

**MINUTES OF THE JOHNNY APPLESEED METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MONTHLY MEETING**

**8:00 a.m.  
February 16, 2016**

**2355 Ada Road  
Lima, OH 45801**

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chairman, Kevin Bruin. Present was Commissioner, Cathy Ahman, Bob Antibus; Staff, Chris Fetzer, Daniel Hodges, Richard Kimmel, Vince Sarno and Beth Theisen; Director, Kevin Haver and Recording Secretary, Denise Graham.

Bob Antibus made motion to approve the January 19, 2016 minutes as submitted. Cathy Ahman seconded. The motion passed.

Cathy Ahman reported the following:

- Cathy, Bob, Kevin H. and Denise attended the Bluffton pathway extension committee meeting on February 4. The committee's extension plans were very impressive and exciting for the community. Bob Antibus and Kevin agreed that the Bluffton pathway extension meeting went well. Moving forward on the project, Kevin wants to make sure everyone knows what their responsibilities are.

Kevin Haver reported the following:

- Attended the OPRA Conference January 31 – February 3. The conference was well attended with 550 full conference registrations and 1000 in attendance overall. The exhibit hall booth spaces were sold out.
- Recently met with Jim Snyder regarding the Rail Trail project. Jim is a Rail Trail consultant and Kevin would like to hire him when the project progresses. He is very experienced and knowledgeable about trail design and knows of simpler ways of getting things done. Jim worked for Greene County Park District which is considered the hub of trails. There will be a trail conference in the near future but don't have the dates yet. Cathy Ahman indicated that she would like to attend.
- Arbor Day will be celebrated on Friday, April 29. Kevin asked the Commissioners to consider an honoree.
- The Park District received a Partner Award from Allen County Soil & Water Conservation District at their annual dinner in January.

Kevin Bruin reported that he would like to have the Ford Work day scheduled for April 29 instead of April 22 (Earth Day). A short discussion took place of having the Ford work day at Hermon Woodlands along with the Arbor Day ceremony. Carole Hermon could be the Arbor Day honoree.

Vince Sarno reported the following:

- The 2015 annual attendance of 602,000 visitors was down a little from 2014 which may be due to the bad weather in June. Attendance is calculated by using counters (3 persons per car) at the park entrances.
- The maintenance staff is currently working on making signs for Hermon Woodlands and clearing trees around the playscape. Trails and equipment are being prepared for Maple Fest.

Richard Kimmel reported the following:

- Currently working with the new rangers on updating the standard operating procedures.
- Ordered two new ranger vehicles.
- Working on a grant through Saint Rita's for new AED's.
- The ranger department has received its E-Guardian membership with the FBI. This membership will allow for direct emails from the FBI.
- On January 15<sup>th</sup>, there was an accident on Reed Road which caused damage to part of the fence at Heritage Park. Four posts and 14 rails need to be replaced.

Chris Fetzer reported the following:

- Scheduling of the 2016 summer amphitheater program series is almost complete. The entertainment prices have went up from last year.
- Volunteer help is needed for Maple Festival and training is scheduled for this Saturday.
- The Park District received a \$150 donation from Chief's for cookies for the school groups.

Beth Theisen reported the following:

- Beth and Daniel met with Miami County Park District naturalists to help with development of new program ideas.
- The Naturalist Staff will be hosting the NW Ohio Naturalist Gathering at Hermon Woodlands on June 4.
- Daniel is working with Cornell University to offer an 8 week ornithology class beginning in March. Emails have been sent to the OCVN volunteers and Audubon members to attend.

Kevin Haver said that the Park District needs to be careful not to over shadow other volunteers that aren't OCVN volunteers.

## **Old Business**

Bob Antibus made motion to approve the January Monthly Budget Update as submitted. Cathy Ahman seconded. The motion passed.

Bob Antibus made motion to approve the January Bills as submitted. Cathy Ahman seconded. The motion passed. A discussion took place regarding the bills for the Christmas dinners at the cabin. Kevin Bruin thought that the price per person should be higher. Kevin Haver said that the events are used more as a friend raiser than a fundraising event. A discussion took place on the property tax bills. Several of the bills are for petition ditch assessments for some of the other property tax bills. Exemption has been applied for but hasn't yet been received.

## **Project Update**

Kevin Haver reported the following on the Lauer Historical Farm:

- Vince and Kevin met with the architects and engineers from the Collaborative on February 11. The engineers have determined that the house is structurally sound. Several options have been provided for use of the rooms on the floor plans. There will be a traditional 1940's kitchen. The floor plans label the rooms as meeting rooms to show occupancy load. The rooms will be multi-functional. Other topics discussed at the meeting included utilities, doubling the width of the driveway, a bridge near the waterway and a concrete restroom similar to Hermon Woodlands. The timeline has been moved back a little with the project. The plans will be in place this year but not the building portion. The Collaborative is down two

people at this time due to unforeseen circumstances. The propane furnaces will be converted to natural gas and two full fuel oil tanks in basement will need to be removed.

- A 13 item correction letter from the State of Ohio was received for items pertaining to the Allen County Farm Park storage building. A considerable amount of time was used to answer the questions with many of the questions not relevant for a storage building. The advertising and bid opening dates have been determined.
- The staff is working hard at Hermon Woodlands to get things done. Kevin would like consideration given for allowing dogs on the trail. The park is not considered a natural area and the only green space is in the woods where the trail goes. It would be something new that some park visitors have asked for. Kevin Bruin suggested that Kevin Haver talk with Susan Ritz (Carole Hermon's sister) regarding dogs on the trail in the woods.

### **New Business**

A Public Comment Period Policy was presented to the Commissioners for approval. Bob Antibus made motion to approve the Public Comment Period Policy as presented. Cathy Ahman seconded. The motion passed.

Resolution 3 -2016 – Authorizing the Director-Secretary to enter into contract for the purchase of a security camera system for the Hermon Woodlands Metro Park. Bob Antibus made motion to approve the resolution as presented. Cathy Ahman seconded. The motion passed.

Kevin Haver presented a power point presentation on the 2016 projects for the Cooperative Park Improvement Grant Program.

Kevin Bruin asked if there has been any new correspondence from St. Rita's for the potential donation of an observation deck for Motter Metro Park. Kevin Haver has not heard back from them

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15 at 8 a.m.

With no further business Bob Antibus made motion to adjourn at 9:05 a.m. Cathy Ahman seconded. The motion passed.

Kevin Bruin  
Chairman

Kevin Haver  
Director