

Board Minutes June 14, 2018

Preservation Parks of Delaware County

1 PM Hogback Ridge Park

Attendees:

Board: John Bader, Bruce Ruhl. Glenn Marzluf was absent

Staff: Kyle Pace, Wes Wingert, Dennis Welch, Benjamin Maurer, Bonnie Houk, Matt Simpson, Rich Niccum, Sue Hagan, Tony Benishek, Jen Meyers, Mary Van Haaften, Tom Curtin

Public: Amy Tovar

Call to order: J. Bader called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM, roll call was taken, Glenn Marzluf was absent.

Adoption of Agenda: B. Ruhl moved to approve the revised agenda as presented, J. Bader seconded, both members voted aye.

Approval of Minutes: B. Ruhl moved to approve the May 10, 2018 Board meeting minutes and the May 15, 2018 Special Board meeting minutes as presented. J. Bader seconded, both members voted aye.

Budget Report: B. Ruhl moved to approve the monthly budget report as presented, J. Bader seconded, both members voted aye.

Open to the Public: Amy Tovar suggested the Park District install directional signs at trail intersections to aid visitors during their walks.

Park Updates:

1. Strategic Plan: Deputy Director M. Van Haaften informed the Board that the focus group and leadership meetings have been completed. The county-wide survey will launch within the next week. The survey will be sent to a statistically random sample of county residents with a guaranteed minimum response of 500 completed surveys.
2. Commercial Solar Consultants: Third Sun Solar has completed a feasibility study regarding the installation of a solar panel system on roof of the Visitor Center at Deer Haven Park. It is estimated that the District would save 14% per year on the facility's electric bill while reducing greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to burning 200,000 pounds of coal over 30 years.
3. Delaware County Foundation Fund Update: The Preservation Parks Fund has a current total of \$13,917.09. The Amy Clark-Bader Bird Sanctuary Fund has a total of \$1,998.73.
4. Char-Mar Ridge Trailside Camping: Senior Park Planner M. Simpson and Director T. Curtin attended the Genoa Township Park and Recreation Committee meeting to provide the opportunity for community input on a proposed campsite along the Ohio to Erie in Char-Mar Ridge Park. Only cyclists on extended rides through the state / region will be permitted to use the two sites. The plan was met with support though concerns were voiced about the potential threat of forest fires, noise and trespassing. The campsites will be located 600' from the nearest house, all park rules and regulations will be enforced including regulations dealing with noise, camp fires will not be permitted, stoves will not initially be allowed; however, their use will be reevaluated in future years. All campers will be required to register through the Park Police Department and will be limited to a one-night stay.

5. Shale Hollow Primitive Trail: Park staff meet on site with representatives of OEPA to walk the proposed route of the primitive trail through southern Shale Hollow Park. OEPA is supportive of the project and will revisit the route once Park staff have flagged a definitive path and ravine crossings. A meeting with neighbors will be held to describe the project and listen to concerns prior to final trail design.
6. Foundation Update: The Ad Hoc committee charged with drafting the code of regulations and the mission and vision statements for the park foundation have held two meetings. Working with our consultant, sections from existing park foundation texts were chosen to create a working document that will become the park foundation's code of regulations. Revisions to the proposed mission and vision statement were noted. Drafts of both documents will be prepared by our consultant and circulated prior to the next meeting.
7. Sandel Legacy Trail Paving (Sunbury): M. Simpson reported that the project is out to bid. The bid opening will occur on June 28th.
8. Land Acquisition: T. Curtain reported that the Park District closed on an additional 4.14 acres at Hogback Ridge Park and 26 acres along Alum Creek. The Park District also received a 22 acre donation along the Olentangy River in Liberty Township.

New Business:

1. J. Bader presided over the swearing of Park Police Officer Benjamin Maurer. Benjamin comes to Preservation Parks from the Otterbein University Police Department. He enjoys fishing and birding.
2. B. Ruhl move to approve Resolution 2018 – 371 authorizing the Executive Director and the Deputy Director to purchase land in Liberty Township. J. Bader seconded and both members voted aye.
3. B. Ruhl moved to approve Resolution 2018 – 372 for supplemental appropriation of park funds for legal expenses. J. Bader seconded, both members voted aye.
4. Park staff met with representatives of Orange Township and the County Engineer's Department to review plans for connecting the Alum Creek Trail to the Park District's property along Bale-Kenyon Road. Three scenarios were presented: bridging over Bale-Kenyon, building an underpass, and an at grade crossing. The Board and staff are in favor of the at grade crossing with the appropriate road markings and signals.
5. Park Volunteer Amy Tovar informed the Board that there are two groups bearing the name of Friends of Preservation Parks, one is the PAC the other is a Right To Exist Organization. The plan was to apply for a 501 (c) 4 however that application was never submitted. Park attorney Ross Long has stated that changing the name of the PAC will be more involved than changing the name of the Right to Exist Organization. Amy shared her thoughts on retaining the current look of the logo in order to maintain marketing consistency.

Department Reports: Accepted as presented.

Old Business:

1. B. Ruhl moved to approve adding language to the existing food policy allowing funds to be spent for staff team building, special staff work sessions and staff training activities. J. Bader seconded, both members voted aye.
2. T. Curtin reported on the Village of Sunbury's actions to declare Vernon Street a dedicated road despite claims of private ownership. Park legal counsel has determined that Preservation Parks has an easement across Vernon Street and will be able to maintain access to the Sandel Legacy Trail and Trail House as discussions between the two parties continue. The private land owner has installed a speed bump across the roadway and onto Park property. Preservation Parks sent him a letter requesting a meeting on site to facilitate the removal of the speed bump.
3. The County Auditor has provided the Park District with a tax bill for the cell tower located at Shale Hollow Park that includes back taxes and current year taxes in the amount of \$2,293.18. The Auditor is waiving all penalties and interest associated with the back taxes. American Tower Corporation (ATC) will reimburse Preservation Parks for the full amount of the taxes. The Park District is still awaiting an accounting of the lease payments from ATC.
4. The Park District has received the inventory and appraisal for the Jones Estate. The appraisal may change over the following months as creditors may come forward, and proceeds from the Garth's auction are applied to the estate.

Executive Session: B. Ruhl moved to go into executive session at 2:35 PM for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and discipline of an employee. J. Bader seconded, roll call was taken, both members voted aye.

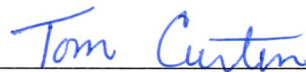
1. Land
2. Personnel

The Board returned to regular session at 2:56 PM.

B. Ruhl moved to authorize the Executive Director and Deputy Director to negotiate for land in Orange Township. J. Bader seconded, both members voted aye.

B. Ruhl moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:03 PM, J. Bader seconded, both members voted aye.

Respectfully submitted,



Tom Curtin, Executive Director



J. Bader, Chair, Park Commissioner