MINUTES OF THE

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

OF

MEDINA COUNTY PARK DISTRICT

March 20, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Chairman Neate called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. at Oenslager Nature Center, 6100 Ridge Road, Sharon Township, Ohio.

B. Roll Call

1. Roll call showed Chairman Neate, Commissioner Davis, and Commissioner Venner present. Also in attendance were Director Eppink, Development Coordinator Peacock, Park Planner Kleshinski, Business Manager Chaney, and Legal Counsel Holland. Guests included Barbara McGrath, Leslie Burns, and John Sandora of Chippewa Lake; Tim Herrle of Lafayette Township; and *The Gazette* Reporter Patrick Rhonemus.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 21, 2024

1. Chairman Neate offered a motion approving the minutes of the February 21, 2024 meeting as presented. Commissioner Davis seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Commissioner Davis offered a motion that the board move into executive session for the discussion of land acquisition and personnel appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation. Chairman Neate seconded; the motion unanimously carried. Development Coordinator Peacock, Park Planner Kleshinski, and guests Barbara McGrath, Leslie Burns, John Sandora, Tim Herrle, and Patrick Rhonemus left the meeting at this time.

1. Business Manager Chaney left the meeting during the personnel discussion.

B. Commissioner Davis offered a motion that the board move into regular session. Commissioner Neate seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

1. Park Planner Kleshinski, Development Coordinator Peacock, Business Manager Chaney, and guests Barbara McGrath, Leslie Burns, John Sandora, Tim Herrle, and Patrick Rhonemus returned to the meeting.

C. Commissioner Davis offered a motion authorizing the director to purchase 1.37 acres in Granger Township for $185,000, with closing costs–except prorated taxes due at the time of transfer–to be paid by the park district from fund 3403-7800-50790. Chairman Neate seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A. Guest John Sandora of Chippewa Lake asked the board to reconsider the proposed 300-foot no-wake zone on Chippewa Lake. He stated that the stakeholders committee, as a group, did not support a 300-foot no-wake zone. He feels the community would support a 100-foot no-wake zone.

1. Commissioner Davis appreciated Mr. Sandora sharing that ski boats traveling at 24 - 36 mph produce minimum wake.
2. Commissioner Venner said he appreciates the work the stakeholders group has done. Mr. Sandora's vision of kayaks side-by-side on the lake provided clarity as to kayaks maneuvering within a 300-foot no-wake zone.
3. Chairman Neate noted that the park district cannot make the no-wake zone 100 feet as long as some of the existing docks are 50 feet and greater in length.
4. Mr. Sandora said the board is making the no-wake zone more complicated than it needs to be. He agrees that a buffer on the east side that extends beyond the lilly pads and docks is important but that the board should remain flexible in making the buffer just what is needed.
    a. Chairman Neate thanked Mr. Sandora for sharing his thoughts.
5. Director Eppink shared that, per Deb Green of ODNR, a 300-foot no-wake zone is standard in ODNR lakes, but the buffer can go down to 100-feet. If a no-wake zone distance isn't specified in the lake rules, the park district will be required to line the no-wake perimeter with buoys.
6. Guest Barbara McGrath of Chippewa Lake asked for clarification as to the proposed no-wake zone being 300 feet from the shoreline or 300 feet from the docks. Director Eppink stated that the proposed zone would be 300 feet from the shoreline of the lake. The intent is to keep paddlecraft in the no-wake zone so as to not cross with power boats.
    a. Guest John Sandora left the meeting at this time.

B. Guest Leslie Burns of Chippewa Lake said she is also surprised by the proposed 300-foot no-wake zone. Some people are still questioning why a no-wake zone rule is needed. She feels that paddlecrafters should be able to monitor themselves. Ms. Burns asked why the 300-foot no-wake zone is being proposed as nobody said they want this buffer.
    1. Director Eppink replied that he recently received an email asking the park district to expand the no-wake zone. Another person, via email, commented that s/he thought the park district had pledged to return to a 12 mph horsepower limit, though we didn't find any proof of that pledge in board minutes back to the 2007 acquisition of the lake or in any other files. He stated that the park district is simply attempting to strike a balance that is best for all lake users.

C. Guest Tim Herrle of Lafayette Township stated that he paddlecrafts on the lake, and he is pleased with all that the park district is doing. He asked that we "keep doing what we do."
    1. Chairman Neate thanked Mr. Herrle for attending the meeting.

V. FINANCIAL REPORTS

A. Cash Balance Statement
    1. The February 2024 cash balance statement was presented for the board's perusal.

B. Cash Flow Statement
    1. The February 2024 cash flow statement was presented for the board's review.

C. Approval of Vouchers
   1. Resolution #24-006, February 2024 Vouchers
      a. Chairman Neate offered a motion approving Resolution #24-006, payment of the February 2024 vouchers, as presented. Commissioner Davis seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

VI. DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORTS

A. Director's Updates
   1. Encroachments
      a. Director Eppink reported that a farmer who had use of MCPD land and barns through December 2023 still has more than $100,000 worth of equipment and materials on the property. Natural Resource Manager Spetz recently reminded the farmer that his agreement has expired.
      b. Director Eppink reported that the Medina Kennel Club on Lake Road has been mowing nearly a quarter-mile trail on MCPD land through a restored field and has its overflow parking area and a portion of its entry drive on park land. He explained to the group that MCPD cannot give away property rights and asked that it stop mowing the trail. Director Eppink offered a no-cost solution to the other encroachments but was told that the club may appeal to the county commissioners as many of its members are taxpayers.
   2. Holmesbrook Park Trail Design and Site Analysis
      a. Chairman Neate offered a motion authorizing the director to contract with Chagrin Valley Engineering at a cost not to exceed $27,000 for engineering and design services and a geotechnical examination to determine the best locations for placement of a vault restroom, picnic shelter, and asphalt full-loop trail at Holmesbrook Park. Commissioner Davis seconded; the motion unanimously carried.
   3. Chippewa Rail Trail North Parking Lot
      a. Director Eppink reported that, after receiving and reviewing requests for proposals for the design and construction of a parking lot at Chippewa Rail Trail at State Route 162, he intends to contract with the lowest and best proposal from Kimley-Horn for the design portion of the project at a cost of $17,892.
   4. H2Ohio Chippewa Lake Wetlands – Vaughn Project Site
      a. Director Eppink reported that, per previous discussions with the board, change orders that keep a project site within ten percent of the engineer's estimate may be approved by the director with notice to the board at the following meeting. He recently approved an $800 change order to the H2Ohio Chippewa Lake Wetlands – Vaughn project to install an osprey tower and a $5,425 change order to temporarily de-water a portion of the outlet and add two additional bridge piles to one of the boardwalks.

5. Recreational Trails Fund Chippewa Inlet Trail Grant Award
   a. Based on hesitation over the current condition of the south end of the Chippwa Inlet Trail, the board agrees with Director Eppink's suggestion to decline ODNR's $125,000 Recreational Trails Fund grant award at this time and to reapply for funding when a workable scope and new cost estimate can be attained for the project.
6. Asphalt Repairs to Longacre Lane
   a. Director Eppink reported that the owner of The Oaks restaurant in Lafayette Township, adjacent to Chippewa Lake, asked that the park district and Chippewa Yacht Club (CYC) assist in paying for asphalt repairs to Longacre Lane, which customers use to access the restaurant off of Lake Road. An easement to use Longacre Lane transferred to the park district with the purchase of the former amusement park property. Discussion was held regarding the legality of the park district paying for work on private land and the possibility of the park district reducing the CYC's annual lease payment if it were to absorb some of the repair costs.
      1. Legal Counsel Holland stated that the park district has a legitimate responsibility for the road due to the easement. Changes to the CYC agreement would require probate court approval. He suggested that a responsible way to split costs for repair among the entities would be to ascertain the percentage of use by CYC and by The Oaks.
         a. Director Eppink said he would ask the CYC about increased traffic and bring an amendment to the CYC agreement to commissioners at a future meeting.
         b. Commissioner Davis left the meeting at this time.

B. Development Coordinator Peacock reported that creation of the Friends of the Parks' website is moving along. She also reported that the Friends Trustees approved a "Folks with Friends" concert at Buffalo Creek on June 29. Additional activities for the day may yet be planned.

C. Park Planner Kleshinski reported that he has been working on various project proposals, including stone resurfacing of the Lester Rail Trail. He reported that the Allardale Playscape project is on schedule for construction to begin by April 1. Park Planner Kleshinski also reported that he recently sat for the pesticide applicators license exam but has yet to receive the results.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. No Old Business was presented for discussion.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Watercraft Rules for MCPD and Chippewa Lake
   1. It was agreed that the board will schedule a special meeting to be held the last week of March, at which time it will review/approve Chippewa Lake watercraft/boating rules for ODNR and a set of local rules for general use of the lake. Legal Counsel Holland will write the local rules for fishing and paddlecraft.

B. Judgement Regarding Chippewa Lake Rights, Privileges
   1. Director Eppink provided the board with three options to consider for resolution of the Chippewa Lake issues of docking and deeded rights. It was decided that the park district will look into an estimate from a title company to conduct title searches for properties in the villages, the Euclid Avenue neighborhood, and those who have known claims for lake rights. Once a cost estimate is received, the board can formulate a plan to move forward.
      a. Guest Leslie Burns left the meeting at this time.

C. Statements of Qualifications for Shotwell Gardens
   1. Chairman Neate offered a motion to approve soliciting statements of qualifications (SOQs) from design-builders for the design of Shotwell Gardens at Lake Medina. Commissioner Venner seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

D. ODD Building Demolition Grant
   1. Commissioner Venner offered a motion ratifying the executed agreement between the park district and the Ohio Department of Development (ODD) for underwriting the cost of razing several homes on park district properties as listed in the 2024 Project List. Chairman Neate seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

E. RFQ/RFP #2023-005 Wolf Creek Greenway Design-Builder Selection
   1. Chairman Neate 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 Wolf Creek Greenway project in an amount not to exceed $950,000 and subject to review and approval by legal counsel as to form. Commissioner Venner seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

IX. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

A. Commissioner Venner thanked Chairman Neate for his efforts in working with the Chippewa Lake stakeholders group. There is a lot going on in the county, and we're a very busy park district. He is looking forward to seeing how the Chippewa Lake docking and lake rights issues are resolved.

B. Chairman Neate said that he appreciates everyone's participation in the meeting and in the projects we're undertaking–staff, guests, and more.

C. Chairman Neate commented that the noise of the children (school group) visiting Oenslager Nature Center is a wonderful thing!

X. ADJOURNMENT

A. There being no further business for discussion, Chairman Neate declared the meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.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 53.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEDINA COUNTY PARK DISTRICT

NATHAN D. EPPINK, DIRECTOR

MINUTES OF THE

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

OF

MEDINA COUNTY PARK DISTRICT

March 29, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Chairman Neate called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. at Oenslager Nature Center, 6100 Ridge Road, Sharon Township, Ohio.

B. Roll Call

1. Roll call showed Chairman Neate, Commissioner Davis, and Commissioner Venner present. Also in attendance were Director Eppink, Business Manager Chaney, and Legal Counsel Holland. Guests included Barbara McGrath and Debbie Horning of Chippewa Lake and Reporter Patrick Rhonemus of *The Gazette*.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Watercraft Rules for MCPD, Chippewa Lake

1. Commissioner Davis offered a motion approving the updated watercraft rules written by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) for Medina County Park District and Chippewa Lake as presented and authorizing the director, with assistance from legal counsel, to prepare a succinct summary of the proposed changes for publishing two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation. Chairman Neate seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

B. Fishing and Watercraft Rules Specific to Chippewa Lake

1. Commissioner Davis offered a motion approving proposed updates to Medina County Park District's rules regarding fishing and watercraft rules specific to Chippewa Lake as presented and authorizing the director, with assistance from legal counsel, to prepare a succinct summary of the proposed changes for publishing two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation. Chairman Neate seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Docking Agreement with Chippewa Lake

1. Commissioner Davis offered a motion authorizing the director to execute the one-year docking agreement with the village of Chippewa Lake to administer watercraft stickers for its residents and for individuals living off Euclid Avenue in Lafayette Township for the 2024 Chippewa Lake boating season. Commissioner Venner seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A. No comments were offered from members of the public.

V. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

A. Commissioner Venner thanked Chairman Neate for running the stakeholders meetings and the public meeting at Buffalo Creek on March 26. He also thanked Director Eppink and Legal Counsel Holland for working through the details and providing the resulting Chippewa Lake rules.

B. Chairman Neate shared how much he appreciated the collaborative efforts of all involved in the Chippewa Lake rules process.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

A. There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Davis offered a motion for adjournment at 8:20 a.m. Chairman Neate seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

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 53.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEDINA COUNTY PARK DISTRICT

NATHAN D. EPPINK, DIRECTOR

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