

MIAMI COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, March 25, 2025
Lost Creek Reserve Cabin
9 a.m. Meeting Minutes

Present: Dr. Robert Malarkey, Jay Meyer, Elizabeth Gutmann, Scott Myers, Kevin Swanson, Janeen Selanders, Amanda Smith, Cinda Hanbuch-Pinkerton and Dale Gade.

MINUTES – Mrs. Gutmann made a motion to approve the minutes from February 25, 2025, seconded by Mr. Meyer, motion unanimously carried.

BILLS AND RECEIPTS - Mrs. Gutmann made a motion to approve the bills and receipts as presented, seconded by Mr. Meyer, motion unanimously carried.

DONATIONS – Mrs. Gutmann made a motion to accept the donation as presented, seconded by Mr. Meyer, motion unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **RESOLUTION 1649-25** - Authorization to enter into a contract with A&S Party Rental to provide extreme dual zipline entertainment at the 2025 Hug the Earth Festival at a cost not to exceed \$15,750.00- Mrs. Gutmann made a motion to approve Resolution 1649-25, seconded by Mr. Meyer, motion unanimously carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Foundation – The Miami County Parks Forever board met with three individuals from the community to assist with identifying additional people from throughout the county to join their board. They identified what traits and characteristics would be best to fill areas that they currently lack. They hope to add those people this summer.

OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Staff Reports
 - a. Deputy Director - Kevin said he is working with Scott and Amanda on the community survey and what resonates with the community. Amanda is working on the messaging and comparing the results with previous surveys.
 - b. Operations – Dale passed around photos of current projects including bench locations in the park. We currently have 31 with a new one installed this week. Dr. Malarkey asked how many more could ideally be added. Dale said he feels we could place at least 30 additional benches throughout the parks.

Bikeway enhancements and Twin Arch Reserve improvements are in the works. The majority of prairie burns are complete for the year. Scott said we had a lot of coverage on this year's burns, including Channels 7 WHIO and 22/45 FOX and social media.

The staff is working on an oak tree project. It will be a good educational tool. We are trying various ways of preserving the oak tree health. This will also be a message to present on social media bringing awareness to the conservation efforts taken to promote the health of the trees.

The roof replacement project at Charleston Falls office begins tomorrow and we are also looking at upgrades for the cabin. The squirrels are destroying the wood on the cabin, including the porch, walls and doorframes. The contractors aim to use metal wherever possible while keeping the rustic look of the cabin. Dale asked about the possibility of removing the grill near the cabin. The board sees no issue with that. He is collecting ideas and quotes from contractors.

- c. Marketing – Amanda said the tree planting at John A. Wannemacher is April 12. She is working on the Human Interest/Environmental connection.

Amanda displayed the Trail Run Challenge T-shirts design completed by Allison.

An intern was hired for the Marketing team but they were also offered a position for another organization so she is unsure how long they will work for the parks.

- d. Environmental Education – Cinda said the staff is preparing for the Hug the Earth Festival. She has been refreshing events and new ideas. There will be new activities focusing on teens and pre-teens this year. A champion boomerang expert will offer demonstrations connecting birds to boomerangs. The presentation will connect how people learn from the natural world. We will also have the Ohio school of Falconry presentations on conservation and how to protect birds of prey habitats. She will reassure everyone that the falcons used for the demonstrations were born in captivity and were never in the wild.

There is a new vendor for the Superhero Trail. The “Fairy Godmother” hopes to happily fulfill the needs for the event.

- e. Executive – Scott said the county is having their annual law enforcement recognition and the Park District will be presenting Joel Smith and Jeff Lewis an award for their efforts during the 2024 Eclipse.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Property & Personnel - There was no executive session.

Elizabeth Gutmann motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jay Meyer, motion unanimously carried. The meeting was adjourned 9:46 a.m.

J. Scott Myers

Dr. Robert Malarkey