

**Licking Park District Commissioners**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting – April 19, 2023**

Board Chair Mr. Kiracofe called the April 19, 2023 Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 pm at the James Bradley Center, Infirmary Mound Park.

I. Roll Call

Present: Ms. Campbell, Mr. Kiracofe, Mr. Moseley, Mr. White

Absent: Mr. Jenkins

Staff: Director Lund, Ms. Lohrman, Ms. McAdams

II. Comments from the Public

Connie Ryan & Peggy Dearth spoke on behalf of the Longwell-Miles family. They want to work with the Licking Park District to make sure Johnstown doesn't get left out of the conversation when deciding the future of the General Miles estate.

Mr. Kiracofe reassured Ms. Ryan, Ms. Dearth & the others present that if the Park District is awarded the estate, the Park District will work with the Johnstown community to complete a master plan & it will be based on two things. One is to honor General Miles' will as best as possible & two, follow the Park District's mission statement, which is passive recreation. He stated this doesn't mean the Park District can't partner with Johnstown to provide active recreation sites. He also assured them that any money received from the trust will stay with the property & only be used for improvements to the estate.

Ms. Ryan asked what the Board's feelings were on schools & if property would be set aside for them.

Mr. Kiracofe stated a master plan would determine whether or not a school would be suitable for the location.

Mr. Moseley stated putting in a school would also require having sewer & water ran to the location, which may not be feasible. He reminded Ms. Ryan that one day there may be houses all around this area & that we should focus on preserving green space as much as possible.

The Board thanked the family for coming.

III. Approve agenda items / Request for additional agenda items

Mr. Moseley moved, Ms. Campbell seconded to approve the April 19, 2023 regular meeting agenda items.

Mr. Kiracofe asked to add item X. *Executive Session* & move Adjournment to item XI.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. March 15, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Ms. Campbell moved, Mr. White seconded to approve the March 15, 2023 regular meeting minutes.

Discussion took place on Mr. Kiracofe's proposal to condense item VIII. C. *Homeless Encampments-Riverview Reserve* section.

Ms. Campbell questioned why it needed condensed, it would be more work to create two public records on the same topic. She's worried it would be harder to find information on one topic.

Mr. Moseley agreed, it was an important topic & everything discussed should be in the minutes.

The Board agreed to not amend the minutes & leave them as originally typed. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

V. Financial Status of Park District

A. March 2023 Financial Summary

Mr. White moved, Mr. Moseley seconded to approve the March 2023 financial summary.

Director Lund presented the March 2023 financial summary to the Board.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

VI. Approval of March 2023 Revenue & Expenses

A. March 2023 Revenue & Expenses

Mr. Moseley moved, Ms. Campbell seconded to approve the March 2023 revenue & expenses.

Director Lund presented the March 2023 Revenue & Expenses to the Board.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

VII. Old Business

A. Longwell-Miles Memorial Park - status update

Director Lund updated the Board on the status of the Longwell-Miles Park. He informed the Board the OH Attorney General's office issued an opinion to Judge Lang's office stating the Johnstown Contingency group didn't have a legal right to slow down the proceedings, however the group is still moving forward. Attorneys for various entities have submitted briefs to Judge Lang and we are awaiting an update. Director Lund also stated he was invited to the meeting hosted by the Longwell-Miles family last month & it was a productive conversation.

B. Palmer Road Swamp Preserve (Etna Township) - road extension, parking lot & fencing

Director Lund stated Etna Township asked him to research the cost of putting in a road extension of 50-60 ft so he received a quote for \$9,650.00 from ADR to develop engineering plans. It will cost another estimated \$21,000 for the asphalt road extension & another \$7,800 for inspections.

Mr. Moseley suggested the Park District ask Etna Township to transfer the road extension property to the Park District. Director Lund agreed to look into this.

Ms. Campbell suggested installing gravel to the area to accommodate three parking spots & tabling this issue for later. It's a lot of money to spend on an area that is only 26 acres & not often visited. Plus we don't have the support of Etna township.

Ms. Lohrman stated the Park District would be reimbursed from the Palmer Road Swamp Preserve funds at the Licking County Foundation.

Director Lund estimated there was \$40,000 currently in this fund. He also stated the Park District has to meet the county's specifications for a roadway & gravel most likely won't be allowed. It will also depend on the subdivision regulations.

Director Lund also got quotes for installing a fence along the property line between the park & neighboring homes.

Mr. Moseley stated the Park District had blazed the property line a few years ago because neighbors had encroached over the property line with trampolines, sheds, fire pits, etc. If a fence had been installed, those offenses wouldn't have happened.

Mr. Moseley moved, Mr. White seconded to approve spending \$15,000 for Capitol Fence to install a fixed knot fence between neighboring houses & Palmer Road Swamp Preserve boundary.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### C. 5-Year Strategic Plan

Discussion on the following topics took place:

Multi-use trails, bike trail maintenance plans, bike maintenance stations (eagle scout projects), staffing, solar lights along bike trails.

Ms. Campbell asked why Fritz-Drumm doesn't have a budget sheet.

Director Lund responded that it is leased property & the lessee is responsible for maintaining the park.

Ms. Campbell questioned why the Park District isn't completing basic maintenance to the park. She understands it is leased however the Park District should be doing general maintenance like adding gravel to the parking lot & driveway because it's still our property. She also suggested an official pedestrian entrance be added to Lobdell Reserve, across from Fritz-Drumm, since an unofficial one is already there & being utilized.

Director Lund asked the Board to rank previously discussed capital improvement projects by importance, #1 being highest, #5 being lowest, for each park & return their tallies to him in three weeks.

Mr. Moseley suggested scheduling a special meeting to discuss the rankings.

#### D. Homeless Encampments at Riverview Reserve - status update

Ms. McAdams followed up with the Board on the clean-up efforts that took place at Riverview Reserve. She stated Bio-One took three days to remove

trash & encampment debris. Mr. Evans & Ms. Jennings went in after with a rented forestry head & our bobcat to clear invasive honeysuckle & vegetation where the encampments were. She presented before & after photos to the Board.

Now that clean-up is mostly complete, she & Director Lund will meet with Columbus Disc Flyers on their next steps for installing a disc golf course. Also, Ms. McAdams will begin working with the Sheriff's Office and Newark PD to set up special duty assignments to begin dealing with illegal off-road atv and dirt bike activity.

#### VIII. New Business - Special Item Follow Up

##### A. Arbor Day (April 21, 2023)

Director Lund stated Ms. Balogh organized a field trip for about 80 2nd graders from John Clem Elementary School who will be coming to Infirmary Mound Park on April 21st. After lunch they will help Park Staff plant four trees in the park to celebrate Arbor Day.

Director Lund also reminded the Board the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner would be later that evening.

##### B. Resolution (2023-02) Water Trail

Mr. White moved, Mr. Moseley seconded to approve Resolution 2023-02 regarding the Water Trail along the Licking River.

Director Lund & Ms. Balogh met with ODNR regarding parameters & possible community partners which are needed to support efforts. Part of the application process is to get community support. The next meeting is scheduled in May. The Water Trail designation will help with wayfinding & safety signage along the river & access points. This signage will especially be beneficial to fire & rescue.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

##### C. Nature Playscape - Phase 3 (Climb & Build)

Ms. Campbell moved, Mr. White seconded to approve spending \$88,000 to Urban Wild to complete the Nature Playscape's Phase 3 Climb & Build Area.

Director Lund stated this phase is projected to be completed in June of this year.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

##### D. Community Survey 2023

Director Lund presented a draft survey to the Board & asked for comments & suggestions. Discussion took place on edits & corrections. It was agreed on to add the mission statement to remind survey participants the Park District's mission is passive recreation & to preserve & conserve natural areas, not active recreation.

E. Buckeye Scenic Trail - Seal Coat & Crackfill

Mr. Moseley moved, Mr. White seconded to approve spending \$18,236.24 to Xtreme Sealcoating & Asphalt to seal coat & crackfill Buckeye Scenic Trail between Route 40 & Irving Wick Rd.

Director Lund stated he received three quotes from the following companies:

Xtreme Sealcoating & Asphalt: \$18,236.24

TruSeal Asphalt Contractor: \$24,545.00

Hendren Blacktop Services: \$24,870.00

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

F. Special Duty Law Enforcement - Riverview Reserve

Ms. Campbell moved, Mr. Moseley seconded to approve spending up to \$5,000 for special duty law enforcement to prevent future encampments from emerging at Riverview Reserve & also to deter ATV use at the park.

Director Lund stated additional signage would also be posted regarding park rules.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

IX. Director's Report

Director Lund presented the Board with his director's report. Discussion took place on the following:

New maintenance employee still going through HR processing, fencing repair along Panhandle complete, Buckeye Scenic Trail extension tree & stump removal complete, Newell prairie burn complete, speaker at Downtown Newark Association meeting, augmented reality program, park brochure, Lobdell pit toilet construction.

X. Executive Session

A. Employment/Compensation of Public Employee

Mr. White moved, Mr. Moseley seconded the motion for the Board to go into executive session, per ORC 121.22(G)(1), for the purpose of Employment/Compensation of Public Employee.

Roll call vote: Mr. Kiracofe-Yea, Mr. Moseley-Yea, Ms. Campbell-Yea, Mr. White-Yea

The Board entered into Executive Session at 9:03 pm.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:23 pm.

Ms. Campbell moved, Mr. White seconded to approve a 1% increase, retroactive to January 1, 2023, for all Licking Park District full-time employees.

Roll call vote: Mr. Kiracofe-Yea, Mr. Moseley-Yea, Ms. Campbell-Yea, Mr. White-Yea

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

XI. Adjournment

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

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25pm.

Next Regular Meeting May 17, 2023 6:00 PM at Infirmary Mound Park - James Bradley Center