

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park
General Board Meeting 8/9/2023
MS Teams Video Conference
Meeting Agenda & Presentation
Meeting Minutes**

Minutes

Motions

Actions

AGENDA / STRATEGIC PLAN.

1. Introductions
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Treasurer's Report
4. ODNR Report
5. Presentation - Near-South Section Maintenance
6. Volunteer Management
7. Trail Condition & Drainage
8. Amenities/Convenience
9. Beauty
10. Outreach
11. Safety
12. FLMSP Administrative Business

Call to Order: Dick Feldmann

Introduction of Board:

Red - present

Dick Feldmann

President

Ron Gorley

Vice President

Becky Retzer

Treasurer

Bill Brown

Secretary

Larry Bloomfield

Member at Large

Bruce Cortright

Member at Large

Fritz Buschmann

Member at Large

Mike Norman

ODNR

Casey Marcum

ODNR

Introduction of Members and Guests:

Approval of Minutes: Bill Brown

- July Board Meeting, distributed July 19th.

MOTION: Bill made motion to approve June 19th minutes

Fritz seconded

Motion Approved

Treasurer's Report, Becky Retzer

FLMSP CASH ON HAND	06/30/23	07/31/23	
Unrestricted	145,555	148,590	3,035
Restricted	16,357	17,375	931
Memorial Benches	0	1,105	1,105
Morrow Rest & Info Station	6,357	6,270	-87
Grandin Rest & Info Station	10,000	10,000	0
Reserved	259	259	-
Pollinator Garden	259	259	-
Savings Account	72,521	42,531	-29,990
CD(s)	50,657	80,820	30,163
Receivables			
Total	162,171	166,224	

Treasurer Narrative: Becky Retzer

- Financial Statements for July sent to board on July 7th.
- Opened another CD 30K
 - Huntington – 7 month @ 4.85%
- Opening Tax Exempt Status
 - Working on a policy so there is consistency and easy access for other volunteers who may want to use tax exempt status at particular vendor.
- Constant Contact from 95/month to 110/month
- YTD Steve Murphy memorials & bequest: 21,840.00
- Fermann Staun & Company: 990 will be under review by next week.

MOTION: Dick made a motion to approve Rick Forrester's expense report: \$800.

Bill seconded

Motion approved

ODNR, Mike Norman, Casey Marcum

Middletown Rd. Bridge

- MM 16.5
- Failing, Possible closure.

Root Pop through pavement at MM33.0

- Section of trail cut out and backfilled with crushed rock and fines.
- ? Plans for blacktop?
- **ACTION: Who did this work? Dick says FLMSP didn't do it and Mike says ODNR didn't either. Dick will investigate.**

- **Follow up by Dick after Board meeting: After the meeting: Fritz helped figure out that the repair work was performed by the FLMSF Thursday Mid-South crew and that they are scheduled to add blacktop patch on the next Thursday with good weather. Mike has been informed and Casey is in touch with the Thursday crew.**
- Motion to hire arborist to remove offending tree, Feldmann. **No motion made.**

ACTION: Dick will call Shawnee Tree service to get a quote and Casey will show Dick where it is.

Little Miami River State Park – Park by the Numbers

- Is there a park re-organization or name change in the works?
- **Mike: The brochure referred to by Dick is made by every ODNR park and it has been labeled that way since 2014. No name change in the works for Little Miami State Park. It seems to be a mistake.**

ODNR Budget

- What finally passed?
- **85% of the original budget was put back in by the State Senate.**
- **15% loss seems small, but is significant.**

O'Bannon bridge

- Emergency maintenance procedures in-place to keep bridge open.
- **Project starts in Oct. 2023. No adjustments to that date.**

Trail slip at MM 50, Glendale-Milford Rd.

- No change

Trail slip at MM 22, I-71 Jeremiah Morrow Bridge

- No change
- Mike, ODNR Engineers and ODOT continuing discussions a long-term solution to correct the issue.
- **When using federal dollars, a safe detour is required. Some of these projects don't have a safe detour available. That is the discussion happening now. Mike is not willing to make recommendations for an unsafe detour.**
- **A deep budget dive is happening tomorrow (Friday).**

Additional Topics:

- **Volunteer Applications: Mike suggests a virtual meeting or sit down to go through paperwork to make sure everything is properly filed. No major issue, just need to get it taken care of.**
- **Casey and Carol will be just back to those two since summer help is going back to school.**
- **Mike has directed Casey to remove the memorials erected on the trail that are improperly on state property.**

- He also stated that groups on the trail organizing without ODNR permission will be told to stop. Dial #ODNR if we see any of these activities.
- Mike feels the trail is in good shape going into the Fall season.

ACTION: Mike is going to forward the “Park Emergency Procedures Sheets” they have for other parks that have information that is probably not applicable to the LMSP. Dick will look at them with the purpose of maybe developing a LMSP specific sheet.

FLMSP PRESENTATION

Far-South Section Maintenance, Bruce Cortright, Bill Brown

- Loveland to south park boundary (North of Avoca Park)
- Strong Leadership
 - Bruce Cortright – Trail Maintenance Coordinator
 - Linda Buschman – Blowing Crew Lead
- Active Volunteers
 - Meet and work trail every ?? **(Mon. & Wed.)** morning.
- **Refer to the “FLMSP South Maintenance Crew Report” presentation made to the board.**

Havill Property, Camp Dennison, Dick Feldmann

- Project was approved by ODNR Office of Real Estate and Land Management August 1st, 2022. But no one thought to inform FLMSL or Mr. Havill until Mike’s efforts August 1st, 2023.
- Talked with Jim Ankrom, ODNR Office of Real Estate and Land Management. They are prepared to take ownership of the property from us. He will directly handle the title transfer from FLMSP to ODNR.
- Talked with D’Arcy Havill. He is working with his lawyer on deed restrictions.
 - Neighbors very concerned about the site being an attractive nuisance.
 - There will be some form of “No Build” restriction on the property.
 - They want the land kept as green space.
- Becky talking to Performance Title Company. Cost to handle the deed and filing: \$242.50.
- **A Kiosk, shelter or gazebo would probably not be allowed per the deed restrictions.**
- **Bruce says some of the neighbors told him a gazebo would be nice. Dick says Bruce should tell them to talk to Mr. Havill to express their opinion.**
- **Mike says the State is reluctant to lock itself into property with deed restrictions with no discretion to act in the best interests of the taxpayer.**
- **Dick feels FLMSP should not accept this property donation until we are sure the State will accept us donating it to them. More discussion with Mr. Havill and the neighbors required.**
- **Bruce: There is a big tree on the property that partially fell recently and Mr. Havill had it removed. Much of the tree is still there and will need to be removed. Bruce estimates \$2000 to remove it.**

- **Mike talked to Mr. Havill and he said he wants to give to FLMSP so he gets tax deduction and wants a deed restriction that limits what can be done to the property. Mike said ODNR will be reluctant to accept it with the deed restriction.**

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

Proposed Future Volunteer Events, Linda Buschmann

- Fall Volunteer Recognition Picnic
 - September 10th, 2:00-5:00
 - Morgan's Riverside Campgrounds
 - Food to be donated by vendors
 - Budget, \$200 for paper products utensils, condiments, etc.
 - **Couple more gifts donated this week**
- Holiday Gift
 - Looking for a gift cert for a pie or equivalent food item

Volunteer Status, Dick Feldmann

- No report

TRAIL CONDITION & DRAINAGE

Tree fall

- Extensive tree fall's across trail this year
 - July 18th, some 20 trees came down between Roxanna and Oregonia. Additional trees further south.
- Hot Line crews and state staff very active.

King Ave/Grandin Rd/Peters Cartridge factory

- Trail Closure at Peters Cartridge
- From Warren County website:
 - Grandin Road open.
 - King Avenue closed through December.
 - Bike trail closed through December.



Volunteer Activities

- Crack Filling at MM 5.0
- Crack Filling in Morrow
- Painting Morrow kiosk
- Fill tree water bladders in Morrow
- Trimming of the sides and overhead canopy
- Building up trail slump north of Fosters
- Filling in depression north of Monkey Bar parking
- Spread fresh top soil around recent construction around Morrow restrooms and planted grass seed
- Set stone step path in front of Morrow trail station

AMENITIES/CONVENIENCE

Memorial Benches

MOTION: Dick made a motion to approve up to \$3,000 for the purchase of 2 memorial benches, and the receipt of \$2,000 for a memorial bench for Tim Lask & \$2,000 for a memorial bench for Thomas Yoder.

Fritz seconded

Motion approved.

Note: This motion was previously made via an email exchange between board members, but was not completely resolved. This motion was successfully approved by a quorum of the board at this meeting.

Morrow, Dick Feldmann, Becky Retzer

- Rest and information station going into Phegley Park in 2023 paid for by Appletree Pet Clinic.
- Status – kiosk & bench
 - Bench installed.
 - The kiosk structure is built and stained. Display case doors installed. Next Step: Fabricate and install corkboard, Populate with information.
- Pollinator garden needs re-planted.

MOTION: Dick made a motion at Becky's request to approve \$450 for plant replacement.

Bill seconded

Motion approved



- Trees
 - Rick's Wednesday work crew actively watering.
 - Trees have come back.

BEAUTY

Pollinator Gardens, Becky Retzer, Rick Forrester

- MM 19.9 Oregonia Pollinator Prairie is growing well. Lots of pollinators working garden.
- MM 39 under power lines growing well. Rick has developed a system to draw water from river and water garden.

Park Entry Signs, Dick Feldmann

- Proposing new signage at all entry points.
- Received Buckeye Trail logo from Association.
- Currently surveying every intersection (46 intersections, two set of entry signs at each intersection) and creating a pictural inventory of the signs at the intersections. Have completed capturing pictures of every intersection.

OUTREACH

Funding from Legislature, Ron Gorley

- For pavement replacement
- Draft has been sent to DSD Advisors, LLC, Warren County legislators capital request project manager.

Warren County Stakeholders Meetings, Dick Feldmann

- SR 48 Over Little Miami River Stakeholder Meeting
 - Tuesday July 18th
 - Missed meeting because of 20 downed trees on trail.
 - But sent an e-mail with my request they minimize trail closure during and construction.

ODOT *Bicycle, Pedestrian & Micromobility Law Guide.*

Risk Management: Lessons Learned from Near-Misses on the Trail and in Trail Work, Larry Bloomfield

- **There is currently no way to report a near miss on the trail. This is for either a trail user or trail worker.**
- **Dick says our first method is dial #ODNR.**

SAFETY

Lots of rain. Lots of trees coming down. Lots of biting insects.

FLMSP ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Nothing of note

FUTURE GENERAL BOARD MEETINGS

September Board Meeting will be Wednesday September 13th in person at First Financial Bank, 9660 Mason Montgomery Road, Mason, Right off of Interstate 71.

MOTION: Dick made a motion to adjourn.

Fritz seconded

Meeting adjourned