MINUTES OF THE

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

OF

MEDINA COUNTY PARK DISTRICT

March 18, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Chairwoman Davis called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. at park headquarters, 6364 Deerview Lane, Medina, Ohio.

B. Roll Call

1. Roll call showed Chairwoman Davis and Commissioner de Luna present. Also in attendance were Director Eppink, Planning & Operations Manager Smith, Natural Resource Manager Spetz, Legal Counsel Holland, Business Manager Chaney, and Guests Lafayette Township Trustee Marty Warchola, Lafayette Township Fire Chief Jerry Winkler, and Save the Lake Coalition Representative Ed Stevens.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 16, 2022

1. Commissioner de Luna offered a motion approving the minutes of the February 16, 2022 meeting as presented. Chairwoman Davis seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A. Lafayette Township Trustee Warchola requested the park district's financial support for the $31,000 purchase/installation of a tornado siren at the new township complex on S.R. 162 east of park headquarters. Following discussion, Chairwoman Davis tabled the topic to provide time for the park district's legal counsel to research and render an opinion as to the park district's ability to contribute to a project that isn't being constructed on park property. Director Eppink plans to have a response by the April 20 board meeting. Trustee Warchola and Chief Winkler answered questions.

1. The nearest existing siren is located at the township complex on S.R. 162 and Lafayette Road, east of park headquarters.
2. The additional siren would provide warning to the many residents living in the new developments west of the Chippewa Rail Trail.
3. The township has also solicited financial assistance from the county EMA and planning departments.
4. To date, the township has received $15,000 in donations toward the project.

B. Save the Lake Coalition Representative Ed Stevens expressed concerns about this past winter's multiple flood events. The group wants the lake to remain open. He is looking for answers as to how to stop the flooding. He asked if it is, perhaps, time to discuss dredging the lake and where the coalition can find foundations that may assist in fund-raising for dredging.

1. Mr. Stevens shared excessive watercraft speed on the lake is of concern.
2. The group feels that the lake is being compromised by runoff from the many local developments.

3. Director Eppink responded to Mr. Stevens' concerns.
   a. Director Eppink noted that the Chippewa Lake master planning process is almost complete. When finished, the plan will be shared with the park board and then on the park district's website.
      1. The plan does call for construction of a public-use kayak launch area. The long-term plan designates space for a kayak rental through a contracted vendor.
   b. A lake carrying-capacity study was conducted relating to speed, safety, types of boats on the lake, and the number of boats on the lake.
   c. The park district cannot change what happens beyond its boundaries in relation to local development and water flow. However, the park district is utilizing available H2Ohio grant monies to restore and improve three areas of parklands surrounding the lake in an effort to slow and filter the water as it flows toward the lake.
   d. The flooding issue cannot be resolved by the park district alone. The park district reduces wake speeds during flood events to help reduce potential damage. The lake is also closed during flood events due to e-coli contamination. Two possible contamination areas have been identified around the lake that lead to increased e-coli during flood events, including failing septic systems.
      1. The coalition can assist the park district in identifying these local sewage problem areas.
   e. Most of the park district's work in the near future will be related to restoration of and improvement to the lands surrounding the lake in an effort to improve and maintain the health of the lake.

C. No public comments or concerns were received via email prior to the meeting.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORTS

A. Cash Balance Statement
   1. The February 2022 cash balance statement was presented for the board's perusal.

B. Cash Flow Statement
   1. The February 2022 cash flow statement was presented for the board's review.

C. Approval of Vouchers
   1. Resolution #22-006, February Vouchers
      a. Commissioner de Luna offered a motion approving Resolution #22-006, payment of the February 2022 vouchers, as presented. Chairwoman Davis seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

V. DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORTS

A. Director's Updates
   1. COVID-19 Updates
      a. Director Eppink reported that, as of February 28, masks are no longer required for entry at headquarters and the nature centers.
   2. State Capital Budget Projects
      a. The park district nominated two projects for FY23-24. The first is a request for $45,000 for the construction of the Chippewa Rail Trail parking lot at S.R. 162 on a small parcel to be received from Arbor Falls in exchange for the cart path easement.

b. The park district also requested $93,000 for the construction of an ADA-accessible canoe/kayak launch at Brunswick Lake.
c. The park district helped Sharon Township with its request for $500,000 for trail surfacing and observation areas for Phase 2 of the Sharon Nature Preserve. The park district will also be applying for $500,000 in H2Ohio funding for wetland creation as part of Phase 2.
d. The park district's American Rescue Plan Act request to the Medina County Commissioners for $600,000 for stream restoration and an asphalt trail along the Wolf Creek is still pending.

3. Police Officer Special Details
   a. Director Eppink reported that it is the county prosecutor's opinion that special details outside of MCPD's jurisdiction are not covered under the mutual aid agreement. Park police officers cannot provide security for any detail for which they would receive *1099 Miscellaneous Income* reports.
4. Job Postings
   a. Director Eppink reported that the park district is still attempting to hire a park planner and a trail steward. A new development coordinator starts on April 18.
5. Project Updates
   a. Director Eppink provided updates on two current projects.
      1. The Kennard Road H2Ohio Restoration project and kayak launch targets 7.5 acres along the Chippewa Lake outlet. H2Ohio is funding $100,000 for restoration of the area, and the park district is contributing $50,000 for construction of a public-access kayak launch. Construction is scheduled to begin in July and be completed by the end of the year. A total of $1.52 million dollars has been awarded for three H2Ohio project areas around the lake including this project, work along the inlet trail, and work in the former amusement park area.
      2. Lafayette Township was awarded a $300,000 grant from the state capital budget for restoration of the Chippewa North barn off Lafayette Road. The project is scheduled to go to bid this summer.

B. Land Management Agreements
   1. Natural Resource Manager Spetz provided an overview and the benefits of the park district's land management agreements. These agreements are in place to prepare fields for the park district's restoration work. Currently, 562 acres of land are under agreement with 11 custodians.
   2. Natural Resource Manager Spetz presented a snake camera trap – a survey tool to capture photos of snakes and other possible endangered species. Two trail cameras were loaned to the park district from the ODNR Department of Fish & Wildlife, and the park district received grants to purchase two additional trail cameras for use in snake hibernacula areas.
   3. Save the Lake Coalition Representative Ed Stevens left the meeting at this time.

C. Monthly Report
   1. February 2022
      a. Director Eppink provided the February monthly report for the board's perusal.
      b. Planning & Operations Manager Smith provided project updates.
         1. The Recreational Trail Program application for the Chippewa Inlet Trail did not receive approval. Board authorization for re-submission for the next round of applications will be solicited under New Business.
         2. The Clean Ohio Trail Fund application for the Lake Medina Greenway Extension project was selected to receive $500,000 in funding for construction of a trail from the Smith Road property (formerly Chandler) through the Summa campus to Lake Medina. The project should be underway in 2023. This business item will no longer require board authorization for re-submission and will be removed from New Business.
         3. Construction of the Plum Creek Greenway project is underway. Jagger Construction has cleared and moved trees to the park district's Litchfield Wetlands site.

D. Departmental Activities
   1. February 2022
      a. Director Eppink provided the February departmental activity report for the board's review.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. No Old Business was presented for discussion.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. RFQ/RFP #2021-003 H2Ohio Litchfield Wetlands Design-Builder Selection
   1. Commissioner de Luna offered a motion authorizing the director to enter into a design-build contract with the top-ranked design-build team, Davey Resource Group, Inc., for design and construction of the H2Ohio Litchfield Wetlands Nature Preserve Restoration and Development project in an amount not to exceed $1,200,000 and subject to review and approval by legal counsel as to form. Chairwoman Davis seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

B. Approval of Clean Ohio Trail Fund Application: Lake Medina Greenway Extension
   1. As reported under Director's Report, this project was approved for funding by OPWC. Board authorization to re-submit the application for the next round of funding is no longer necessary.

C. Approval of Recreational Trail Program Application: Chippewa Inlet Trail
   1. Commissioner de Luna offered a motion authorizing re-submission of the Chippewa Inlet Trail design and construction funding application to the Recreational Trail Program and obligating the necessary 2023 funding for the project in the event that the grant is awarded. Chairwoman Davis seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

D. Lafayette Township Funding Request for Siren
   1. As discussed in Public Participation, this discussion item was tabled to the April meeting to provide legal counsel an opportunity to research the possibility of the park district contributing funds to a non-park district project that isn't being constructed on park district property.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Chairwoman Davis offered a motion that the board move into executive session for the discussion of land acquisition. Commissioner de Luna seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

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

IX. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

A. Chairwoman Davis commented that she will not be available for the in-person board meeting scheduled for April 20. There is a possibility that she may be able to attend the meeting virtually; however, she encouraged the board to meet as scheduled if the other two members are available.

1. Legal Counsel Holland commented that he is unable to attend the April 20 board meeting, but his associate, Julie Wagner, will attend in his place.

X. ADJOURNMENT

A. There being no further business for discussion, Chairwoman Davis declared the meeting adjourned at 10:26 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 50.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEDINA COUNTY PARK DISTRICT

NATHAN D. EPPINK, DIRECTOR

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