MINUTES OF THE WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

**Regular Monthly Meeting – February 1, 2023**

***CALL MEETING TO ORDER***

Park Commissioner, Jeff Blazey called the Park Board meeting to order on February 1, 2023, at 2:05 pm. The meeting was held in the Park Office. Park Commissioner Wendy Monroe, Park Director Larry Easterly, and Office Manager Shannon Aquino were also present. Park Commissioner Ben Yoder was absent.

# *OLD BUSINESS*

**Drake Rd. Property –** Mr. Easterly noted he and the Warren County Soil & Water Department (Molly Conley and Cindy Meyer) met with the Lutmers to discuss the purchase of their 12-acre property on Drake Road. Mr. Easterly gave the Lutmers the appraisal report that was recently completed – showing a current value of $607,000. He left a copy for them to review and noted they would consider the price. In addition, the Warren County Soil and Water employees gave the owners the same presentation they gave the District at the November 16, 2022 board meeting. Mr. Easterly noted the District could pay up to 5% over the appraisal value, as permitted by the Clean Ohio Grant. If approved, the grant would pay 75% and the District would be left with the remaining 25%, however, Warren County Soil & Water would provide half of the 25% match. Mr. Easterly also noted the Lutmers could donate the 25% match and report the donation as a tax deduction. Applications for the Clean Ohio Grant are due in August, and we should know within 60 days whether we have been approved. Mr. Blazey wanted to know if we could move forward with the purchase and use the grant money to reimburse us for the cost once received, however, Mr. Easterly pointed out there is no guarantee we would be approved. Mr. Blazey noted he would like to have a formal agreement in place, sooner rather than later – contingent upon grant approval.

**Deerfield Township Annual Donation/Walking Trail –** Mr. Easterly said the Park District has been invited to attend the February 21, 2023 Deerfield Trustee Meeting at 5:30 pm, and he and Ms. Monroe will attend. Mr. Easterly asked the township for an increase in their donation but doesn’t know the final amount at this time. He would like to use the donation for the asphalt walking trail at Landen Deerfield Park.

**Holiday in Lights** – Ms. Blazey inquired as to whether Mr. Easterly met with the Alleen Company to discuss the event. He noted he invited them to attend the March 1, 2023 board meeting but had not received confirmation they would attend. He noted he would follow up and see if he could get confirmation.

###### *NEW BUSINESS*

**Pavilion** – Mr. Easterly stated he was going to do some minor cosmetic updates to the Armco Park Pavilion – specifically replacing old, damaged flooring and re-painting. Ms. Aquino added she was working with the District’s Naturalist, Shannon Russell Pennington, to put together marketing materials that could be used to promote the Pavilion – specifically for weddings and corporate events.

###### *ADJOURMENT*

Mr. Blazey made a motion to adjourn at 2:27 pm. Ms. Monroe seconded the motion. Motion carried with a majority voice vote. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday February 15, 2023 at 2:00 pm.