

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

**8:00 a.m.
March 22, 2011**

**2355 Ada Road
Lima, OH 45801**

MINUTES

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

Bob Antibus thanked the Park District for allowing him to attend the OPRA Conference.

Kevin Bruin moved that the minutes for the January 18, 2011 meeting be approved as submitted. Nancy Steiner seconded. The motion passed. The February Board meeting was cancelled.

Kevin Haver reported the following:

- The OPRA conference went very well. Ben Richard is on the Strategic Planning Team for next year's conference which will be held at Kalahari.
- Currently spending quite a bit of time on Park District Foundation items due to subcommittee meetings and paperwork. Anne recently sent out a "Friends of the Park" mailing to those who have donated to the Freedom Flag monument. A business" Friends of the Park" mailing will be sent out this fall to businesses in Allen County.

Bob O'Connor submitted a written report with the following information:

- On February 1, the ranger staff met with Lt. Matt Triglia of the P.A.C.E. unit and Chief Kyle Fittro of the Delphos Police Department to discuss current trends in the drug trade in Allen County.
- Bath Fire Department sponsored ice rescue training at Ottawa Metro Park Beach on February 7.
- Richard and Bob attended the OPRA Conference on February 9.
- On February 16, Bob attended a meeting at Children's Services along with other agencies from Allen County to sign the Child Abuse and Neglect memorandum of understanding.
- Richard, Ben, Kevin and Bob attended the Crime Prevention luncheon at the Elks on February 24.
- On March 4, the ranger staff met with Ben Kehres to discuss video equipment that can be worn by the rangers.

Vince Sarno reported the following:

- The maintenance staff has been busy plowing snow. 158 man hours have been used to plow snow for 2011, 127 man hours in 2010 and 88 man hours in 2009.
- The maintenance staff has been working on the Lauer Barn.
- Insulation was added to the maintenance shop ceiling.
- Repaired the backflow preventer at Ottawa Metro Park.

Beth Theisen reported the following:

- On March 19th a salamander program was held at Kendrick Woods. There was very good turnout with 65 people in attendance.
- Currently busy preparing for spring programs.
- Mark and the maintenance staff are working on refurbishing an old cook stove for the cabin.

Chris Fetzer reported the following:

- Working on finalizing the series of Summer Amphitheater programs.
- Currently working on adding to our volunteer base. Set a goal of 50 new volunteers for 2011 and has enlisted 10 new so far this year.

Old Business

Kevin Bruin moved that the February 2011 Monthly Budget Update be approved as submitted. Nancy Steiner seconded. The motion passed.

Kevin Bruin moved that the February 2011 Bills be approved as submitted. Nancy Steiner seconded. The motion passed.

A discussion took place regarding the Deep Cut Canal Trail project. The project is nearing completion. The stone is all on site, just not spread. Ohio Power has moved the poles that needed relocated.

Kevin Haver reported on the Lauer Historical Farm:

- Merkle Moving will be onsite Thursday to remove the jacks and reset the barn. National Lime & Stone has donated the flag stone for the foundation. Cavelage Vault will be donating the labor for obtaining the hand hewn beams for the 2nd floor of barn.
- The log cabin is coming along. Some furnishings are still needed such as chairs.
- Have attended several bikeway meetings recently. A group from Country Club Hills is working on an extension from Roush Road to OSU Lima and the Shawnee Twp. Trustees are pursuing an extension from Heritage Park to Shawnee Schools. The Allen County Health Department has formed a committee to promote bikeways and pursue grants for additional bikeways. They are also working on scheduling speakers to talk about the benefits of bikeways. Kevin has made it clear to all interested parties that the Park District cannot take on any additional bikeways until additional funding is provided to maintain and patrol the bikeway.
- A new Department of Justice ruling went into effect last week. This ruling allows for anyone claiming they are handicapped access to nature trails by any means of transportation that those maintaining the trails may use. Park personnel cannot ask if handicapped.
- Ohio Budget Cuts – Local Government funds will be cut this year 25% (\$30,000-35,000), 50% next year. House Bill 66 produces a loss of \$256,000/year. The levy that was passed in 2003 was to generate 1.4 mil/year but will now generate less than 1 mil/year. The State's budget cuts also include collective bargaining, raising employee PERS share 2% and decreasing employers share 2% and requiring public employees to pay 15-20% of their health insurance premium.

New Business

Kevin presented the Commissioners with a Use Policy for the McElroy Center. The current policy is designed for Monday through Friday use by business groups at a fee of \$100/day.

Resolution 5-2011 was presented of appreciation for Robert J O'Connor for service to the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District for 25 years. Kevin Bruin moved that Resolution 5-2011 be accepted as presented. Nancy Steiner seconded and the motion passed.

Resolution 6-2011 was presented establishing rules of use and rental fees for the Allen County Farm cabin. Kevin Bruin moved that Resolution 6-2011 be accepted as presented. Nancy Steiner seconded and the motion passed.

Resolution 7-2011 was presented establishing rules of use and rental fees for business group use of the McElroy Environmental Education Center. Kevin Bruin moved that Resolution 7-2011 be accepted as presented. Nancy Steiner seconded and the motion passed.

Kevin Bruin would like to set the Ford work day for Friday, April 29 with a rain date of May 6. He requested the Park District to put together a list of projects for that day.

A discussion took place regarding Arbor Day and an Arbor Day honoree. No decision was made at this time.

At 9:10 a.m. Kevin Bruin made motion to move into executive session to discuss land and personnel issues. Nancy Steiner seconded. The motion passed.

At 9:32 a.m. Kevin Bruin made motion to return from executive session. Nancy Steiner seconded. The motion passed.

With no further business, at 9:32 a.m. Kevin Bruin made motion to adjourn. Nancy Steiner seconded. The motion passed.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19th at 8:00 a.m.

Robert K. Antibus
Chairman

Kevin L. Haver
Director-Secretary