

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

A meeting of Trumbull County MetroParks was called to order by the Chair, Nicolette Darkangelo, on Thursday, February 25, 2021, at 4:19 p.m. via Zoom. Those in attendance included the following:

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

Also in attendance: Keith Brown, Mike Arnold, James Hetzler, Stephanie Dyer, WKBN and

Public Comments:

Keith Brown spoke by stating that he emailed and sent a letter with his comments on removing the dam in Leavittsburg. He stated that he is opposed the removing the dam. He stated that he is not a resident of Leavittsburg, but he like to be outside and the wildlife in the area of the river is great. He said he feels there are other problems on the Mahoning River that need to be addressed before discussing removal of the dam.

Ms. Darkangelo stated that she is not going to read all the letters there were sent for public comment on removal of the dam at this meeting, but stated that she has read them all. Note: Comments were received from the public from February 1 to February 19, 2021, regarding the removal of the dam at Leavittsburg, and all public comments are on file at the Trumbull County MetroParks' Office.

I. Approval of Board Minutes of January 27, 2021

Mr. Maas made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 27, 2021, regular and reorganizational meeting; seconded by Mr. Sauer. The motion was carried.

II. Financial Report

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

Mr. Sauer made a motion to accept \$1,800 from Ohio Living Hospice for two benches; seconded by Mr. Maas. The motion was carried. Note: Ohio Living Hospice wanted to do something in memory of lives loss from Covid-19, so this donation is for two benches to be placed at the parks.

II. Financial Report, Continued:

Budget

Mr. Svette stated that the budget has not been set by the Commissioners yet.

III. General Business

Letter to Trumbull County Commissioners regarding matching funds - Mr. Svette reviewed a letter that he wants to send to the Trumbull County Commissioners regarding obtaining grants to help restore the bike trail (see attached copy). The board members suggested several additions to the letter. Mr. Svette said that he will incorporate the suggestions into the letter.

Foster Park – Parking lot fire discussion - Mr. Svette said there has not been any answer from the person responsible for the fire in the parking lot of Foster Park. Mr. Svette spoke to Mr. Danso of the Prosecutor's Office and he said the next step would be legal action. The board directed Mr. Svette to have Mr. Danso send a letter on Prosecutor's letterhead stating to the responsible person that he has 30 days to respond to this letter or legal action may occur. Mr. Svette said he will try to get Mr. Danso to attend the next MetroParks meeting.

Dam Removal - The board discussed the removal of the dam at Leavittsburg. Mr. Svette stated that there are three things that he sees with removal of the dam that affect the MetroParks: 1. Liability to the MetroParks will decrease; 2. Cost of liability insurance would decrease; and 3. Improvement to the Mahoning River Trail.

Mr. Svette stated that there were 40 comments received during the public comment period that ran from February 1 to February 19, 2021. He said that 10 comments were in favor of removal and 30 comments were against removal. He said that he sees six themes in the comments: Environmental; Septics and outflows, Flooding, Water Table, Fire Suppression, and Debris in the river.

Mr. William Zawiski from EPA was on the Zoom meeting and discussed some of the questions that the board has. Mr. Maas asked Mr. Zawiski if he is willing to come back for further answers to their questions. He said that he would come back. Stephanie Dyer for Eastgate Regional Council of Governments was also in attendance to answer questions on removing the dam.

Mr. Brown, Jr. asked about where is the money to take the dam down comes from, Mr. William Zawiski said that the EPA has the money tied to its Revolving Loan Fund. He said that they use the interest and it is fairly stable.

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IV. Communications – None

V. Executive Director’s Report

Mr. Svette reviewed his report with the board.

VI. Reports on Current MetroParks

Executive Session

At 5:30 p.m. Mr. Sauer made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the sale or purchase of property; seconded by Mr. Maas. The motion was carried.

At 5:45 p.m. Mr. Brown, Jr. made a motion to come out of Executive Session; seconded by Ms. DiCristofaro. The motion was carried.

VII. Other Parks, Preserve and Lands - No report.

VIII. Future Planning

The next scheduled regular meeting of MetroParks will be held on **Thursday, March 25, 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 5:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mitzi Sabella, Secretary