

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park
General Board Meeting 9/13/2023
First Financial Bank
Meeting Minutes**

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:

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:

- Caden Sauerbrey, Naturalist, ODNR

Approval of Minutes: Bill Brown

- August Board Meeting, distributed August 12th.
 - o Final changes have not been made; will move to approve next month.

Treasurer's Report, Becky Retzer

FLMSP CASH ON HAND	07/31/23	08/31/23	
Unrestricted	148,590	146,420	-2,170
Restricted	17,375	18,672	1,297
Memorial Benches	1,105	3,105	2,000

Morrow Rest & Info Station	6,270	5,567	-703
Grandin Rest & Info Station	10,000	10,000	0
Reserved	259	259	-
Pollinator Garden	259	259	-
Savings Account	42,531	42,533	2
CD(s)	80,820	81,337	517
Receivables			
Total	166,224	165,351	-873

P&L Comparison	YTD 8/2022	YTD 8/2023
Revenue	32,233	57,499
Expenses	36,686	48,992
Net Operating Revenue	-4,453	8,507

Treasurer Narrative, Becky Retzer

- Financial Statements for August sent to board on September 11th.
- Fermann Staun & Company, CPA – Expecting 990 in next couple weeks.
- Becky - Motion to approve ongoing receipt and expenditure for Memorial Bench in & out of temporary restricted fund. Overages will be transferred into the general fund.
 - o Passed by email vote on 8/31/2023
 - Gorley (Seconded) - Cortright, Buschmann, Brown, Bloomfield approved.
 - o Any change to the amount of \$2,000 will be approved by the Board.
- Dick - Motion to approve purchase of 2 steel plates & signage up to \$2,000.00
 - o Bridge failing at MM 16.5 Corwin Rd. and Middletown Rd.
 - o Passed by email vote on 8/18/2023
 - Gorley (Seconded) - Brown, Buschmann, Retzer, Cortright (8/23) approved.
 - Total was 2,290.10. Ron Gorley approved overage of 290.10
 - o Expense breakout
 - Steel plates - \$1700
 - Safety signs - \$504
 - 2 “Bump”
 - 2 “Steel Plates Ahead”
 - A&A Safety
 - Non-Skid Paint - \$86
 - o All stay in stock for future bridges.
- Becky - Motion to approve Rick Forrester’s expense report
 - o Passed by email vote on 9/6/2023
 - o Approve and by Bloomfield, Cortright, Gorley, Brown, Buschmann, Feldmann

- Motion to move from Restricted Morrow to Reserved Grandin \$3,000.
Tabled until next meeting
- Motion to move from Restricted Morrow to General Operating Unrestricted \$2,567. **Tabled until next meeting**

ODNR, Mike Norman, Casey Marcum

Naturalist

- Caden Sauerbrey
 - **Caden has viewed the park and has invited FLMSP to sit down with him to go over future events, plans and how best to get the community involved.**
 - **Caden is planning on coming to our volunteer picnic/**

Middletown Rd. Bridge

- MM 16.5
- Trail was closed at bridge for couple weeks.
- Trail now temporarily reopened. Steel plates purchased by FLMSP and installed by Casey and Caesars Creek crew allow safe crossing of the bridge.
- Contractor hired for bridge deck replacement this fall before blacktop operations close for the season.



O'Bannon bridge

- Emergency maintenance procedures in-place to keep bridge open.
- Project kickoff meeting scheduled second half of September.
- Trail to be closed starting in October.
 - **On schedule - ODNR is working on encroachments**

Volunteer Agreements

- Meeting with Mike Norman, Dick Feldmann, Lisa Miller on Sep 8th.
- Discussed transfer of Volunteer Agreements from FLMSP to ODNR and missing agreements.
- Dick worked with Lisa to get all the agreements transferred and up to date.
- New procedures established.

Religious Outreach happening on trail

- Call to #ODNR sometime before August 26th unsatisfactory.
- Policy is still, if there is a safety issue being caused by the religious outreach, then still call #ODNR and let them know.

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.
- Trying to resolve a requirement for a detour during the work where no appropriate detour is available.

Havill Property, Camp Dennison, Dick Feldmann

- Dick informed Mr. Havill by e-mail of park management desire to not have a restriction on the property.
- I'm stepping back but will support project after park management and Mr. Havill work out an agreeable solution for all parties.

Other: A Natural Resource Officer is being assigned to the Little Miami State Park Tree Blitz will take place this Fall.

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

Fall Volunteer Recognition Picnic, Dick Feldmann

- Sunday September 10th, 2:00-4:30 at Morgan's Riverside Campgrounds
- 40 attendees
- Food from Kroger
- Gift for each volunteer
- Big thanks to Linda Buschmann for putting it all together.

Proposed Future Volunteer Events, Linda Buschmann via Dick Feldmann

- Holiday Gift
- **Partner with Corporate LaRosa's**



- **LaRosa's Actual Cost**
 - Large 2 topping pizza \$17.99 each x 115 volunteers = \$2068.85
- **Corporate LaRosa's is willing to partner with FLMSF at a cost of**
 - Large 2 topping pizza \$10.00 each x 115 volunteers = 1150.00
 - Postage .66 x 115 = \$75.90
- **Total Proposed \$1225.90**
 - LaRosa's would supply the certificates.
 - We need to purchase postage, address and mail the certificates.
 - Certificates would be valid at any LaRosa's.
 - **Dick is checking into the possibility of sending out an email. Mike Norman Mentioned that many volunteers would most like enjoy receiving actual mail.**

Volgistics, Becky Retzer

- Obtained 5 additional ODNR forms for current volunteers (via phone calls & picnic)
- Onboarded 3 new volunteers
- Contacted 8 applicants during the months of July/August
- Sent out email announcing VicNet app for smart phones
- Actively recruiting new volunteer to take over the onboarding process & to enter 2023 hours from website.

Volunteer Status, Dick Feldmann, Don Schweitzer

- 123 active volunteers
- 2-22 ODNR Volunteer Form
 - 89+ have completed the latest ODNR volunteer form
 - E-mail went out Sunday to 24 requesting completion of the new form
 - Some resolved with 5 forms obtained at picnic.
- There are no longer one-time or group volunteer forms. All volunteers have to complete the 2-22 ODNR Volunteer Form

Whole Foods, Becky Retzer

- Coordinating group from Whole Foods to work with Bruce on Wednesday, September 13th in Loveland.
 - **Bruce had 12-13 come to work and kept the group busy for about 2 hours.**

TRAIL CONDITION & DRAINAGE

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

- Looking for a volunteer to head up either evening or weekend work sessions once a month.
- **Dick will reach out to Rick to see if he can recommend a volunteer.**

AMENITIES/CONVENIENCE

Memorial Benches, Ron Gorley, Becky Retzer

- Working the orders for additional benches.
 - o **Ron Gorley questioned ODNR where the Grandin bench is located which was removed when the work began.**

Morrow, Dick Feldmann, Becky Retzer

- Finished up amenities.
- Pollinator garden is in and being watered 2x a week.
- Trees need to be weeded, edged, mulched & new water bags.
Becky will send out an invite to volunteers who are available

These park improvements
were provided through a
generous donation by

**Appletree
Pet Clinic**

Deer Park, Ohio

Friends of the
Little Miami State Park

during the evening/weekend to see about doing the weeding/edging next week.

- o **Becky will contact Carol to let her know their 3 panels are ready to be filled.**





BEAUTY

Pollinator Gardens, Becky Retzer, Rick Forrester

- MM 19.9 Oregonia Pollinator Prairie
 - Rethinking about planting seeds again - looking into an educational garden area that would represent what native Americans would be using for medicinal, dyes, food.
- MM 39 under power lines

Park Entry Signs, Dick Feldmann

- No change – Hope to get back on this project this fall and winter.
- Proposing new signage at all entry points.
- 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 Matt Davis, DSD Advisors, LLC, Warren County legislators capital request project manager.
- Project vetting process expected to start in December.
 - o Ron will send a copy to Mike Norman.

SAFETY

Transitioning into fall. Hopefully it will be a calm fall. Watch out for trail users when working on the trail.

FLMSP ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Grants, Becky Retzer

- Writing grant for Warren County for a rain garden in S. Lebanon up to 10K. Due by end of September. Greenfield Farms designing and quoting planting. Bill Newton (Owner) will tag several dead trees that will need to be removed. If awarded the grant, FLMSP must pay upfront for all expenditures for the garden and will be reimbursed by Warren County.

FUTURE GENERAL BOARD MEETINGS

October General Board Meeting will be Wednesday October 11th, 7:00-8:30 PM on MS Teams.

Ron motioned for the meeting to be closed, all approved.