

Licking Park District Commissioners
Minutes of Regular Meeting – October 18, 2023

Board Chair Mr. Kiracofe called the October 18, 2023, Regular Meeting to order at 6:03 pm at the James Bradley Center, Infirmary Mound Park.

- I. Roll Call
Present: Mr. Jenkins, Ms. Campbell, Mr. Kiracofe, Mr. Moseley, Mr. White
Staff: Director Lund, Ms. Lohrman

- II. Pledge of Allegiance

- III. Comments from the Public
No comments.
Mr. Barber with The Newark Daily Times attended the meeting.

- IV. Approve agenda items / Request for additional agenda items
Ms. Campbell moved, Mr. Moseley seconded to approve the October 18, 2023 regular meeting agenda items.
Mr. Kiracofe requested moving item *IX.A.New Business - Kristy Hawthorne* to item VIII.
Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- V. Approval of Minutes
 - A. September 27, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
Mr. White moved, Mr. Jenkins seconded to approve the September 27, 2023 regular meeting minutes.
Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- VI. Financial Status of Park District
 - A. September 2023 Financial Summary
Mr. Moseley moved, Mr. White seconded to approve the September 2023 financial summary.
Director Lund presented the September 2023 financial summary to the Board.
Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- VII. Approval of September 2023 Revenue & Expenses
 - A. September 2023 Revenue & Expenses
Mr. White moved, Ms. Campbell seconded to approve the September 2023 revenue & expenses.
Director Lund presented the September 2023 Revenue & Expenses to the Board.
Motion carried by unanimous vote.

VIII. Kristy Hawthorne with Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District (LCSWCD) Kristy Hawthorn with Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District (LCSWCD) stated she is traveling to local government agencies to help them better understand what LCSWCD is currently working on & also explain the processes of water well testing & drilling, along with the effects of construction & new developments near waterways. She stated LCSWCD & South Licking Watershed Conservancy District are working towards benchmarking the South Licking River watershed with the numerous construction projects coming to Licking County. One of their focuses is on Raccoon Creek & the main stem of the South Fork & how to mitigate flooding in areas near these waterways. Part of this work will include water quality testing, especially with the possibility of asphalt plants & new parking lots that will come with new development, along with aging septic systems & possible package sewer plants that will come with housing developments. She stated USGS has installed a flood gauge on Raccoon Creek at Moots Run Road bridge. The flow gauge also has water quality testing equipment that is testing for nitrates, phosphates, PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon) which is a chemical added to asphalt, along with additional testing for e coli. She said they have gotten their first test results back from this unit & so far the water quality is good. A lot of their resources have been focused on the 60 new construction sites in the county & the effects they are having & will have on watershed areas, creeks, & rivers. She stated she is seeking assistance from the Licking Park District regarding volunteers for Stream Teams that are & will be continuously testing waters in the area, particularly the stream at Lobdell Reserve. She suggested a partnership with Franklin Soil & Water to utilize their AmeriCorps program that will help find central Ohio members for the Park District. Lastly, she informed the Board that new businesses like Amazon, Intel, Meta, Google & data centers all have sustainability goals, mainly focused on water since they use so much of it. The Central Ohio Nature Conservancy group has been contacted by these businesses who want to invest money into these projects. They are looking for organizations like the Park District who may have projects like stream bed restoration projects, or wetland creation/ restoration to invest in. She encouraged the Park District to become involved in these projects & be a presence at meetings so more voices can be heard.

IX. Old Business

A. Longwell-Miles Memorial Park - status update

Director Lund & Mr. Kiracofe stated they had no new updates regarding the Longwell-Miles Memorial Park.

B. 5-Year Strategic Plan

Mr. Moseley moved, Ms. Campbell seconded to approve the 5-Year Strategic Plan, with the amendments stated below.

Director Lund stated he & staff reviewed projects & adjusted them as follows: Fritz Drumm parking lot moved from 2024 to 2027, IMP Phase 6 removed, IMP parking lot near mound moved from 2024 to 2027, Lobdell Restroom moved to 2027 (leave port-o-john), Lobdell playground instead of shelter in 2025, & Programing trailer moved from 2025 to 2024.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

C. Palmer Road Swamp Preserve - damage to fence

Director Lund stated he had talked to Public Entities Pool & they will be sending a check to reimburse the Park District for the cost of damages to the fence at Palmer Road Swamp preserve, minus the Park District's \$500 deductible.

D. Rent Fun - app driven kayak/SUP rental

Ms. Campbell moved, Mr. Jenkins seconded to approve spending \$25,000 in 2024 on an 2-unit paddle sports rental locker, totaling 6 kayaks and 2 SUPs (along with paddles and lifejackets). An app will need to be downloaded by renters, where they will be charged \$25 for the first two hours & an additional \$15/hour for each additional hour or have the option of renting equipment all day for \$50. Renters will be required to sign a waiver. RentFun will maintain & service the units & equipment, and will also be responsible for insurance coverage on the units & equipment.

Director Lund stated he will get the RentFun contract signed & the order placed so the units will be ready & installed before Memorial Day 2024.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

X. New Business - Special Item Follow Up

A. M.O. Bryant Paving LLC dba Breck's Paving; \$8,231.50 (Acct. #5482)

Mr. Moseley moved, Mr. White seconded to approve reimbursing Breck's Paving \$8,231.50, which is the check amount sent to the Park District for the bid guarantee.

Director Lund stated the project is complete & there is no reason to hold any funds back.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

B. Memorial Bench Program.

Director Lund stated he would like to promote the Park District's Memorial Bench Program by putting it on our website and social media pages. An official application has been created for the public to complete if interested. He presented a draft application to the Board for their review. He would like to have a set price for a bench that would just be at cost for the buyer, this program is not meant to generate revenue for the Park District.

Mr. Jenkins suggested reviewing the bench price yearly to adjust for increases.

Ms. Campbell suggested adding an extra \$100 to cover administrative & installation costs for staff's time, however, Director Lund stated most work is done by volunteers.

Mr. Moseley stated if the Park District gets a free bench, he doesn't want to charge an extra \$100 because we will benefit greatly from the purchase.

Mr. White suggested renaming the program as Memorial Bench Program gives the impression the bench would be to memorialize a person who had died, instead of promoting the program to businesses or organizations.

Director suggested renaming it to "Commemorative Bench Program". The Board liked this idea.

Ms. Campbell moved, Mr. Jenkins seconded to approve the Commemorative Bench Program Application, and only charge donors the cost of the bench, and the cost of a concrete pad if necessary (depends on location).

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

C. Partner Appreciation Event

Director Lund would like the Board to start thinking about the Partner Appreciation Event. He would like to move the event to late spring or early summer, possibly having a picnic style event where staff will provide the bb gun range, archery trailer, & paddle sports so partners can see some things the park offers.

Mr. Jenkins asked if the volunteer dinner & the partner appreciation event can be combined.

Director Lund stated he could discuss that with Ms. Jennings.

Mr. Kiracofe stated he would rather see the events separate.

XI. Director's Report

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

Harvest Moon Festival record attendance, mowing bid packets have gone out, Nature Playscape Climb Area complete, Staddens Landing launch improvement, compensation consultant, Astronomy Club Solar Trail, 2024 OPRA Conference, dumpster at Staddens Landing.

Ms. Campbell suggested contacting both Newport & Boundless regarding quotes for a compensation consultant.

XII. Executive Session

A. Employment/Compensation of Public Employee

Ms. Campbell 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. Moseley-Yea, Mr. Kiracofe-Yea, Mr. White-Yea,
Mr. Jenkins-Yea, Ms. Campbell-Yea
The Board entered into Executive Session at 7:50pm.
The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:33pm.
Mr. White moved, Ms. Campbell seconded to approve Director Lund's 5%
merit-based raise, effective August 31, 2023.

Roll call vote: Mr. Moseley-Yea, Mr. Kiracofe-Yea, Mr. White-Yea,
Mr. Jenkins-Yea, Ms. Campbell-Yea
Motion carried by unanimous vote.

XIII. Adjournment

Mr. Moseley moved, Mr. Jenkins seconded to adjourn.
Motion carried by unanimous vote.
The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.