MINUTES OF THE

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

OF

MEDINA COUNTY PARK DISTRICT

August 19, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Chairman de Luna called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. at Wolf Creek Environmental Center, 6100 Ridge Road, Sharon Center, Ohio 44273.

B. Roll Call
   1. Roll call showed Chairman de Luna, Commissioner Davis, and Commissioner Neate present. Also in attendance were Director Eppink, Operations Manager Perry, Communications Coordinator Gladden, Planning Manager Smith, Legal Counsel Holland, and Business Manager Chaney.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. July 15, 2020
   1. Commissioner Neate offered a motion approving the minutes of the July 15, 2020 meeting as presented. Commissioner Davis seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A. No members of the public were present, and no questions or comments were received via email prior to the meeting.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORTS

A. Cash Balance Statements
   1. The July 2020 cash balance statement was presented for the board's perusal.

B. Cash Flow Statement
   1. The July 2020 cash flow statement was presented for the board's review.

C. Approval of Vouchers
   1. Resolution #20-012, July 2020
      a. Commissioner Davis offered a motion approving Resolution #20-012, payment of the July 2020 vouchers, as presented. Commissioner Neate seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

V. DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORTS

A. Director's Report
   1. Monthly Report
      a. Director Eppink provided the July 2020 monthly report for the board's perusal.

B. Departmental Activities
   1. Director Eppink provided the July departmental activity report for the board's review.

C. Director's Updates
   1. Friends of the Parks
      a. Director Eppink reported that Friends of the Parks (FOTP) President Jim Moore and Secretary Tom James declined to present an in-person annual overview at this time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They may choose to do so after the first of they year.
   2. Capital Projects
      a. Director Eppink reported that FOTP embraced the covered bridge project at Granger Wetlands Wildlife Sanctuary and has raised $25,000 to date. The group has committed an additional $41,000 to the bridge project.
      b. Director Eppink reported that Bluebell Valley at Black River Nature Preserve should be ready to open in October.
      c. Director Eppink reported that the fishing platform at Brunswick Lake Park, also supported by Friends of the Parks, should be completed by the end of August.
      d. Planning Manager Smith reported that progress is quickly being made by Marks Construction in renovation of the Granger Road parking lot at Lake Medina. Marks is removing an old culvert, setting a new box culvert, and excavating the parking lot and stormwater drainage areas. A neighbor is permitting the park district to install a park sign on his property and manage the surrounding area to provide improved visibility for park visitors.
   3. COVID-19
      a. Director Eppink reported that drinking fountains throughout the district will remain closed this year, and nature centers and park headquarters remain closed to in-person business.
      b. Some reservations for open-air shelters and enclosed facilities are taking place. Renters must sign waivers, and enclosed facility renters must pay for cleaning and disinfecting services. Many renters are still choosing to cancel their reservations. New rentals for 2020 have not been accepted since late May/early June.
   4. Lessees
      a. Director Eppink reported that, due to the pandemic, partners holding leases with the park district, Medina Creative Therapy Ranch, Northern Ohio Live steamers, and Cuyahoga Astronomical Association, will not be hosting public programs this year as required by the terms of their lease agreements.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. No old business was presented for discussion.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Revised Access Easements in Chippewa Lake
   1. Chairman de Luna offered a motion approving the revised and amended access easement in Chippewa Lake specifying mowing of park property and park staff access, subject to approval of the probate judge, as presented. Commissioner Davis seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

B. Ratification of NRAC Nomination
   1. Commissioner Davis offered a motion ratifying the nomination of Director Eppink to fill a vacancy on the District 9 Natural Resource Assistance Council ahead of the application deadline. Commissioner Neate seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

C. Equipment Purchase
   1. Chairman de Luna offered a motion approving the purchase of a replacement Kubota utility vehicle for use at Allardale at a cost of $13,627.30. This purchase will come from park district fund 3406-7800-50780. Commissioner Davis seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

D. Amended Administrative Leave & FMLA Expansion Policy
   1. This item was tabled for further consideration and discussion.

E. Granger Wetlands Covered Bridge
   1. Commissioner Davis offered a motion authorizing Director Eppink to pay Friends of Medina County Parks, Inc. up to $20,000 to cover the difference between raised funds and final expenses for the covered bridge at Granger Wetlands Wildlife Sanctuary. Funds for this expenditure will come from park district fund 3402. Chairman de Luna seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

F. Lake Medina Easement
   1. Chairman de Luna offered a motion authorizing the director to enter into an agreement with Patrick and Sandra Vandendriessche permitting the park district to erect a standard 4' x 8' park entrance sign on their property and manage the surrounding area to provide improved visibility for park visitors. Commissioner Davis seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

G. Approval of List of Qualified Professional Design Services for Projects with Design Fees Less than $50,000
   1. Commissioner Neate offered a motion approving the List of Qualified Professional Design Services for Projects with Design Fees Less than $50,000 as presented, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code 153.71 for the purpose of procuring design services for projects with design services under $50,000. Chairman de Luna seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

H. Resolution Honoring Rick Perry
   1. Commissioner Neate offered a motion approving a Resolution Honoring Rick Perry as follows:

Resolution Honoring Rick Perry

WHEREAS, Mr. Rick Perry has been employed by Medina County Park District for 29 years and has served in a variety of roles, one of which was the very first full-time park ranger;

WHEREAS, next month, Mr. Perry intends to retire from the park district as its operations manager after being with the organization for more than half of its existence to date;

WHEREAS, Mr. Perry's institutional knowledge, calm demeanor, and willingness to share his "two cents" will be greatly missed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MEDINA COUNTY PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS wishes Mr. Rick Perry the very best in his retirement on this 19th day of August 2020.

Commissioner Davis seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

2. The board congratulated Operations Manager Perry on his upcoming retirement and thanked him for his years of service to the park district. Director Eppink thanked Mr. Perry for his assistance.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Chairman de Luna offered a motion that the board move into executive session for the discussion of land acquisition and employee compensation. Commissioner Neate seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

B. Following discussion, Chairman de Luna offered a motion that the board move into regular session. Commissioner Davis seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

C. The following motions were made as a result of executive session discussions.

1. Chairman de Luna offered a motion authorizing the director to purchase 49.1 acres of land in the village of Lodi contingent on receiving a Clean Ohio grant, with local funds paid from the park district fund 3403-7800-50790. Closing costs are to be split between buyer and seller. Commissioner Davis seconded; the motion carried. Commissioner Neate abstained from the vote.
2. Commissioner Davis offered a motion authorizing the director to purchase 12.63 acres of land in Medina Township contingent on receiving a Clean Ohio grant, with local funds paid from park district fund 3403-7800-50790. Closing costs are to be split between buyer and seller. Chairman de Luna seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

IX. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

A. Commissioner Neate congratulated Operations Manager Perry on his upcoming retirement and thanked him for all he has done for the park district over the years. Commissioners Davis and de Luna concurred.

X. ADJOURNMENT

A. There being no further business for discussion, Chairman de Luna declared the meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

We, the undersigned, as Board of Commissioners of Medina County Park District, Medina, Ohio, do certify the above minutes are true and correct as recorded in the board of commissioners' journal, Volume 48.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEDINA COUNTY PARK DISTRICT

NATHAN D. EPPINK, DIRECTOR

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