MINUTES OF THE WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

**Regular Monthly Meeting – January 18, 2023**

***CALL MEETING TO ORDER***

Park Commissioner, Ben Yoder called the Park Board meeting to order on January 18, 2023, at 2:02 pm. The meeting was held in the Park Office. Park Commissioner Jeff Blazey, Park Director Larry Easterly, and Office Manager Shannon Aquino were also present. Park Commissioner Wendy Monroe was absent.

# *RECOGNITION OF GUEST*

# Ann Steiner – a Warren County resident, attended the meeting. She walks Armco Park daily and wanted to report there was a lot of mess leftover from the Holiday in Lights display – specifically broken PVC pipe, lots of black electrical tape, and broken light bulbs. Mr. Easterly noted the Park had cleaned up those items and notified the Alleen Company of the mess that was left behind. Mr. Yoder asked her if she felt traffic was an issue with the event and she said she did not experienced any issues. Ms. Steiner also mentioned the fence at Shaker and Greentree was done again. Mr. Easterly noted he would contact the County Deputy to see if they knew who caused the damage. Ms. Steiner then left the meeting.

## READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AND RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Yoder made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held on December 21, 2022. Mr. Blazey seconded the motion. Motion carried with a majority voice vote.

## READING AND APPROVAL OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES

Mr. Yoder made a motion to approve the Receipts & Expenses for the month of December 2022. Mr. Blazey seconded the motion. Motion carried with a majority voice vote.

## DEPARTMENT UPDATES

The Board reviewed the Parks Update.

The Board reviewed the financial documents provided – the cash basis financials YTD December 2022 and the budget balances as of January 13, 2023. Mr. Blazey noticed the projected fund balances looked better than previously reported. Ms. Aquino stated it was due to finishing 2022 stronger than predicted and updating revenue estimates for local government funds in 2025 and beyond. She also noted that minimal capital funds had been budgeted for 2025 and beyond, which once updated, would effect the projected fund balances.

The Board reviewed the Naturalist & Marketing Report. Mr. Yoder mentioned going to the White Tails Unlimited Caesar Creek Chapter meeting with Ms. Russell-Pennington – noting this group holds a big fundraiser every March which attract 600-800 people. He felt this group could be a good resource for future donations as well as helping with fundraising. He noted he would really like the District to have a fundraising event at Hisey Park.

# *OLD BUSINESS*

**Drake Rd. Property –** Mr. Easterly noted he received the appraisal for the property. The Lutmers are asking $780,000 and it was appraised at $607,000. Mr. Easterly is going to meet with the Warren County Soil and Water Department to relay the information and together, they will meet with the Lutmers to see if they will accept the $607,000 offer to purchase. If accepted, Mr. Easterly will work with Soil and Water to apply for a grant to purchase the property.

**Holiday in Lights** – Ms. Aquino presented total cars that have come through the Holiday in Lights display from 12/8/22-12/30/2022 as well as the revenue generated during that time frame. Mr. Easterly noted the majority of the feedback was positive from patrons. Mr. Yoder would like the Board to have a debriefing with the Alleen Company to go over what went well and what could be approved upon – requesting Mr. Easterly reach out and see if they could attend the March 1, 2023 board meeting.

###### *NEW BUSINESS*

**Deerfield Township Annual Donation/Walking Trail –** Mr. Easterly would like to re-do the walking trail, specifically the west side and everything up front. Last year, he and Ms. Monroe attended the Deerfield Township meeting to receive 2022’s donation. Mr. Easterly will get a quote for the work needed and present to the Township trustees.

**Shelters** – Mr. Easterly noted he would like to renovate some shelters in Armco this year – estimating a cost of $80,000. Mr. Yoder noted he would like to understand any return on investment with renovating these shelters, since Armco shelters are the only shelters the District charges a fee for. Mr. Easterly and Ms. Aquino will work on a plan to present this information to the Board.

**Land Agreements** – Ms. Aquino presented the four land agreements for 2023 – noting no terms or dollar amounts had changed from 2022. Mr. Yoder made a motion to approve the agreements as presented. Mr. Blazey seconded the motion. Motion carried with a majority voice vote.

# *EXECUTIVE SESSION*

Mr. Yoder made a motion to enter into executive session at 3:00 pm pursuant to R.C. 121.22(G) (1) to consider the appointment, employment, and compensation of a public employee. Mr. Blazey seconded the motion. By individual roll call vote, Ms. Monroe – absent, Mr. Yoder – yea, Mr. Blazey – yea. Attendees included Park Commissioners Ben Yoder and Jeff Blazey.

# Mr. Yoder made a motion to adjourn out of executive session back into the regular meeting at 4:03 pm. Mr. Blazey seconded the motion. By individual roll call vote, Ms. Monroe – absent, Mr. Yoder – yea, Mr. Blazey – yea. Regular monthly meeting resumed at 4:03 pm.

###### *ADJOURMENT*

Mr. Yoder made a motion to adjourn at 4:04 pm. Mr. Blazey seconded the motion. Motion carried with a majority voice vote. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday February 1, 2023 at 2:00 pm.