

**MUSKINGUM VALLEY PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 11, 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 12:02 pm., by Board President Ty Kendrick.

Mr. Kendrick called roll and Commissioners Ty Kendrick, Ben Appleby, Ed Shaffer, and Cole Ryan were present. Also present were Executive Director Russ Edgington, Administrative Assistant Michelle Illing, Park Society President Kelly Ashby and AmeriCorps servicepersons Haley Johnson and Parker Young.

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 August 14, 2023, regular meeting. Mr. Appleby moved to approve the minutes as submitted and Mr. Ryan seconded 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 August 2023 financial statement. After a brief discussion, President Kendrick asked for a motion to approve the statement. On a motion by Mr. Shaffer and second by Mr. Ryan the motion carried by acclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Appleby and second by Mr. Ryan the board voted to approve a RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR by the following roll call vote:

Aye: Mr. Ryan, Mr. Appleby, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Kendrick

Mr. Edgington informed the board that the district's fee for the ongoing state audit has increased by \$861 for a total of \$5125.00 due in part to additional hours for researching payroll records.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

Westview Community Park – Mr. Edgington reported that Environmental Design Group (EDG) has been contracted to complete design work for the new accessible picnic shelter and adding electric and water service to the park. EDG will review the recently submitted drawings for the laminated shelter supports. It was further reported that Hartman Landscaping will donate up to \$5,000 of labor to install the new NaturePlay elements.

Joe's Run Recreational Trail/Collegial Woods Trails – Park maintenance technician Mike McCoy has reached out to Kroft Tree Service to provide an informal quote for the removal of several dead trees along the trail corridor. Mr. Appleby reported on trail maintenance work that his company, Linear Active donated to the district. It was noted that the district will host volunteers for Make a Difference Day at Collegial Woods on October 25.

Meadow Springs Farm – Mr. Edgington reported that the Owl Creek Conservancy has approved moving the farm tenants from the old farmhouse to the brick house near Dresden Road. It was noted that the district's legal council is still working on legal documents for the move.

Putnam Greenway – Mr. Edgington shared that Zemba Brothers is unable to proceed with corridor clearing due to construction materials and equipment from the city’s sewer upgrade project. Staff will look at possible solutions to discourage increasing numbers of homeless encampments on the corridor.

Muskingum Recreational Trail – Mr. Edgington reported the following:

- Michael Schiele has completed removal of the fencing from the trail near McGlade School Road.
- The district has contracted with Environmental Design Group to proceed with corridor extension research.
- A pre-construction meeting was held at ODOT District 5 headquarters for the TAP grant. The general contractor, Scioto Paving; Mr. Edgington and ODOT officials were in attendance. Construction is scheduled to begin on the unpaved sections of the corridor between Dresden Village and Ellis Dam Road on September 25th with a projected completion date of October 31st.

Mr. Ryan asked for background on a previous study from Linn Engineering regarding a corridor on the Westside of the Muskingum River.

CONSIDERATION OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND NEW BUSINESS

Master Plan Deliverables – Mr. Edgington provided an update on the master plan deliverables. It was noted that he would request proposals from Environmental Design Group for McGraw Edison Recreation Area and Meadow Springs Farm site masterplans.

Appalachian Community Grant- Mr. Edgington reported that he had no updates on the grant program. Mr. Ryan reported that he had attended a recent meeting with OMEGA. The current consensus is that OMEGA will lead a single application for all counties in their District, including Muskingum.

Zanesville Muskingum County River Festival – Mr. Edgington provided an update on planning for the 2024 Zanesville Muskingum County River Festival. It was noted that the event committee reviewed the proposed branding and promotional materials. Mr. Edgington will contact Mr. Westwood with proposed revisions. Discussion included reaching out to other sponsors who hold events around the same weekend to join forces.

Muskingum Valley Park Society – Kelly Ashby reported that the Society is having difficulty filling vacant board positions. She also noted that it is challenging to recruit volunteers who are willing to do programs and events on an ongoing basis. It was suggested that recruiting and managing volunteers could be absorbed by the park district. Considerable discussion was held regarding the future of the Muskingum Valley Park Society and what role it should play. Mr. Edgington will research options for the future.

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

- Trail of treats
- Make a Difference Day, October 25, 2023

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

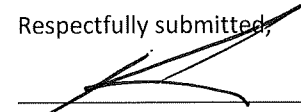
ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Kendrick called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion by Mr. Appleby and second by Mr. Shaffer, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 1:05pm. The next meeting date is October 10, 2023, at 1:20pm.


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