

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

**8:00 a.m.  
January 19, 2016**

**2355 Ada Road  
Lima, OH 45801**

**MINUTES**

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

Cathy Ahman made motion to approve Kevin Bruin as Chairman of the Board. Bob Antibus seconded. The motion passed.

Kevin Haver reported the following:

- There are several large projects the Park District will be working on this year. Beth and Daniel will be doing a lot of programming and several volunteers will be needed.
- Bassett & Associates were hired to design an observation deck for Motter Metro Park. Two different designs were created one with using paver stone and the other using trek deck. Both estimates were much higher than expected. The estimates were sent to St. Rita's last week to see if they were interested in donating for the project. The paver stone estimate is \$61,500 and the Trek Deck is \$91,500. In the event there isn't a donation for the project possible the staff could provide the installation labor.
- The OPRA Conference will be held on January 31 – February 3.
- A meeting will be held in Bluffton on February 4 at 12 noon to discuss the Bluffton trail project.
- Meetings are continuing for the Spencerville Elgin Rail Trail project from Lima to Spencerville. Jim Snyder a trail consultant has been invited to attend the next meeting on January 29. The Park District will pay his expenses for the day. His services include administering the project and also grant writing. Phases of the project: Phase 1 - Shawnee Road to Kemp Road; Phase 2 - Kemp Road to Defiance Trail; and Phase 3 - Defiance Trail to the Miami Erie Canal. The project could begin as early as next year and would take approximately 3-4 years to complete. APEXS Energy (wind farm) has been in contact with the Port Authority and is interested in purchasing a right of way along the railroad for a substation on Sellers Road. If this takes place it could complicate the project.

Vince Sarno reported the following:

- The maintenance staff has been working on equipment and inventory.
- Currently plowing snow as needed, moving firewood from Hermon Woodlands and repairing equipment.

Rich Kimmel reported the following:

- Chad Sandlin and Dave Zimmerly began fulltime job duties on January 7.
- Currently working on the summer ranger schedule and quotes for new ranger vehicles and working with St. Rita's for possible AED grants.

Chris Fetzer reported the following:

- Met with the Shawnee High School Ecology Club on a bluebird box project for Hermon Woodlands. Met with the Elida High School Environmental Club and they are interested in helping with the children's play scape at Hermon Woodlands.

Beth Theisen reported the following:

- Daniel and Beth have been working on reorganizing the basement at the Roush Road office. Beth thanked Tyler, Greg and Mike for helping move furniture in the naturalist office.

Dale Vandemark swore in Cathy Ahman for a new 3 year term as Park Commissioner.

Bob Antibus made motion to approve the December 17, 2015 minutes as submitted. Cathy Ahman seconded. The motion passed.

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

Bob Antibus made motion to approve the Bills for the December 2015 as submitted. Cathy Ahman seconded. The motion passed.

## **Project Reports**

### *Hermon Woodlands*

Vince Sarno reported the following:

- The shelters are almost complete except for a small amount of trim work on the inside and the staining on the outside. A small amount of grading and seeding needs to be done around the shelters.
- The site work is complete except for the seeding on the mounding.
- The trail work is almost complete except for approximately 100 feet of stone and the decking and railing on one of the bridges.

### *Lauer Historical Farm*

Kevin Haver reported the following:

- A meeting will be held during the week of February 1 with the architect and engineers to go over the site plan and floor plans of the Lauer house.

### *Allen County Farm Park*

- Slowly moving along with approval from the state. They have had several questions that require a formal response.

### *McLean Teddy Bear Park*

- The Park District will be receiving a \$79,000 NatureWorks grant for the restroom at Teddy Bear.

Bob Antibus made motion to approve the purchase of a restroom for Teddy Bear Park. Cathy Ahman seconded. The motion passed. The cost of the restroom will be approximately \$55,000 and the entire project will total \$120,000 which will include the sewer, water, electric and labor.

## **New Business**

Kevin Haver reported the following:

- The Cooperative Park Improvement Grant Program has been reactivated. Eleven of thirteen eligible agencies have applied for a grant. The grant review team meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 21 at 6:30 p.m. There are several new people involved with the program. The Commissioners will need to approve the allocations at the next Board meeting.

Resolution 1- 2016 was presented authorizing the Director-Secretary to enter into contract for the purchase of two lawn mowers. Bob Antibus made motion to approve the resolution as presented. Cathy Ahman seconded. The motion passed.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16 at 8:00 a.m.

With no further business, Bob Antibus made motion to adjourn at 8:40 a.m. Cathy Ahman seconded. The motion was approved.

Kevin Bruin  
Chairman

Kevin Haver  
Director