

**JOHNNY APPLESEED METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MONTHLY MEETING**

**9:00 a.m.
April 15, 2025**

**1682 Slabtown Rd
Lima, OH 45801**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman, Donna Creamer. Present was Commissioner, Robert Antibus, Kevin Bruin, Donna Creamer; Staff, Brent Brinkman, Myles Cartwright, Denise Graham, Ben Altenbach: Director, Tyler Black and Recording Secretary, Anne Bowman.

Kevin Bruin made motion to approve the March 18, 2025 minutes as presented. Bob Antibus seconded. The motion passed.

Donna Creamer wanted to thank everyone for the hard work on the Volunteer Celebration.

Kevin Bruin wanted to thank the staff for keeping the parks clean and looks forward to another busy spring and summer.

Tyler Black reported the following:

- We had a great evening celebrating our volunteers for the accomplishments over the past year. About fifty people attended.
- Attended the OPRA Regional Networking Event on April 9.
- Ohio State Budget Process – The Ohio House of Representatives passed their version of the biennial budget. The budget now goes to the Senate for hearings and passage before the June 30th deadline.

Myles Cartwright reported the following:

- Coordinated with ArtSpace Lima to help design and configure a better way to display photo contest winners at the M.E.E.C.
- Met with Mark Casazza from Lima Astronomical Society in reference to programming opportunities.
- Met with Board of DD and ODNR to plan the upcoming Kayak Abilities Program for this summer.
- Working with Woof Boom radio for new spring/summer ads.
- Interviews for Seasonal Naturalists.
- Interviewed a candidate for the full-time Ranger position.

Brent Brinkman reported the following- Maintenance Dept.

-Maintenance crew has been busy with litter pickup, servicing equipment and many other tasks.

-Maintenance logged a total of 1,172 man-hours for March.

-Zone 1 – Installing playground equipment at Lions Den.

-Storm damage cleanup at Lauer Farm Park.

-Prep for campground opening.

-Clean graffiti from Teddy Bear playground & Riverwalk East bridges

Zone 2- Work on Motter observation deck

-Vehicle maintenance.

-Memorial Trees on OnX.

-Cleaned Riverwalk West

Zone 3- Work on observation deck.

-Trail checks at Kendrick Woods

-Tree risk assessments

-Cement groundhog holes in canal path

In the upcoming months the crew will work on clearing the west bank of Lima Lake

-Ford Volunteer Day – mulching, stonework, tree planting, west bank clean-up

-Open the observation deck at Motter Metro Park.

Brent Brinkman reported the following- Natural Resource Dept.

-Garlic Mustard pulls

-Bluebird trail maintenance

-Interview seasonal candidates

-Participate in prescribed burn

-Servicing equipment

-Spray lesser celandine and teasel

-In the upcoming months continue garlic mustard pulls, greenhouse plantings, thistle and teasel spraying.

-Anne Smedley is working on getting into the Burn Manager Class.

Ben Altenbach reported the following-

-17 calls for service in March

-Interviewed a candidate for the full- time Ranger position.

-Rangers Altenbach, Zimmerly & Mox attended the Park Ranger Training Institute in North Carolina.

-Ranger Mox was awarded the Ranger of the Year at the Park Ranger Institute.

-On 3/30/25 graffiti was discovered on the bridge abutments of the riverwalk bridge west of Roush Rd and on the riverwalk. Rangers have placed several trail cameras in the area.

-On 4/9/25, John Bishop was hired as a seasonal ranger with the Park District.

-Chief Altenbach is working with Shawnee Township Event Planning (STEP) to co-sponsor "Movies in the Park" this summer at Heritage Park.

Public Comment Period:

Steve Howell lives next to the Huber Wetland project and is concerned about the 12" tile. He claims he has more water laying on his property than usual. In the past 24 hours it has gone down. Steve commented that he has a lot of water collecting on his property and he has been there for forty years and things were working up until a few months ago.

Tyler Black commented that this is new development and they have a meeting with the engineers on Wednesday to do a walk thru and we plan to discuss our options for this project so there is no water laying on Steve's property. We want to be good neighbors and not have water on Steve's property.

Brent Brinkman let Steve know that we have located the tiles and will have them marked on the maps and will keep checking on the drainage.

Steve feels that the swale to the west is holding water on the west side of his property and that something is not right. Steve commented that if his woods is dry than his house will be good.

Old Business

Bob Antibus made motion to approve the March 2025 Monthly Budget Update as submitted. Kevin Bruin seconded. The motion passed.

Bob Antibus made motion to approve the March 2025 Bills as submitted. Kevin Bruin seconded. The motion passed.

Project Update

Vehicle Storage Facility -We are close to finishing this project. We will be having the above ceiling inspection. They are working on grading the stone. Ceiling tile grid is installed.

H2Ohio Huber Wetland project – Walk thru on Wednesday. Dirt was hauled to Hermon Woodlands they spread it out and we asked that it be put in a pile. They are coming back to fix that. They will be using a drone to do some of the seed planting. This spring they will start seed planting and tree planting.

Splashpad – We did not get grant funding through Land and Water Conservation Fund. Looking into private funding for this project.

Trail Updates- We have been busy with other projects and have not heard from anyone.

At 10:23 a.m., a role call vote was taken to enter into executive session. Bob Antibus-yes; Kevin Bruin – yes; and Donna Creamer- yes.

Executive session included the following: Chairman, Donna Creamer; Commissioner, Bob Antibus; Commissioner, Kevin Bruin; Director, Tyler Black; Deputy Director Myles Cartwright.

Executive Session

ORC 121.22 (G) (1) Employment of Public Employee

At 10:55 a.m., a role call vote was taken to leave executive session. Bob Antibus-yes; Kevin Bruin – yes; Donna Creamer – yes.

New Business:

Resolution 2025-15 was presented authorizing the Executive Director of the Park District to enter into change order in the contract for the new vehicle storage building project. Bob Antibus made a motion to approve resolution as presented. Kevin Bruin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Resolution 2025-16 was presented authorizing the Executive Director of the Park District to enter into contract with Burden Construction for siding installation at the Lauer Historical Farm. Bob Antibus made a motion to approve resolution as presented. Kevin Bruin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Resolution 2025-17 was presented authorizing the Executive Director of the Park District to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)-Division of Geological Survey for the installation of a seismic vault station at the Evans Archery Range. Kevin Bruin made a motion to approve resolution as presented. Bob Antibus seconded the motion. The motion passed.

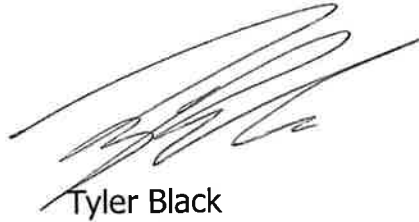
Resolution 2025-18 was presented authorizing the Executive Director of the Park District to fill the position of Nature Education Supervisor and establish the compensation of said position. Bob Antibus made a motion to approve resolution as presented. Kevin Bruin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Resolution 2025-19 was presented to change the name and brand of the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District to Metroparks Allen County. Kevin Bruin made a motion to approve resolution as presented. Bob Antibus seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, 2025 9:00 a.m.

Donna Creamer

Donna Creamer
Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Black', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Tyler Black
Director