

**Minutes of
Trumbull County MetroParks Board
Thursday, April 22, 2021**

A meeting of the Trumbull County MetroParks was called to order by the Chair, Nicolette Darkangelo, on Thursday, April 22, 2021, at 4:17 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: Dave Ambrose; Adam Harris, Public Entities Pool of Ohio, Don Rex, Tribune Chronicle, Brett Furbee, Harold Wix

Public Comments

Mr. Dave Ambrose of Warren, Ohio, and former board member of the Trumbull County MetroParks, expressed his support for removal of the dam in Leavittsburg. He stated that it will improve water quality of the river, and make the river more acceptable for wildlife and relieve the possibility of flooding in the Eagle Creek area. He also stated that removal of the dam will save the MetroParks the yearly cost of the insurance for the dam.

I. Approval of Board Minutes of March 25, 2021

Ms. DiCristofaro made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 25, 2021, regular meeting; seconded by Mr. Brown, Jr. The motion was carried.

II. Financial Report

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

Ms. DiCristofaro made a motion to accept the following donation in memory of Rosemary Cassidy Furniss for the bike trail:

\$50 from the Goffos Family

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

III. General Business

Mr. Brown, Jr., made a motion to approve the Tree Removal Policy as presented by Mr. Svette; seconded by Mr. Maas. The motion was carried.

Prior to the next vote, Mr. Maas stated that he has taken a real interest in the river and had done some research on the river and the dam at Leavittsburg. He reported that since February of this year, he has driven the around the river, met with several people including Russell Sinclair, Mr. Arnold, Mr. Helter and Warren Township Trustee, Ed Anthony who are in not in favor of removal of the dam. He stated that he has spoken along with Mr. Svette to Mr. Zawiski of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, who stated that he is in favor the removal since it will increase water quality and help with safety issues by removing a safety hazard. Mr. Maas stated that he, along with John Brown, Jr., went to a dam committee meeting, where 12 to 15 people were in attendance with a lot of questions asked and answered. He stated that he met with Moneen McBride of Mahoning River Adventures, who is in favor of the removal and compared it to the Cuyahoga River and how clean it is today. He said that he met with Mr. Ron Reed, a retired engineer and Leavittsburg resident who said that the Leavittsburg dam is in good shape, and he has concerns regarding the clean up of the river once the dam is removed. Mr. Maas said people are very passionate either one way or another about the removal of the dam. He stated that the MetroParks has received a petition signed by more than 650 residents in Leavittsburg against the removal of the dam. Mr. Maas said that he would like to see a plan on who will clean up, cost and time frame. He feels that there are lot of people that give opinions, but they are not doing things to make a better area.

Mr. Brown, Jr. added that he appreciates Mr. Maas due diligence. He said that he feels our valley should clean up the river. He said that the hydroelectric power dam has outlived its purpose. He feels that the MetroParks Board is appointed by the Probate Judge to serve all citizens of Trumbull County, not a few that live along the river. He said he feels the board must move on this before funds for its removal are gone. He said that he visited Lowellville where its dam was removed, and the area has been transformed. He also said that the City of Warren will be taking out the Summit Street Bridge. He said that he feels comfortable voting on the dam removal question tonight.

Mr. John Brown, Jr., made a motion to approve the removal of the Leavittsburg Dam at Canoe City MetroPark in Warren Township; seconded by Mr. Maas. The motion was carried.

Mr. Sauer made a motion to approve Zach Svette to apply for a Water Reservoir Restoration Program grant from Eastgate to cover costs for the removal of the dam at Leavittsburg; seconded by Ms. DiCristofaro. The motion was carried.

III. General Business

Mr. Sauer made a motion to approve the five-year lease with the Western Reserve Land Conservancy for the Habitat Management of the Sheridan Property from April 1, 2021, to April 1, 2026; seconded by Ms. DiCristofaro. The motion was carried.

Mr. Brown, Jr. made a motion to approve the purchase of swing sets and the construction at Thomas A. Swift MetroPark from Snider Recreation, Inc. at a total cost of \$8,567.18 to be paid from a grant from the Trumbull County Combined Health District; seconded by Mr. Sauer. The motion was carried.

Ms. DiCristofaro made a motion to approve the Occupancy and Use Agreement with Howland Township for a Park Office to be located at 3983 North River Road in Howland Township; seconded by Mr. Sauer. The motion was carried.

Mr. Svette reported that he spoke to Congressman Ryan's office and submitted an infrastructure request for trail construction and restoration in Trumbull County, total project cost of \$7,750,000 asked for \$6,200,000.

IV. Communications – None

V. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Svette reviewed his report with the board.

VI. Reports on Current MetroParks – No further reports.

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

VIII. Future Planning

The next scheduled regular meeting of MetroParks will be held on **Thursday, May 27, 2021**, at 4:15 p.m. via Zoom.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Sauer made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Brown, Jr. The motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mitzi Sabella, Secretary