MINUTES OF THE

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

OF

MEDINA COUNTY PARK DISTRICT

February 17, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Chairman Neate called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. via Zoom Webinar Conference.

B. Roll Call

1. Roll call showed Chairman Neate and Commissioner Davis present. Also in attendance were Director Eppink, Planning & Operations Manager Smith, Natural Resource Manager Spetz, Business Manager Chaney, Legal Counsel Holland, and guests Ann Gilmore and Neal Hess of EnviroScience, Inc.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. January 20, 2021

1. Commissioner Davis offered a motion approving the minutes of the January 20, 2021 meeting as presented. Commissioner Neate seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A. No members of the public were present, and Director Eppink did not receive comments from the public via email prior to the meeting.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORTS

A. Cash Balance Statement

1. The January 2021 cash balance statement was presented for the board's perusal.

B. Cash Flow Statement

1. The January 2021 cash flow statement was presented for the board's review.

C. Approval of Vouchers

1. Resolution #21-005, January 2021
   a. Chairman Neate offered a motion approving Resolution #21-005, payment of the January 2021 vouchers, as presented. Commissioner Davis seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

V. DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORTS

A. Director's Updates

1. Director Eppink provided COVID-19 updates to the board.
   a. Nature centers remain closed.
   b. Headquarters remains closed to in-person business.
   c. Staff members are required to wear masks in the presence of others, and group meetings are not being held.

2. Director Eppink reported that the park district recently received several generous donations.
   a. The Bath Pony Club donated $1,000 in appreciation of the park district for permitting its presence at Allardale.
   b. The Lake Medina Open Water Swim Group donated $500 to the park district ranger department for the purchase of equipment and $500 to the Friends of Medina County Parks, Inc.
   c. Westfield Insurance donated an AED (automated external defibrillator) for installation at Wolf Creek Environmental Center.
3. Director Eppink reported of a water rescue at River Styx Park where a fisherman had fallen through the ice. A park visitor reported the incident, and Chief Swinehart, sheriff's department personnel, and other first responders rescued the man who was then life-flighted to an area hospital. The incident made local and national news.
4. Director Eppink reported that a full-time ranger vacancy (due to a resignation last year) has been posted on the OPRA website.

B. Monthly Report
   1. January 2021
      a. Director Eppink provided the January monthly report for the board's perusal.

C. Departmental Activities
   1. January 2021
      a. Director Eppink provided the January departmental activity report for the board's review.

D. Other Items
   1. Chairman Neate asked if open-air reservations are currently being taken. Director Eppink reported that the park district is being conservative with reservations due to the pandemic. All shelters are available for rental beginning July 1 of this year. We will continue to reassess the situation each month in regard to vaccines and COVID numbers.
   2. Chairman Neate commented that a recent published legal opinion stated that employers could mandate staff vaccines and asked Legal Counsel Holland if that is legal. Commissioner Davis feels that choosing to receive the vaccine is an individual's decision; she would not support such a mandate. Director Eppink stated that the park district wouldn't make such a mandate even if it were legal.
   3. Chairman Neate commented on the positive results of the controlled hunt. Natural Resource Manager Spetz agreed that there were a handful of successful hunters who took advantage of the state's generous controlled hunt permits.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. No Old Business was presented for discussion.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Special-Use Permit Guidelines
   1. Commissioner Davis offered a motion authorizing the director to adopt new guidelines for special-use permits as presented, including the requirement for organizers of active events who expect more than 100 participants to pay two rangers for a minimum of four hours, each at $35/hour, for the safety of participants and park-goers and for assistance with parking. Chairman Neate seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

B. 2021 Capital Projects
   1. Chairman Neate offered a motion approving the 2021 Project List as presented and further authorized the director to proceed with any projects that cost $20,000 or less without further board action. Commissioner Davis seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

C. Mud Lake Mitigation Site
   1. Discussion ensued regarding the scope of the proposed mitigation project at the Mud Lake site. Neal Hess and Ann Gilmore of EnviroScience reviewed the site concept and restoration and rehabilitation plan.
   2. Chairman Neate authorized the director to enter into a land-management agreement with EnviroScience, Inc. for the creation of a wetland mitigation site at the Mud Lake Road property, subject to review by Legal Counsel Holland, and to negotiate the long-term stewardship fee. The agreement and stewardship fee will be brought back to the board for ratification. Commissioner Davis seconded; the motion unanimously carried.
      a. Chairman Neate thanked Mr. Hess and Ms. Gilmore for their input and for joining the meeting.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Chairman Neate offered a motion that the board move into executive session at 9:30 a.m. for the discussion of land acquisition. Commissioner Davis seconded; the motion unanimously carried.
   1. The public portion of the Zoom meeting ended at this time. A second public Zoom session was scheduled at the conclusion of the executive session discussions.

B. Chairman Neate, Commissioner Davis, Director Eppink, Planning & Operations Manager Smith, Legal Counsel Holland, and Business Manager Chaney were present as the second public Zoom session began at 10:05 a.m.
   1. Chairman Neate 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.
   1. Commissioner Neate offered a motion authorizing the director to purchase approximately 112 acres in Sharon Township for $1.12 million, contingent upon one or more conservation grants received by the buyer, from fund 3403-7800-50790, with the understanding that the seller will provide the park district up to 24 months to close on the property. Commissioner Davis seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

2. Commissioner Neate offered a motion authorizing the director to amend a signed purchase agreement for 100.98 acres in Granger Township and to place $150,000 from fund 3403-7800-50790 in escrow until closing. The purchase is contingent on a Clean Ohio Fund grant whose application will be due this fall. Closing costs are to be split among the buyer and seller. The escrow deposit is refundable if the transaction fails to close. Commissioner Davis seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

IX. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

A. Commissioner Davis thanked everyone for bearing with her during the technical difficulties she experienced in the meeting.
B. Chairman Neate thanked everyone for their patience with the difficulties and the meeting platform.
C. Chairman Neate thanked the park district staff for its continued great work.

X. ADJOURNMENT

A. There being no further business for discussion, Chairman Neate declared the meeting adjourned at 10:09 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 49.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEDINA COUNTY PARK DISTRICT

NATHAN D. EPPINK, DIRECTOR

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