

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

**8:00 a.m.
January 15, 2013**

**2355 Ada Road
Lima, OH 45801**

MINUTES

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

Kevin Haver reported the following:

- The shelter survey results have been compiled. There were 39 written comments with one-third expressing negative comments regarding the restroom facilities and 8 comments expressing not wanting taxes raised.
- The Friends of the Parks campaign is ongoing with 218 memberships, 19 new and a total of \$15,673. Business Friends of the Parks has 17 memberships with a total of \$4,400.
- The 2012 financials for the beach and campground show that income is down a little but with the expenses factored in both break even.
- 480 shelters were reserved in 2012 with 29,000 people using them and \$24,000 in revenue was generated.
- The OPRA Board Institute will be held on February 24. Kevin asked the Commissioners if they would like to attend.
- Attended a meeting with Tri-Moraine Audubon and the Trust for Public Land regarding Camp Myeerah, a Girl Scout camp located near Bellefontaine. Audubon has an easement for the property but the camp is now for sale. There is not a county park district or one located in the surrounding counties. The meeting was called to seek input into saving the property. Tri-Moraine is looking into submitting a grant application to the Clean Ohio fund to purchase the property. The Girl Scouts will donate the 25% match. There are 450 acres, several lakes, prairie plantings, dorms, etc. Tri-Moraine is looking for an agency to take over long-term ownership and operation. They don't have the resources or manpower to operate. The Park District or Foundation could own and operate.

Bob O'Connor reported the following:

- The Parks were busy during the holidays with the snow we received. Several families were sledding and there were also a few ice fishermen.

Vince Sarno reported the following:

- Work is continuing with subsiding and floors for the Lauer Barn. Kevin Haver stated that all the flooring in the Lauer Barn is from the ash trees taken down at the park office. Allen County Horse & Harness donated \$2000 for work on the barn. Their money was used for the ash trees sawmill fees. Brent and Tim are doing an excellent job working on the barn.
- Park District inventory is complete.
- The final inspection is complete on the maintenance addition and the certificate of occupancy was granted.
- The maintenance staff was busy after Christmas with snow removal in the parks generated from 2 storms.

Beth Theisen reported the following:

- The 10 week OCVN class will begin next week.
- Currently working with Head Start to present the Nature Pal programs monthly to their classes. Head Start's science level is low and they have received funding from the State to come to the McElroy Center for classes.

Old Business

Bob Antibus moved that the minutes for the December 21, 2012 meeting be approved as submitted. Cathy Ahman seconded. The motion passed.

Bob Antibus moved that the December 2012 Monthly Budget Update be approved as submitted. Cathy Ahman seconded. The motion passed.

Bob Antibus moved that the December 2012 Bills be approved as submitted. Cathy Ahman seconded. The motion passed.

Kevin Haver reported the following:

- The paperwork has been submitted to the Board of Elections so the Park District levy can be placed on the May ballot. After reviewing current valuations, it is best to go with a replacement levy. Kevin has several speaking engagements lined up. Estimated tax income for 2013 is \$1,310,744 – Local Government Funds are \$80,828.
- The billboards have been reserved and brochures have been updated. Anne Decker is working on a website. The levy meeting is scheduled for February 13 at 12 Noon. David Adams will be doing the artwork for the brochure.

New Business

Kevin Haver reported on 2013 Projects:

- Researching the possibility of using concrete restrooms when replacing pit latrines in the parks. The restrooms come on a flatbed with no construction needed. There are heating and sewer costs associated with the facility. Kevin would like to try one for this year at the Allen County Farm Park.
- Continuing to work on raising funds for a band shell at the amphitheater. Construction would take about 2 months. The remainder of the funding could be done through the Park District or the Foundation. Would like to have the project done so that it could be used for this year's Amphitheater series of programs.

With no further business, Bob Antibus made a motion to adjourn at 9:00 a.m. Cathy Ahman seconded. The motion passed.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 28, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

Kevin P. Bruin
Chairman

Kevin L. Haver
Director-Secretary