MINUTES OF THE

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

OF

MEDINA COUNTY PARK DISTRICT

September 16, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Chairman Neate called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. at Medina County Park District Headquarters, 6364 Deerview Lane, Medina, Ohio 44256.

B. Roll Call

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. August 18, 2021

1. Commissioner Davis offered a motion approving the minutes of the August 18, 2021 meeting as presented. Commissioner de Luna seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A. No members of the public were in attendance, and Director Eppink did not receive public comments prior to the meeting.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORTS

A. Cash Balance Statement

B. Cash Flow Statement

1. Business Manager Chaney reported that the Medina County Auditor's Office is currently unable to balance and finalize the August financial data. The August Cash Balance and Cash Flow statements will be completed and emailed to the board as soon as the data is available.

C. Approval of Vouchers

1. Resolution #21-017, August 2021

a. Commissioner Davis offered a motion approving Resolution #21-017, payment of the August 2021 vouchers, as presented. Commissioner Neate seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

V. DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORTS

A. Director's Updates

1. COVID Updates

a. Director Eppink reported that masks are required to enter park headquarters and the nature centers effective August 9.

2. Chippewa Lake Master Plan
   a. Director Eppink reported that the second public meeting for presentation of the Chippewa Lake Master Plan is scheduled for September 28 at Buffalo Creek Retreat. To limit the number of participants in light of the COVID pandemic, three sessions have been scheduled; start times are 4, 5:30, and 7 p.m. Up to 45 people can attend per session. A "lunch 'n learn" webinar has also been scheduled via Zoom Meetings for noon on September 30.
3. Leadership Medina County
   a. Director Eppink reported that he is one of 41 local leaders participating in this year's Signature class. The opening retreat was held September 1 and 2 at Westfield Companies' Blair Center.
4. Retirement
   a. Director Eppink reported that Ranger Bob Weidig is retiring from the park district this fall. His last day of patrol is September 30.

B. Monthly Report
   1. August 2021
      a. Director Eppink provided the August monthly report for the board's perusal.
   2. Allardale Playscape
      a. Director Eppink reported that he and Planning & Operations Manger Smith, met with four members of the Allard family in August to discuss the proposed playscape. The original plan had previously been scaled down and relocated away from The Lodge. A new concept has been created, and staff is waiting for feedback from the family. Director Eppink is hopeful that the concept can be finalized yet this winter.

C. Departmental Activities
   1. August 2021
      a. Director Eppink provided the August departmental activity report for the board's review.
         1. Planning & Operations Manager Smith reported that we have conducted the first round of interviews for the vacant landscape architect position and are planning a second interview with one of the candidates.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Response to Geoff Korff, Galenas
   1. Director Eppink reported that he has sent a letter to Geoff Korff of Galenas in response to Mr. Korff's attendance at the August board meeting. The letter, cosigned by Chairman Neate, states that, should Galenas receive approval for the dispensary at the state and local levels, the park district won't stand in the company's way. No further action is needed.

B. Revision to Park District Bylaws
   1. Commissioner de Luna offered a motion approving the proposed revisions to the park district bylaws with removal of the references to business hours. Commissioner Davis seconded; the motion unanimously carried. A succinct summary of the changes to the bylaws will be posted in a local newspaper and online as required by law.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Re-branding Park Rangers as Park Police
   1. Chairman Neate offered a motion authorizing the re-branding from park rangers to police officers and the department name to park police effective January 1, 2022 at a cost anticipated to be less than $6,000 to change uniforms, patches, and vehicle graphics. Commissioner de Luna seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

B. Request for Easement
   1. Following discussion, it was determined that additional time is needed to research a process that may be helpful in dealing with encroachments. This item will be revisited in a future meeting.

C. Hidden Hollow Camp Hours, Accessibility
   1. Commissioner de Luna offered a motion to open Hidden Hollow Camp to the public year-around unless it is reserved weekends. Individuals, families, church groups, scout groups, business leaders, and others may reserve the site any Friday, Saturday, or Sunday for day-use activities per the fee schedule presented. With a special-use permit authorized in advance, groups may reserve Hidden Hollow Camp for overnight camping for an added fee. Alcohol will be permitted. Commissioner Davis seconded; the motion unanimously carried.
   2. Cleaning/key deposit amounts for all lodges will be discussed at the October meeting.

D. Additional H2Ohio Funding
   1. Commissioner de Luna offered a motion authorizing the director to complete the necessary paperwork and to enter into a contract with ODNR for additional H2Ohio funding for the 145-acre Litchfield Wetlands restoration project, authorizing the director to withdraw the project from consideration by the USACE and to notify the federal regulatory body through North Coast Regional Council of Park Districts once the contract with ODNR is executed, and authorizing the director to solicit Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) for a design-builder for the site. Chairman Neate seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

E. H2Ohio Chippewa Lake Wetland Restoration Project: Kennard Site RFQ/RFP #2021-002 Design Build Services Selections
   1. Commissioner Davis offered a motion authorizing the director to execute a contract with Davey Resource Group for design-build services for the H2Ohio Chippewa Lake Wetland Restoration Project: Kennard Site, pending review and approval by legal counsel. Commissioner de Luna seconded, the motion carried. Chairman Neate abstained from the vote.

F. Sharon Nature Preserve Phase I Site Development
   1. Chairman Neate offered a motion approving the advertisement for public bids for construction of the Sharon Nature Preserve Phase I Site Development project as required by law. Commissioner de Luna seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

C. As result of executive session discussion, Commissioner de Luna offered a motion authorizing the director to purchase approximately 67 acres in the village of Lodi for $276,000 from fund 3403-7800-50790. Closing costs are to be split between the parties, and closing is to take place before June 2022. Commissioner Davis seconded; the motion unanimously carried.

IX. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

A. No comments were offered.

X. ADJOURNMENT

A. There being no further business for discussion, Chairman Neate declared the meeting adjourned at 10:12 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