

**MUSKINGUM VALLEY PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 20, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Board of Muskingum Valley Park District Commissioners was held in the Volunteer Building at Mission Oaks Gardens. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm., by Board President Ty Kendrick.

Mr. Kendrick called roll and Commissioners Ty Kendrick, Ben Appleby, Ed Shaffer and Hanna Luburgh-Agin were present. Also present were Executive Director Russ Edgington and Administrative Assistant Michelle Illing.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

There were no guests present at the meeting. .

APPROVAL OR AMENDMENT OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Mr. Kendrick called for discussion on or revisions to the minutes from the May 9, 2023, regular meeting. Ms. Luburgh-Agin moved to approve the minutes as submitted and Mr. Kendrick stepped down from the chair to second the motion. The minutes were approved as presented by acclamation.

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND EXPENDITURES:

Mr. Edgington presented board members with a copy of the May 2023 financial statement. After a brief discussion, President Kendrick asked for a motion to approve the statement. On a motion by Ms. Luburgh-Agin and second by Mr. Shaffer the motion carried by acclamation. Mr. Edgington reported that the district had received a check in the amount of \$39,500 from the Rogge Foundation in fulfillment of a grant for the Muskingum Recreational Trail. Mr. Edgington will request the Muskingum County Budget Commission amend the district's income certificate to reflect the grant proceeds.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

Westview Community Park – Mr. Edgington reported that the additional NaturePlay equipment has been ordered.

Joes' Run Recreational Trail – Mr. Edgington reported that slip repairs have been completed.

Meadow Springs Farm – Mr. Edgington reported that the district received an official response from the Owl Creek Conservancy regarding a potential agreement with the Barkers. The Conservancy will not approve subdivision of the property. On a motion by Mr. Shaffer and seconded by Ms. Luburgh-Agin the board authorized Mr. Edgington to negotiate a compromise agreement with the Barkers.

Putnam Greenway – Mr. Edgington provided an update on the preliminary plan development for the Greenway. It was noted that Environmental Design Group has completed a draft alignment for the trail. It was further noted that the district will seek contractors to complete demolition and debris removal separate from the construction contract.

Muskingum Recreational Trail – Mr. Edgington reported that a preconstruction meeting has not been scheduled by the contractor.

Mission Oaks Gardens – Mr. Edgington reported that Art and Toby Rogovin are considering a financial donation for improvements to the Garden in memory of their son Jacob. It was further reported that the district is partnering with the Zanesville Community High School's aquaculture program. Tilapia raised at the facility will be stocked in the ponds at Mission Oaks Gardens and McGraw Edison Recreation Area. The fish will feed on aquatic vegetation and will be harvested before water temperatures drop in the fall.

CONSIDERATION OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND NEW BUSINESS

Staffing- Mr. Edgington reported that youth from Cedar Ridge were working at Mission Oaks Gardens during the summer months at no cost to the district. It was further reported that Alan Higgins has been hired as an independent contractor to assist with district maintenance.

Master Plan Deliverables – Mr. Edgington provided an update on the master plan deliverables. (See attached)

Appalachian Community Grant- Mr. Edgington updated the board on the Muskingum River Blueway/Bikeway Master Plan funded by Ohio Mideastern Governments Association (OMEGA). In addition to the OMEGA initiative, the district is working with the Buckeye Hills Regional Commission on a grant proposal for a Canal Park Trail. Mr. Edgington has scheduled a meeting with Mary Mertz, Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to discuss using state canal lands for the trail’s development.

Zanesville Muskingum County River Festival – Mr. Edgington reported that the district is working with the City of Zanesville and the Zanesville Muskingum County Convention and Visitor’s Bureau to plan a new festival in 2024. The festival is in partial fulfillment of citizen priorities from the district’s community survey. On a motion by Ms. Luburgh-Agin and second by Mr. Appleby, the board voted to enter a contract with Westwood Creative to develop a logo and branding materials for the event. The motion carried by acclamation.

Muskingum Valley Park Society – It was noted that no members of the Muskingum Valley Park Society attended a planning session for the scheduled 2023 Westview Festival.

Administrative Assistant Updates – Ms. Illing provided an update on the following district programming:

- Conservation Kids
- Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist
- Annual Native Plant Sale
- Fanatic’s Global Impact Day Volunteers

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

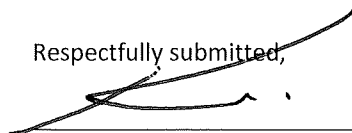
ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Kendrick called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion by Mr. Shaffer and second by Ms. Luburgh-Agin, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 1:16pm. The next meeting date is July 10, 2023, at 12:00pm.

SUNSHINE LAW COMPLIANCE

It is declared that notification of this meeting and any business conducted therein by the Board of Muskingum Valley Park District Commissioners follows Ohio’s Sunshine Laws.

Respectfully submitted,



Ty Kendrick, President



Russell Edgington, Executive Director