

**Minutes of
Trumbull County MetroParks Board
Thursday, October 24, 2024**

A meeting of the Trumbull County MetroParks was called to order by the Chair, Randy Fabrizio, on Thursday, October 24, 2024, at 4:15 p.m. at Kent State Trumbull Room 233 in Classroom/Administration Building. Those in attendance included the following:

Randy Fabrizio, Chair
John Brown
Nicolette Darkangelo
Kurt Sauer
Steve Maas
Zachary Svette, Executive Director

Also in attendance: James Hetzler, Randy Smith, Trumbull County Engineer, Pamela Hadglin, Eric Marsh, Barbara Clifford, Mike Arnold, Darla Arnold, Kay Anderson-Warren Township Trustee, Denny Malloy, Trumbull County Commissioner, Tom Wilson, Attorney, Cathy Loomis, Victoria Romack, Donald Romack, Art Williams, Nick Molinterino, Sherry Molinterino, John Thoms, Linda McPalmont, Clyde Poelson, Phyllis Dietelback, Bill Anderson, Ed Anthony, Township Trustee, Faye Smith, Nancy Ritz, Sue Hartman, George Gordon, Byron Shutt, Dale Kialare Jr., Linda Morris.

John Brown made a motion to adjourn into executive session to consider the employment and compensation of a public employee, Purchase or sale of property and pending or imminent court action, seconded by Nicolette Darkangelo. Roll Call – Randy Fabrizio – Yes, John Brown- Yes, Nicolette Darkangelo – Yes, Steve Maas – Yes, Kurt Sauer – Yes.

John Brown made a motion to adjourn executive session and reconvene into regular session, seconded by Kurt Sauer, Roll Call – Randy Fabrizio – Yes, John Brown- Yes, Nicolette Darkangelo – Yes, Steve Maas – Yes, Kurt Sauer – Yes.

Public Comments

Donald Romack – Worried About ATV's after river levels drop.
Art Williams- What is benefit to county for project.
Nick Molinterino- Flood Braceville, Positive Affect.
Clyde Paulson- Against Dam Removal, leave water alone.
Faith Smith- Bend in River and engineering what effects.
James Hetzeler- What will happen to otters and fishing, sediment, and boats.
George Gordon – Braceville and Flooding in support of Removal should help eagle creek.

Mr. Maas Made a motion to waive the sign in for public comment rule for this meeting, it was seconded by, Ms. Darkangelo. The motion carried.

Byron Schutt- Worried about property values, clean up and scrub trees.

Danny Malloy- raise concerns about power of water around corner of river with road. Also commented on the public comment not being heard the makeup of the board economic development community vested and actions by the board.

Randy Smith - Raised concerns about flooding and drainage brought up the DLZ study and raised concerns about safety of roads and about the alternatives.

Erich Marsh - Raised concerns about the contaminants on the river and the consideration of homes above summit street dam removal.

Kathy Loomis – voiced concerns about maintenance of Canoe City.

Sue Hartman - Spoke against removing the dam, specifically about there being a second dam behind the current dam, silt removal and it coming back on residence. Also touched on: the Warren city removal, animals along the river and the lack of respect.

Victoria Lomack - Spoke how she lives along the river how and how she recreates along the banks within Woodview circle. Had concerns that the community will be required to clean up and she said that the Park District does not care about Leavittsburg.

Linda Morris - spoke about how Eagle Creek will go dry and have stagnant water and concerned about recreation along Eagle Creek.

Ed Anthony - Spoke about how the decision is not made-up, also stated about how board members were not on the board at the time decision was made. Plead the board not to do the project and raised concerns about nothing being answered about the alternatives not being considered . He stated he represents citizens and that they would file a class action lawsuit if the project moved forward.

Kay Anderson – Remarkd she agreed with Ed Anthony and that they project started in 2019. Also stated that the Township Trustees are upset and that she has attended multiple meetings.

Mauro Cantalamessa – Introduced Attorney Thomas Wilson, as he represents the County Commissioners in this matter.

Attorney Wilson- spoke about his legal viewpoint as the legal counsel for the Trumbull County Commissioners on the contract with the sponsor and the contract to remove with design build team (River Reach).

Mr. Sauer, made a motion to close public comment, seconded by Mr. Maas and the motion carried.

I. Approval of Board Minutes of September 26, 2024

Mr. Brown made a motion and seconded by Ms. Darkangelo to approve the minutes from the Board Meeting of September 26, 2024. The motion was carried.

II. Financial

The list of the bills paid was reviewed by the board. Ms. Darkangelo made a motion seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the list of bills. The motion was carried.

Mr. Sauer made a motion to approve the following transfer #1 and seconded by Ms. Darkangelo. The motion was carried.

1. Transfer from 981-060-5600-5600-3-50524 (Temporary Services) (\$162.00) to 981-060-5600-5600-3-506834 (Service Fees): \$162.00

Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the following transfer #2 and seconded by Mr. Sauer. The motion was carried.

2. Transfer from 981-060-5600-5600-3-506620 (Equipment Non-Capital) to 981-060-5600-5600-3-505205 (Gasoline): \$500.00

Ms. Darkangelo made a motion to approve the following transfer #3 and seconded by Mr. Brown. The motion was carried.

3. Transfer from 981-060-5600-5600-3-505524 (Temporary Services) to 981-060-5600-5600-3-507010 (Transfer Out): \$300.00

Ms. Darkangelo made a motion to approve the following transfer #3 and seconded by Mr. Brown. The motion was carried.

4. Transfer from 981-060-5600-5600-3-507010 (Transfer Out) to 982-000-5600-5625-3-409100 (Reimbursement Misc): \$300.00

Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the following appropriation #1 and seconded by Mr. Sauer. The motion was carried.

1. Appropriate to 981-060-5600-5600-3-505604 (Attorney): \$500.00

Ms. Darkangelo made a motion to approve the 2025 Budget and Request Commissioners and seconded by Mr. Brown. The motion was carried.

III. General Business

Discussion on the Dam Removal – DLZ Study

Mr. Sauer stated that the park district has three options: continue with dam removal, consider alternatives that accomplish the same environmental and recreational goals, or stop the project altogether. The first option offers no financial pitfalls, but angers some of the residents and potentially has consequences not foreseen—environmental and physical. The second potentially exposes the Metroparks Board and the County to loss of funding, possible need for additional funds even if the current grant is able to be utilized, delays which may affect the funding source(s), and the potential requirement to pay back funds used to date, plus potential damages suffered by the EPA funding source and the contractor. The third certainly will expose the Board and the County to the financial payback requirement and the potential for penalties and damages, but leaves the residents for the most part happy with the current situation (dam, with recreational facilities, undisturbed harmful sediments, current flow/environmental situation.)

Mr. Maas went through his process of how he collected information and attended meetings and a myriad of other factors that went into his decision making process. He also spoke about the liability for the park district and how the low head dams are drowning machines. Talked about the risks of losing recreational immunity if no action is taken.

Mr. Brown discussed that he is still of the opinion that the Leavittsburg Dam needs removed and that the information received has not changed his mind but is open to more information if it presented.

Ms. Darkangelo made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-3 AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN ODOT COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM. Seconded By, Mr. Brown. The motion Carried.

Ms. Darkangelo made a motion to recommend the reappoint John Brown to another three-year term starting January 1, 2025, to the Probate Judge via letter. Seconded By, Mr. Sauer. The motion Carried.

The board decided to address the agenda item: Mission, Vision and Core Values at a later date.

IV. Communications

No communications were presented to the board.

V. Executive Director's Report-See Attached Report

VIII. Future Planning

Next meeting: March 28, 2024-4:15 p. m.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Darkangelo made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Brown. The motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Zachary Svette

Zachary Svette, Interim Secretary