

Minutes of FLMSP Board of Directors' Meeting 9/13/2017
Hamilton Township, OH

Call to Order - Ron

Introduction of Members and Guests - Ron

Board Present: (all 8)

Murphy, Slater, Hahn, Gorley, Morgan, Cortright, Dresch, Stockham

Absent: Melissa Clark - no ODNR representation

Visitors:

Ed Kramer – Far North Adopter

Tom McCray – Far North Adopter

Harold Fix – Middle South volunteer

Tim Hoeflich – Great Parks employee representing M. Mizener/ GIS

Dick Feldmann- Far North Adopter & Section Leader

Joanne Rizkallah – New Recruit from South half

Holly King – Hot Line Volunteer

Jim Mason – Licensed Herbicide Sprayer/ Landscaper/Naturalist

Approval of Minutes from July 26 -

Hahn motioned, Stockham -2nd, Unanimous approval

Treasurer's Report - Mike

As of 8/31/17

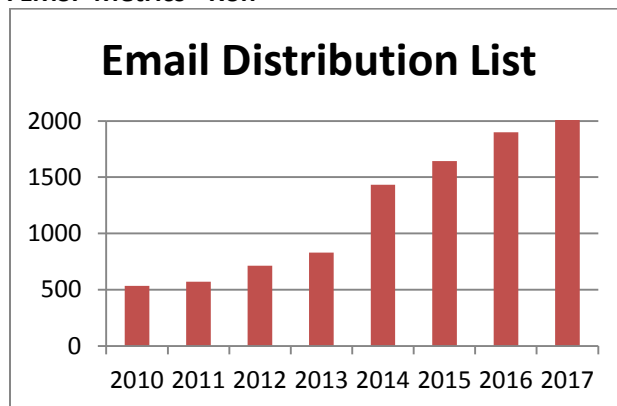
Cash On Hand:

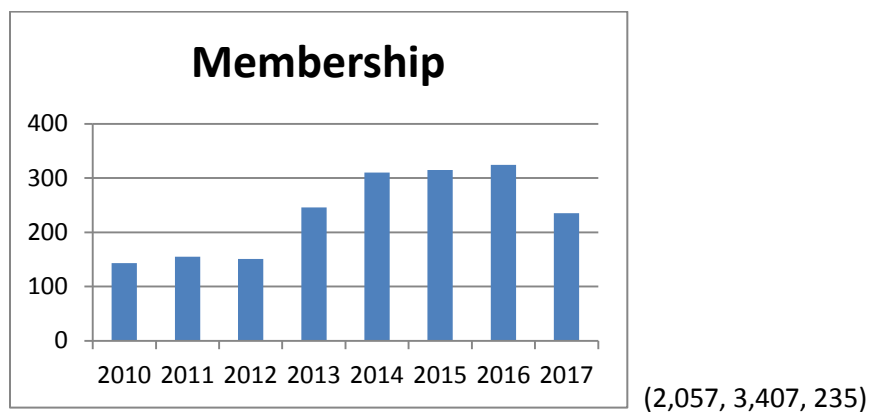
Savings Account \$26,148.39

Checking Account 2,698.73

Total \$28,847.12 All funds are unrestricted

FLMSP Metrics - Ron





There was general consensus NOT to send another membership reminder until near the end of 2017

1,016 Facebook "Likes" and 34 Twitter followers.

ODNR

Melissa Clark is unable to make this month's meeting. Please see below for notes from a September 8 phone conference with Ron Gorley:

Melissa says that a "wide" mowing will be done before end of season. Many of the board are unsure what "wide" means to Melissa.

A. Dead Trees

- Forestry survey evaluation was for parking lots only and did not cover the trail. A few trees were identified to come down in the parking areas after November 1.
- Proposal for trail this November. Randy and Kyle will be working the first three weeks of November. Have them fell trees with FLMSF volunteers limbing and clearing the trail. Since last effort went from Corwin to Caesars Creek, propose starting at Caesars Creek and head south.
- To maximize the number of trees to remove, propose closing the trail from intersection to intersection. We can advertise rolling closures in advance and have up-to-date info on our Facebook page.
- FLMSF to organize similar to root cutting, say 4 hour shifts during this period. Probably want 3-4 people per shift. Not everyone needs to be chain saw certified. Others can use pole saws or remove limbs and logs. May also want to schedule the blower a couple evenings per week.
- Likely for early 2018, ODNR has a program with City of Cincinnati (or Hamilton County) for parolees to work. Anticipate this program will be able to remove trees from Terrace Park, moving north. These work groups are fully trained and will fell the trees and clean them up.

Action Step: Ron will work w/ Melissa to finalize the details of the ODNR / FLMSF dead tree felling/removal. This includes limiting the removals to completely dead trees (because there are so many of these.)

B. Master Plan

- Gus and KZF are work on the next capital proposal. Looking to finalize the plan, ready for submission in the next couple of weeks.

- Phase II (Fort Ancient bridge, Fort Ancient tension crack, Senior - Strout roads) permitting is not complete, so work will not take place this fall. Bids out this fall, with work starting in Spring (March) 2018.

C. Culverts / Bridges

- Believe I-71 bridge area has been corrected by contractors. Still need to verify.
- Will check once again with ODOT regarding I-275 overpass to address excessive water run off.
- ODNR not getting responses from the township regarding Beech Rd culvert. Will try again.

Action Step: Melissa owns the follow-up on all 3 of the above points

GIS Update - Dick Feldman

The work to date is available on:

<http://arcg.is/vKOau>

There should be a link to this in the FLMSWP web site by Spring 2018

Ohio Capital Budget Update - Steve Murphy (30 min)

- Recent progress with State Representative Tom Brinkman
- Roadmap of upcoming activity

Steve Murphy Handout inserted here:

Capital Budget 2018

On Wednesday September 6 I met with Representative Tom Brinkman District 27. My purpose was to seek his support, his guidance, and hopefully his sponsorship.

On October 16th at 10:00 AM I'm to meet Senator Steve Wilson District 7.

These two men could very well end up being our sponsors, even though Tom recommended we also meet with:

Senator Bob Hackett	R10	
Senator Joe Uecker	R14	
Steve Wilson	R7	+++
Representative John Becker	R65	
Representative Tom Brinkman	R27	+++
Representative Bill Dean	R74	
Representative Scott Lipps	R62	++
Representative Paul Zeltwanger	R54	

Mr. Jack Sutton with Hamilton County Great Parks. We want to coordinate our Case Statement and "ask" with Jack's.

- In 1850 the State of Ohio went bankrupt.
- As a result, the State of Ohio passed a “balance budget” amendment that put an end to deficit spending.
- During his tenure as governor (1/13/1975-1/10/1983), Governor Rhodes began the practice of bond issues to fund initiatives that would otherwise result in deficit spending, e.g. historic sites. For example:
 - A \$10 million bond issue to fund a particular project would have an annual debt service (principal and interest) of a small percentage of the original \$10 million bond issue.
 - With funding in place, the project could go forward and the State would pay principal and interest (P&I) for the term of the bond issue.
 - At the end of each Capital Budget (June 30 of even-numbered years), outstanding bond issues will have been paid down during the previous 2 years of the Capital Budget.
 - Therefore, the amount of the “pay down” across all outstanding bond issues results in an equivalent amount of funding for additional bond issues.
- The Operating Budget for the State of Ohio is approximately \$65.7 billion per year.
- The Capital Budget for the State of Ohio includes approximately \$55 million per year in funding for discretionary, “competitive” projects.
- This means that the 3 major Ohio population centers of Cincinnati, Columbus, and Cleveland are each competing for \$18.3 million.
- With “high priority” projects of over \$20 million, Friends of the Little Miami State Park (FLMSP) clearly breaks the budget in one year and if the funding must be spread over multiple 2-year Capital Budget cycles, the problems along the trail will worsen, e.g. river bank stabilization, culverts, bridges, etc. This would argue for a bond issue just for the Little Miami State Park, i.e. the work could be done and the bond issue paid down over time. On a positive note, Tom Brinkman believes this Capital Budget cycle has room for a “compelling request” like FLMSP.
- One unknown is ODNR. ODNR has made a significant investment in an engineering consulting study, i.e. KZF. It is the author’s opinion that ODNR would not have made this investment in consulting services if it did not have some plan on how to fund the recommendations. Today Tom Brinkman placed a call to his legislative liaison with ODNR to inquire what their plans are with the KZF study and Little Miami State Park.
- I’m told the current thinking in Columbus is for the Capital Budget “process” to begin in October/November of 2017 with final Capital Budget “decisions” in February/March 2018.

So, what are Tom Brinkman’s and my recommendations:

- Build a “Case Statement”. Below is my first take on this.
Pave the oldest section of the trail (Loveland to Morrow 1983) after making the necessary infrastructure improvements to the riverbank, bridges, and culverts.
 It is the author’s belief that we won’t be able to generate the necessary grassroots support if we don’t include a “paving” component.

- Position this “ask” as a regional initiative for the direct benefit of the residents of southwestern Ohio and the visitors who come to our state and take advantage of the Little Miami State Park.
- If we position this as a regional initiative we need to organize the “region”:
 - Jurisdictions. Townships, cities, townships, counties, visitors’ bureaus.
 - Economic Development. It is clear from Loveland that the trail is an engine of economic development and the resulting tax revenue.
 - Other trails. Ohio to Erie Trail, Buckeye Trail, Little Miami Scenic Trail, etc.
 - Bicycle Groups. Dayton cycling clubs, Cincinnati cycling clubs.
 - Trails Users. This could be done by having “petition signing” stations along the trail highlighting the Case Statement and asking for signatures.

Post Discussion Action Steps:

- Steve & George will evaluate suitability of Change.org as a platform for online petitions
- Steve & George will finalize the Case Statement/ Petition wording
- Steve & George will advise the Board re conducting a Trail Intercept petition drive
- All board members will recommend potential municipalities, organizations, and businesses for writing Letters, making calls, or writing emails in support of our case statement

Requests for Expenditures (40 min)

- **Remediation Efforts of Ditch at MM 4.4 - Dick Feldman.** Roxanna Landscaping quotation of \$1,397 was higher than anticipated for 235 linear feet of ditching and 14 cu yd of soil removal. Recall this issue has two root causes: (1) slope of the trail and ditch are very flat; and (2) the neighbor above and abutting the trail regraded for a driveway without proper runoff control. I hope the second problem is done and we won't see any more new silt infiltration.

Ron G motioned, George S-2nd, Unanimous approval

- **Kombi purchase - Don Hahn.** Work crews from the Fosters cache have been trimmer limited. Request expenditure of up to \$700. Price for a Kombi motor, 2 trimmer heads, 10 plastic inserts for attachments and 5 pole saw chains add up to \$670. That plus the 10% discount we get at Loveland Hardware gives some wiggle room for price or item adjustments.

Don H motioned, Bruce C -2nd, Unanimous approval

- **Bump grinding - Don Hahn.** Request expenditure of up to \$1,000. Should be adequate since scarifier rental is \$300 per week plus 10% damage waiver plus gas, mileage and other minor expenses like paint for marking.

Don H motioned, George S -2nd, Unanimous approval

- **Honeysuckle spraying by Jim Mason - Don Hahn.** Trail between South Lebanon to slightly south of Miamiville will be sprayed. Price is \$2250. Based on 1.5 days of work. ODNR to supply herbicide required herbicide (glyphosate or Acqua Neat) .

Don H motioned, Ron G -2nd, Unanimous approval

- **Signs for Kiosks – Janet Slater.** \$350 requested for signs that say “Little Miami State Park” which will be placed just above the kiosk display boards. These are requested by Melissa/ ODNR.

Janet S motioned, Steve S -2nd, Motion was approved 5 to 3

Next Board Meeting -

October 11, 2017, 7pm. Wayne Twp Administration Building, 6050 N. Clarksville Road,

Waynesville, OH 45068

Meeting Adjournment:

George S motioned, Don H -2nd,