

**Minutes of
Trumbull County MetroParks Board
Thursday, March 25, 2021**

A meeting of Trumbull County MetroParks was called to order by the Chair, Nicolette Darkangelo, on Thursday, March 25, 2021, at 4:16 p.m. via Zoom. Those in attendance included the following:

Nicolette Darkangelo, Chair
John Brown, Jr.
Kathy DiCristofaro
Steve Maas
Kurt Sauer
Zachary Svette, Operations Director
Mitzi Sabella, Secretary

Also in attendance: Kris Kribel, Trumbull County Combined Health District; Tribune Chronicle, WJMJ

Mr. Brown made a motion to change the regular order of business in order to discuss the Health Communities Grant under VIII. Future Planning. Kris Kribel from the Trumbull County Combined Health District was in attendance to discuss the project application that was submitted to the Ohio Department of Health for the Creating Healthy Communities Grant FY21 for the purpose of providing policy, system, and environmental changes related to active living and healthy eating for \$20,000. Mr. Svette stated that the grant will be used at the Thomas Swift MetroPark for add gravel to the walking trail and install a proposed swing set. After reviewing the Performance Contract and location map, Kathy DiCristofaro made a motion to approve the use of the grant and location map to be used at Thomas Swift MetroPark. The motion was carried.

I. Approval of Board Minutes of February 25, 2021

Mr. Sauer made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 25, 2021, regular meeting; seconded by Mr. Maas. The motion was carried.

II. Financial Report

The list of the bills paid were reviewed by the board. Mr. Brown, Jr. made a motion to approve the financial report; seconded by Mr. Maas. The motion was carried.

Mr. Sauer made a motion to accept the following donations in memory of Rosemary Cassidy Furniss for the bike trail:

\$235.00 from AVI Food Systems Co-Workers

\$300.00 from AVI Food Systems – John & Mary Payiavlas, Anthony & Tina Payiavlas and Patsy Kouvaus

\$50.00 from Lundy & Pamela O'Dell

\$150.00 from Janet and Edward Hazboun

Mr. Maas seconded the motion, and it was carried.

III. General Business

Ms. DiCristofaro made a motion to approved Resolution No. 2021-1 which is a request of funds from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Designation of Project for the Ohio Parks Districts Roadwork Fund FY2022-2023 through the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA); seconded by Mr. Sauer. The motion was carried.

Mr. Svette had discussion with the board about the possibility of the MetroParks getting a potential park office and property in Howland Township. He stated that Mr. Sauer and John Brown have both seen the property and the liked the area. Mr. Sauer said that there is an old farm house that is in good condition that would be used as a park office, and there is 120 acres of property. Ms. Darkangelo stated that this would give the MetroParks a presence moving eastward in the county. Ms. DiCristofaro made a motion for Mr. Svette to begin negotiations with Howland Township on the property; seconded by Mr. Sauer. The motion was carried.

Mr. Svette had discussion with the board on a letter, which was included the board members' agendas, to the Trumbull County Commissioners regarding matching funds the MetroParks would need if they are to apply for grants for the bike trail and other projects with the park system. Mr. Svette said that this letter has not be addressed as of yet by the Commissioners. Mr. Svette stated that with the current budget, he is not able to go after grants because of need match money and have engineering in place. The board members request to send another letter and some member will plan on attending a Commissioners' meeting.

IV. Communications – None

V. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Svette reviewed his report with the board.

VI. Reports on Current MetroParks

Mr. Sauer made a motion to allow Moneen McBride, Owner of Paddle the River DBA Mahoning River Adventures, to lease a port a john at Canoe City following current maintenance/cleaning guidelines; seconded by Mr. Brown. The motion was carried.

Mr. McBride also asked about a storage area at Canoe City or at the barn at the log cabin.

VII. Other Parks, Preserve and Lands

Mr. Sauer made a motion to allow bow hunting for the deer hunting season of 2021 to 2022 at the Trock Property in Brookfield Township; seconded by Mr. Maas. The motion was carried.

Mr. Maas and Mr. Brown reported on a meeting they attend on March 18 regarding the Leavittsburg dam removal project. Mr. Maas said there were 12 to 15 people in attendance. The board decided it will vote on the dam removal at the next meeting.

VIII. Future Planning

Mr. Brown made a motion to invite Trumbull County Sheriff Monroe to the next MetroParks meeting to discuss any programs he has that can work with the MetroParks; seconded by Mr. Sauer. The motion was carried.

Mr. Svette explained to the board the Harris Project and the future of Clean Ohio Grants. He stated that the MetroParks will have to pay appraisal costs up front; but may not get the property, and with the current funds that the MetroParks currently carried it could not be feasible to spend and no guarantee of receiving property. With this in consideration, Mr. Sauer made a motion that the MetroParks would not be pursuing the Harris property.

The next scheduled regular meeting of MetroParks will be held on **Thursday, April 22, 2021**, at 4:15 p.m. via Zoom.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. DiCristofaro made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Maas. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mitzi Sabella, Secretary