

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park
Board of Directors' Meeting 5/10/2017
Hamilton Township, OH**

Call to Order - Ron

Board Present: Ron Gorley, Bruce Cortright, Paul Morgan, Steve Murphy, Don Hahn, Mike Dresch, Janet Slater; George Stockham by phone

Board Absent: None

Introduction of Members and Guests - Ron

Liz Lamar, Tom McCray. No ODNR staff present.

Minutes - Ron

Minutes from April 14 meeting were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Mike

As of 4/30/17

Cash On Hand:

Savings Account \$37,137.04

Checking Account 22,083.42

Total \$59,220.46

All funds are unrestricted

FLMSP Metrics - Ron

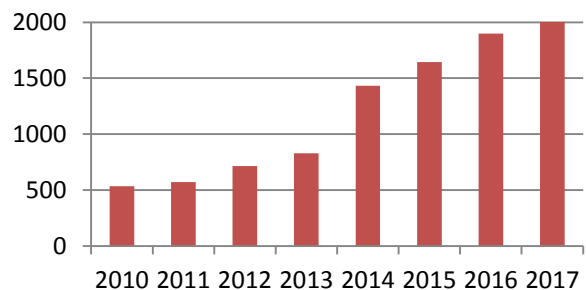
Email and volunteer hours are through the end of April. Membership graphed through the end of March.

Membership through end of April: 179.

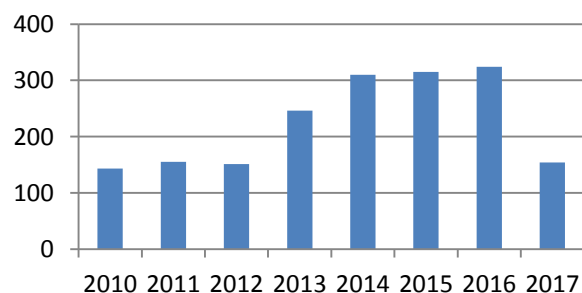
Facebook "Likes": 929

Twitter followers: 30

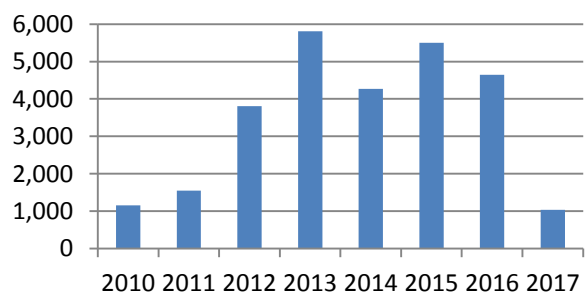
Email Distribution List



Membership



Volunteer Hours



ODNR - Melissa (0 min)

As Melissa was unable to attend the meeting, included below are notes from a May 4 phone conversation between Melissa and Ron.



ODNR - FLMSP
Discussion Items.doc

Items updated at this meeting:

Safety:

1. Gus of ODNR will be looking at the trail slippage south of mm 38 (Fosters) and south of mm 29 (Morrow) tomorrow.

Recognition:

1. For the May 20 Celebration in Loveland's Miami Riverview Park, representatives of the 5 organizations involved in the repaving will be present: Melissa of ODNR, Ron Gorley of FLMSP, John of KZF, City of Loveland, and Miami Township. Each will speak briefly.

Other:

8. Dead tree removal: Between April 1 and October 31, FLMSP may only remove trees that present an imminent danger to trail users, such as those that are uprooted, leaning, or have branches hanging over the trail. We do not need approval for these. We may not remove trees that are simply dead and do not present an immediate hazard. Before removal, take a photo of the tree and send it to Melissa as she must document all removed trees for the Columbus office. There is no need to hear a reply back from Melissa before removing the tree.

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10. The cold patch for filling in beneath Route 48 has been ordered.

15. KZF representatives have been invited to attend the June 14 board meeting to talk about Phase II of the Fort Ancient bridge as well as rerouting around Strout Rd/ Senior Rd and tension cracks around Ft Ancient.

Northern section problems – Tom McCray, segment adopter

- Flooding on trail
- County (?) scraping soil between the trail and the road; will this continue? Melissa was notified at our April meeting; Ron will ask her again about this.
- Sinkhole north of Little River Café – Just off the trail, very deep

Great Parks of Hamilton County GIS - Margaret Minzner

Margaret Minzner was unable to attend this meeting.

Bench Proposal - Liz Lamar

The following documents were reviewed:



FLMSP Bench Policy
Draft.docx



PILOT ROCK page
1.pdf



PILOT ROCK page
2.pdf

Discussion:

Bench locations:

- Board recommends adding trail access areas to guidelines.
- ODNR is concerned about possible erosion if clearing is done to provide a scenic river view. Melissa wants to review proposed location before bench is approved.

- Kings Toyota wants to provide a new bench about one mile north of Fosters at the new river overlook.
- It was agreed to establish a list of suitable bench locations to be available for interested donors.
- Inform Liz of possible good bench locations. Paul will ask trail adopters to suggest possibilities in their segments.

Installation:

- ODNr wants FLMSp to handle payment, delivery, and installation of benches.
- Installation will be by FLMSp volunteers.

Engraving:

- We support ODNr's desire to avoid the "graveyard" look by avoiding death dates on benches and instead suggesting to donors that if text is used, it be a short comment celebrating the memorialized person's life.
- The board also expressed a preference for a laminated plaque rather than large letters carved in the bench itself.

Policy:

The Board asked the Bench Committee to revise the proposed policy according to the board input. It was agreed to follow the revised guidelines for one year and then review. The Board thanked Liz Lamar for her excellent presentation.

Camp Denison Benches - Bruce

Bruce will be leading a group of Humana volunteers in work at Camp Denison. He would like to relocate the 4 aluminum benches that are in the area but unusable. It was suggested one or two be taken to Morrow to replace a bench in serious disrepair, and others spruced up for use in their current location.

Discussion on Tractor Expenditure - Mike

Mike Dresch described various uses of the proposed tractors with loader and cutter attachments. Discussion followed regarding purchasing new vs. used, capability for various tasks, storage and transporting to other trail locations. Paul suggested we purchase one tractor now and reevaluate before buying a second, and there was consensus on this point. Mike proposed the tractor be stored in Camp Denison at a cost of \$20/month.

Following discussion, George moved that we purchase a new 25 hp Kubota 2501 tractor with loader and cutter attachments at a total cost not to exceed \$22,500. He further moved that only qualified volunteers may operate the equipment. Mike seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

It was agreed that Mike and Bruce would provide training and qualification for volunteers using the tractor.

Kings Bridge Replacement

Janet moved that FLMSp support Alternative #3 presented by Warren County Engineers for future replacement of the King Avenue bridge that crosses the Little Miami River. This alternative builds a new bridge upstream from the present one, passing the roadway over the trail, thus eliminating the hazardous trail intersection at Grandin Road. Paul seconded; the motion passed unanimously. FLMSp will send a letter and supporting counting program documents to Warren County during the public comment period.

Mail Campaign – Steve

As an effort to secure state funding for our trail, Steve suggests a direct-mail campaign from trail users. Writing to one's own local representatives is simplified by a database that gives reps' names when they

input their ZIP + 4 code. Steve suggests FLMSF can set up on the trail to promote users writing to their representatives on behalf of the state park.

Board Strategy - Paul

As part of our review of the strategic plan, we looked at the Recruiting and Placement strategy today. Paul kept his presentation short because of the late hour:

- Paul's trail recruiting results so far this year have produced adopters for the Far South trail section.
- Paul asks board members and section leaders to support and welcome new volunteers, to do all we can to help them become committed, successful volunteers.



Strategy - Recruiting
& Placement (2-1-17)

Insurance Discussion - Mike

- Kathy would like us to move to another agent - present policy is current to January 2018
- Current policy would not cover sentinels for liability
- As no one had suggestions for a new agent, Mike agreed to look into finding one and report at next meeting.

Motion to Adjourn – Mike, seconded by Ron; passed.

Next Board Meeting -

June 14, 2017, 7pm. Wayne Township Administration Building