MINUTES OF THE WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

**Regular Monthly Meeting – October 19, 2022**

***CALL MEETING TO ORDER***

Park Commissioner, Ben Yoder called the Park Board meeting to order on October 19, 2022, at 2:05 p.m. The meeting was held in the Park Office. Park Commissioners Wendy Monroe and Jeff Blazey, Park Director Larry Easterly and Office Manager Shannon Aquino were also present.

# *RECOGNITION OF GUEST*

# Cris Barnett and Bill Shieman with the Little Miami Watershed Network (the Network) attended today’s meeting to discuss a recent study of the value of outdoor recreation in the Little Miami River Corridor, as reported and prepared by the Ohio State University and the Network. The Network is meeting with various local governments to share this report – with the desired result of encouraging governments to design new ways to utilize the river, so as to provide more value to its consumers, while also protecting it. Ms. Barnett explained the findings – 836,000 trips took place within 45 sites along 43 miles of the Little Miami River (focus was on the northern side) and the total recreational and local economic value was $14.9 million per year. She also noted 9 of the 45 sites were within the Warren County Park District – with more information provided in table 6 of the report provided. Her point being that lots of people are enjoying outdoor recreation and the value of that is more than their direct spending, which they called consumer surplus – the value a consumer receives that isn’t based on direct spending – which they estimate to be 66% higher than direct spending. Mr. Blazey questioned how the consumer surplus model is validated. Mr. Shieman responded that validation is based on highly granular data that we have now that we didn’t have before.

## READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AND RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Yoder made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held on October 5, 2022. Ms. Monroe seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Blazey made a motion to approve Resolution 22-09 Acceptance of ARPA Funds for Armco Park Baseball Fields. Ms. Monroe seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Monroe made a motion to approve Resolution 22-10 Acceptance of ARPA Funds for Landen Deerfield Pond. Mr. Blazey seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

## READING AND APPROVAL OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES

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

## DEPARTMENT UPDATES

The Board reviewed the Parks Update.

The Board reviewed the financial documents provided – the cash basis financials YTD September and the budget balances as of October 14, 2022. Mr. Yoder mentioned the remaining hours left on Ms. Aquino’s contract and how she and the Board want to move forward. Mr. Yoder made a motion to approve an amendment to the current contract where Ms. Aquino will continue providing accounting services following completion of the initial 400 contracted hours, at an hourly rate of $50, with added terms that the contract can be terminated by either party with 14 days written notice. Mr. Blazey seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

The Board reviewed the Naturalist & Marketing Report. Ms. Monroe mentioned how nice the Hisey Park wedding flyer looked and asked approximately how many weddings are held there annually. Mr. Easterly noted three weddings have taken place in 2022 and Ms. Monroe responded that was so few and the District needed to focus on promoting this service. Ms. Aquino noted the Naturalist is actively working on promoting weddings at Hisey.

# *OLD BUSINESS*

**American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds –** Mr. Easterly noted we will likely not have enough ARPA funds to complete the ARPA projects (Landen Pond and Armco Ball fields) as originally planned and that the District will need to contribute funds to these projects.

**Keevercreek Retention Pond –** Mr. Easterly spoke with the Keevercreek HOA President, and they are interested in leasing the pond. Mr. Easterly contacted the Prosecutor’s office about leasing it and they will put an agreement together. The lease would cover just the pond, not the entire park.

###### *NEW BUSINESS*

**Approval of Purchases in Excess of $10,000 –** Mr. Blazey made a motion to approve the purchase of a trailer from Bob Cat Enterprises for $11,279. Mr. Yoder seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

**Soil and Water –** Mr. Easterly met with the Warren County Soil and Water Department, and they would like to give a presentation to the District at the November 16th meeting. The presentation will center around grant possibilities and purchase of the Lutmer property.

**Personnel Updates –** Mr. Easterly updated the Board that Rick Frye, Armco Park Maintenance Supervisor, is retiring and his last day of work will be December 30, 2022. Mr. Easterly is beginning his search for Mr. Frye’s replacement.

**Park Run –** Mr. Easterly received correspondence from Park Run, an organization that sponsors 5K events in parks. The organization would like to do a 5K in Armco Park, every Saturday. Events are free and 100% run by volunteers, so no money is collected. Mr. Easterly reached out to the Prosecutor’s office to see if allowing these events would cause any problems and no concerns were raised at that time. Ms. Aquino stated she would email the organization’s website to the Park Commissioners so they could obtain more information.

**Strategic Planning –** Mr. Yoder stressed the need for the District to update its strategic plan. To do this, the District may need to consider some restructuring options. Discussions will be continued next board meeting.

###### *ADJOURMENT*

Mr. Blazey made a motion to adjourn at 5:23 pm. Mr. Yoder seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday November 2, 2022 at 2:00 pm.