms. Lohrman, Ms. McAdams, Ms. Balogh

II. Comments from the Public

Mr. & Mrs. Urvin Hartsock were present to listen to the discussion regarding the Longwell-Miles estate. Mr. Hartsock stated he believes the trustees are overlooking General Miles request that the estate be willed to the community of Johnstown & the Township. Mrs. Hartsock did not comment.

Mr. Alfred Norman was present to listen to the discussion regarding the Longwell-Miles estate & support the American Legion. He did not comment.

Ms. Renee Tracey was present to report her vehicle had been one of the three vehicles broken into during the Licking Park District's Howl-o-ween event in October. She voiced her concern with recent break-ins & wanted to support the Park District installing security cameras.

Mr. Kiracofe stated Director Lund was working with staff & volunteers on ramping up security at the park & during park events. He also stated he had a summary sheet of the timeline of events, actions taken, & plans the director & staff had discussed regarding this issue. Anyone at the meeting could have a copy of this summary sheet before they left.

Ms. Jenny Creeks was present to report her purse had been stolen from her sister's (Ms. Tracey) vehicle during the Howl-o-ween event & also supported installing security cameras.

Mr. Harry Galbraith was present but said he was only there to listen to conversation regarding the Longwell-Miles Estate and, depending on what was decided, he may speak at the next Board meeting.

Ms. Connie Ryan, a descendant of the Longwell family, was present to reiterate her stance on who the rightful receiver of the Longwell-Miles estate should be, which she feels is the Village of Johnstown, as the will states. And, now that Johnstown has a joint recreation district established, the estate should go to them, since they will be servicing the community of Johnstown. She stated General Perry Miles always considered Johnstown his home, which is why he sent his mementoes while serving in the military back to the family farm in Johnstown. A few years back, a

group of General Miles' family members got together to tour the old farm. They found the home in disarray & General Miles uniform & medals tossed on the floor, covered in debris & animal feces. This was extremely appalling to them, so in 2007, they started investigating why General Miles' will was never fulfilled. They soon found out the will had become null & void, & the estate was put into a trust & the trustees had full control of the estate. The remaining family of General Miles has been fighting since this time to push the trustees to move forward in honoring General Miles' last wishes & put the estate back in the hands of the community of Johnstown, where the will originally states it should go. Ms. Ryan then asked the Licking Park District Board to not accept the donation from the trustees, & instead, support the Johnstown Joint Recreation District in receiving the estate and the money left with the estate.

Ms. Carol VanDeest was present to discuss her stance on who the rightful receiver of the Longwell-Miles estate should be. Since 2018, she had been working with past directors & staff of Licking Park District to encourage the trustees of the Longwell-Miles trust to release the estate to the proper entity stated in the will of General Miles. The will states "*It is my wish & desire that upon the termination of the life estates hereinbefore provided, that my farm, residences, buildings, furnishings and personal effects, books and antiques be kept and maintained as the Longwell and Miles Memorial Estate for the purpose of the Religious, Educational and Recreational good and benefit to the residents of Johnstown Village, Liberty Township and surrounding community*". She stated that she & everyone [from Johnstown] attending the meeting this evening believe the estate should be released to the Johnstown Joint Recreation District, being that they will service the City of Johnstown, Liberty Township, & surrounding communities. General Miles did not state in his will for Licking County to benefit, only Johnstown & the surrounding community. After working with the Licking Park District for so long on this issue, she felt betrayed by past Park District director Mr. Richard Waugh & Mr. Roger Smith (trustee of Longwell-Miles trust) when she heard the Licking Park District had been approached by the trustees to receive the property. Ms. Deest was disappointed that no one from the Park District had contacted her or any family member between the months of February 2022, when the offer was made, & September 2022 when she reached out to past Director Waugh.

Ms. VanDeest reiterated her belief the Park District needs to withdraw from the offer because Johnstown & Liberty Township were the rightful designated heirs to the estate. Ms. VanDeest provided a printout of her statement to the Board.

Mr. Kiracofe thanked everyone for attending the meeting and stated the Board will take their comments into consideration.

- III. Approve agenda items / Request for additional agenda items
Mr. Moseley moved, Mr. Bradley seconded to approve the November 16, 2022 regular meeting agenda items.
Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- IV. Approval of Minutes
 - A. October 19, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes
Mr. Bradley moved, Mr. White seconded to approve the October 19, 2022 regular meeting minutes.
Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- V. Financial Status of Park District
 - A. October 2022 Financial Summary
Mr. Bradley moved, Mr. Moseley seconded to approve the October 2022 financial summary.
Mr. Kiracofe presented the October 2022 financial summary to the Board.
Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- VI. Approval of October 2022 Revenue & Expenses
 - A. October 2022 Revenue & Expenses
Mr. Bradley moved, Mr. White seconded to approve the October 2022 revenue & expenses.
Mr. Kiracofe presented the October 2022 Revenue & Expenses.
Mr. Bradley asked how much had been paid to Environmental Design Group for the Longwell-Miles design.
Ms. Lohrman stated \$4,000 had been paid to the company so far.
Mr. Kiracofe stated \$12,000 had been approved.
Mr. White asked how much was spent on the Mirror Lake walking path.
Ms. Lohrman stated just under \$71,000 was paid for the walking path, not including the cost of the dock.
Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- VII. Old Business
 - A. Update on Maintenance Employee
Mr. Kiracofe updated the Board on the status of the open maintenance position. A candidate was chosen & currently going through the hiring process. A start date is yet to be determined.

 - B. Brownsville Rd Landing - ODNR
Mr. Kiracofe updated the Board on the status of the Brownsville Rd Landing.
Mr. Felumlee would like the property transfer to happen by December 15, 2022. We are still waiting on ODNR's real estate department to contact Mr. Felumlee.

C. Longwell-Miles Memorial Park - status update

Mr. Kiracofe updated the Board on the status of the Longwell-Miles Memorial Park property. He & Director Lund met with representatives with the Johnstown Joint Rec District, Johnstown Schools, & City of Johnstown. The trustees of the Longwell-Miles trust currently have control of the trust & their decision will be final. If the Park District receives the estate, the interested parties & entities of Johnstown will be involved in the plans for the estate.

Mr. Mosley added the Park District's design consultants would be meeting with Johnstown Schools & Johnstown Joint Rec District to add their input to our master plan.

Mr. Bradley confirmed with Mr. Kiracofe that the Park District did not seek out this donation, & that the Park District was approached by the Estate's trustees to accept the donation. Mr. Kiracofe confirmed that was correct.

He also confirmed that the money received from the estate would be put into a fund at the Licking County Foundation so that money could only be used for the Longwell-Miles estate.

Mr. Bradley also asked that copies of the will be distributed to all Board members.

At 6:50pm, Mr. Jenkins left the Board meeting to talk to the residents interested in the Longwell-Miles discussion as they were leaving the meeting.

VIII. New Business - Special Item Follow Up

A. OHM Advisors Fee Proposal Acceptance

Mr. Bradley moved, Mr. White seconded to keep this item tabled until Mr. Lund's return.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

B. Bridge Repair-Request from City of Newark

Mr. Kiracofe stated the city of Newark requested the Park District's assistance in repairing the iron bridge just east of the Cherry Valley Rd parking lot. Mr. Claggett emailed the City of Newark regarding the issue & submitted an estimate of \$17,235 from his company Claggett & Sons Inc. Board decking on the bridge needs replaced so it is a safety concern. Mr. Kiracofe instructed Ms. McAdams to contact the City of Newark & advise them the Board was open to partnering on the repair project, but would like to see another quote. In the meantime, ask them to install some plywood or temporary cover to the holes.

Mr. Jenkins returned to the Board meeting at 6:57pm

C. Government Partnership Funding Application

Mr. Kiracofe stated Director Lund created an application for municipalities to complete that want to utilize the Government Partnership Funds. Mr. Kiracofe

issued the draft application to the Board for review & also stated Ms. Carnes with the prosecutor's office will need to review the application. Once Ms. Carnes reviews it, the Board can then approve the application.

D. Draft 2023 Budget Review

Mr. Bradley moved, Mr. White seconded to approve the 2023 Budget.

Mr. Kiracofe stated the Board had been sent the 2023 Budget for review & discussion followed.

Roll Call vote:

Mr. Bradley-Yea, Mr. Moseley-Yea, Mr. Kiracofe-Yea, Mr. White-Yea, Mr. Jenkins-No

Motion carried by majority vote.

Mr. Moseley asked Mr. Jenkins why he voted no. Mr. Jenkins stated he did not feel comfortable voting on the budget without Director Lund present.

IX. Director's Report

A. Director's Report

Mr. Kiracofe asked the Board if they had any questions regarding the directors report. The Board agreed a strategic plan final draft could wait to be completed in March of 2023.

Mr. Jenkins stated after speaking with the Longwell-Miles family & interested parties that attended the meeting this evening, they were all unaware of what the Park District plans were for the Longwell-Miles estate. Mr. Kiracofe suggested scheduling a special board meeting to discuss those plans with the family & community. Mr. Jenkins agreed, & that doing so may ease their minds in knowing the Park District will work with the community of Johnstown to determine the best plan for the estate. Mr. Moseley will check with the Johnstown Library to see if a large meeting room is available an evening during the week of December 5th.

X. Adjournment

Mr. White moved, Mr. Moseley seconded to adjourn.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.