



Meeting Minutes for Meeting of the Park District of Ottawa County

May 16, 2023

Meeting Location: Catawba Island Twp. Community Hall
3307 NW Catawba Rd.
Port Clinton, OH, 43452

The Park District of Ottawa County Meeting was called to order by Judy Indorf at 6:17 PM

1. Roll Call

- a. Gary Kohli Absent
- b. Mike Shadoan Absent
- c. Judy Indorf Present - Y
- d. Jack Madison Present - Y
- e. Betsy Slotnick Present - Y
- f. Jannah Wilson Present – Y
- g. Others
 - 1. Dorthy Baker - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
 - 2. William Baker - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
 - 3. Ken Bogard - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
 - 4. Mary Coffee – Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
 - 5. Harper Cromley – Kleinfelder; exited 7:37 PM
 - 6. Holly Cronau - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
 - 7. Jeff Cronau - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
 - 8. Paul Derry - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
 - 9. Dave Fritz - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
 - 10. Bob Gallagher - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
 - 11. Nora Galagher - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
 - 12. Craig Graham - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
 - 13. John Herold - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
 - 14. Lisa Horman; exited ~7:00 PM
 - 15. Dave Howell – Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
 - 16. Larry Indorf – Danbury Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
 - 17. Jeff Jadwisiak - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
 - 18. Jeff Johns - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
 - 19. Marydana Johns - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
 - 20. John Keefe – Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
 - 21. Barry Kroeger - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
 - 22. Lynn Kroeger - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
 - 23. Carol Kubit - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
 - 24. Geoff Mendenhall - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
 - 25. Nike Mendenhall - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
 - 26. Lawrene Montkowski - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
 - 27. Cherie Oberst - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
 - 28. Bob Osterling - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM

29. Randy Riedmaier - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
30. Herb Roder - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
31. Jackie Roder - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
32. Sherri Roth - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
33. Pam Schraidt - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
34. Brad Schwan - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
35. Anita Selvey - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
36. Bonnie Thomas - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
37. Tim - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
38. Mark Worley - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM
39. Wendy Worley - Catawba Island Twp. citizen; exited ~7:00 PM

2. Minutes for Approval – **Meeting Minutes for May 16, 2023**

Jack Madison moved to approve the minutes for the May 2, 2023 Park District of Ottawa County meeting with the revisions Betsy Slotnick provided to Judy Indorf.

Betsy Slotnick seconded the motion.

A vote was held to approve the motion with the following outcome:

Gary Kohli	Absent
Judy Indorf	Yes
Jack Madison	Yes
Mike Shadoan	Absent
Betsy Slotnick	Yes

The motion carries.

3. Fiscal Report – **Meeting Minutes for May 16, 2023** – No discussion; Fiscal Report given at the first meeting of the month.
4. Public Comment – **Meeting Minutes for May 16, 2023** – The following Public Comments were made prior to the formal start of the meeting;
 - Sherri Roth noted that she walks with her dog most days. She noted that frequently she comes upon others who are walking their dogs off leash. She also noted that not everyone likes dogs and not all dogs like other dogs. She is supportive of the Catawba Islander Trail and Greenway and would enjoy using it, but would be concerned if dogs were not required to be leashed.
 - An unknown person asked what would become of the current on-road bike path along State Route 53 if the multi-use trail is constructed. He noted he is a confident bike rider, rides at higher speeds and does not like to have to navigate walkers, strollers, etc. If he is unable to ride on a path similar to the current path he would likely revert to riding on the road and believes other confident riders would feel the same.
 - Dave Fritz asked what type of surface would be used to construct the multi-use trail. Jannah Wilson replied that it would depend on where the trail is located and the source of funding. Surfaces could range from asphalt, a permeable hard surface, crushed gravel or even a boardwalk in sensitive places.

The following Public Comments were made after the formal start of the meeting during the Public Comment period:

- John Keefe complimented the Park District and Kleinfelder on the quality of the Draft Catawba Islander Trail and Greenway Master Plan, noting it contained a lot of good information. He noted however, that the plan does not note or discuss that the Park District talked or worked with ODOT on improving the existing bike path along State Route 53. He requested that this option be looked at more closely and even consider lowering the speed limit. Jannah Wilson noted that the Park District meets with ODOT quarterly and the Final

Master Plan document will include notes from our discussions with ODOT regarding the bike path along State Route 53.

- David Howell noted that he previously asked the Park District what distance the multi-use trail would be from private property, orchards that are sprayed, etc. He noted that he walked all four route options included in the Draft Master Plan, noting that Option 1 which routes the multi-use trail north of Union St. is quite close to some houses. Option 2 is in the Right of Way, but it isn't clear where the boundary of the Right of Way is relative to houses. Option 3 is right next to his friend's house. Option 4 is also in the Right of Way. David asked if the Ottawa County Commissioners, Catawba Island Twp. Trustees and Catawba Island Twp. Park District are supportive of the multi-use trail. The board and Jannah replied that the Ottawa County Commissioners have not formally voiced an opinion, but when the Ottawa County Active Transportation Plan was completed, the commissioners gave the Park District the remit to begin to work toward implementing the intent of the Active Transportation Plan. The Point Preserve and the Meadows are under the jurisdiction of the Twp. Trustees, so whether the trail could be routed through these areas would be the decision of the trustees.
- Sheri Roth noted she spoke prior to the start of the meeting regarding dogs on the multi-use trail.
- Ken Bogard indicated he would like to know how the multi-use trail will begin and end and what type of barriers we would use near private property. Jannah Wilson noted various types of manmade and natural barriers can be used and she showed the attendees the posters she brought which are renditions of potential trail designs, particularly along State Route 53. Ken indicated he does not want the multi-use trail to go near his house. He noted that the Park District is spending a lot of money in Catawba Island Twp. which is allegedly the wealthiest township in Ottawa County. He believes the Park District should spend money across the entire county. Ken also commented that E-bikes would be allowed on the multi-use trail and this would likely evolve to golf carts on the trail. The board and Jannah Wilson responded that we will not allow golf carts on the Catawba Islander Trail and Greenway.
- Jeff Johns thanked the Park District for developing the four options for the Catawba Islander Trail and Greenway, specifically noting the research done on the options. He agrees with the comments that Option Four would have safety and drainage concerns.
- An unnamed attendee asked how golf carts would be managed. He noted that Northwest Catawba Rd. was recently widened and a narrow bike path could have been added rather than widening the road
- Jeff Jadwisiak noted that the Park District is spending money in many other parts of the county, noting we awarded a grant for the restrooms being constructed in Genoa's Veterans Memorial Park and also awarded a grant to Oak Harbor for the development of their riverfront. Jannah Wilson responded that we also funded an Eagle Scout project to construct a kayak launch on the Little Portage River. Judy Indorf noted that the Park District has provided grant money across the entire county.
- Bill Baker commented that he walked the North Coast Inland Trail in Lindsey this past fall and stopped at the houses along the trail to ask for their thoughts regarding the trail. He noted that where people wanted trees, trees were planted to border the trail. He also noted that all of the homeowners along the trail that he talked to liked and enjoyed the trail. One resident said they were "tickled to death" with the trail and no one indicated they were unhappy with it.

- An unnamed attendee wondered if we should conduct a straw poll in Catawba to better gauge interest. He noted that Catawba has two roads onto and off the island, thus very busy roadways. He noted that in addition to traffic, there are many boats coming and going and it's unsafe for families and kids to ride on State Route 53.
- Brad Schwan asked if the Park District had a conversation regarding the multi-use trail with the Ottawa County Engineer and the Township Trustees. Jack Madison and Jannah Wilson replied that they met with the Ottawa County Engineer to discuss the concept of the multi-use trail, the challenges and to brainstorm ideas. Jack and Jannah noted that the county engineer had a concern with crossing a road at a point away from an intersection, i.e. the engineer prefers roads to be crossed at an intersection where traffic stops. Jack and Jannah also noted they met with the Catawba Island Twp. Safety Services (EMS, Police and Fire). These groups made recommendations including the need for the trail to be wide enough to accommodate emergency vehicles and for a turnaround point to be included for emergency vehicles. The Catawba Twp. Police voiced concern with keeping golf carts off the trail and making areas of vehicular congestion safe, particularly pedestrians in the congested areas.
- Pam Schraidt asked why we need this multi-use trail. She noted Catawba Island Twp. has six parks, restaurants and other amenities. The multi-use trail will cut through neighborhoods and the board needs to be respectful of the property owners.
- Dorthy Baker noted that Marcy Kaptur (U. S. Representative for Ohio's 9th Congressional District) and D. J. Swearingen (State Representative for Ohio's 89th House District) are getting federal and state tax dollars for a project at the Put-in-Bay airport and a project associated with the former Lonz Winery on Middle Bass Island. Construction equipment for these projects will be moved down State Route 53 to the Miller Ferry, making State Route 53 busier with construction equipment and vehicles.
- An unnamed attendee commented you can't walk on State Route 53, drivers can hardly see bikes and it's not safe for kids.
- Pam Schraidt asked, "Is this going to happen no matter what?", noting people should just use the parks that already exist.
- An unnamed attendee replied that walking on a trail in a park is different from walking on a multi-use trail, they serve different purposes.
- Brad Schwann and David Howell again noted their concern with spraying while people are using the trail.
- An unnamed attendee asked. "Could the trail be closed during periods of spraying?"
- A number of people noted that. "Yes, the trail could be closed during periods of spraying."
- Quinten Smith commented that he has a vision, some may like it and some may not, but listening to what has been said, he believes we are all working toward the same goal – to preserve some of Catawba. He also noted that the young parents with children are not represented here tonight because they are home taking care of their kids, but they need a safe place to ride bikes and walk as a family.
- Jannah Wilson explained that in June or July the board will approve the final version of the Master Plan. After the final version is completed, the board will select the preferred route based on the information collected in the development of the Master Plan. Upon selection of a preferred route, preliminary engineering will begin to develop ROW plan.
- Ken Bogard gave a letter he wrote regarding the Catawba Islander Trail and Greenway to Jannah Wilson asking that it be included in the minutes. Ken's letter has been scanned and is included at the end of the minutes document.

5. Executive Director's Report – **Meeting Minutes for May 16, 2023:**

- See the NCIT/Genoa/Elmore section for discussion regarding the NCIT/Genoa/Elmore.
- See the Friends of Ottawa County Parks section for discussion regarding the Friends of Ottawa County Parks.
- See the Portage River Water Trail section for discussion regarding the Portage River Water Trail.

6. Old Business

- a. North Coast Inland Trail/Genoa/Elmore - **Meeting Minutes for May 16, 2023** – Jannah Wilson requested the board approve Resolution 2023-013 Memorandum of Understanding, Ottawa County Engineer and Park District of Ottawa County, North Coast Inland Trail US Bike Route 30 Signage. The resolution gives Jannah the authority to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ottawa County Engineer and the Park District of Ottawa County agreeing to work together to install and maintain the proper signage along the NCIT US Bike Route 30 in Ottawa County.

Jack Madison moved to approve Resolution 2023-013 Memorandum of Understanding, Ottawa County Engineer and Park District of Ottawa County, North Coast Inland Trail US Bike Route 30 Signage.

Betsy Slotnick seconded the motion.

A vote was held to approve the motion with the following outcome:

Gary Kohli	Absent
Judy Indorf	Yes
Jack Madison	Yes
Mike Shadoan	Absent
Betsy Slotnick	Yes

The motion carries.

A copy of the resolution can be found in the resolution archive.

Jannah Wilson also noted that she included two draft agreements, one between the Park District of Ottawa County and the Village of Elmore and the other between the Park District of Ottawa County and the Village of Genoa for the board's review and comments. The agreements define how the villages and the Park District will work together to construct, operate and maintain the NCIT once it is transferred from the Ottawa County Commissioners to the Park District of Ottawa County. Judy Indorf indicated that she thought the agreements should better define how the section of the trail along Martin Williston Rd. will be managed.

b. North Coast Inland Trail/Genoa/Millbury – **Meeting Minutes for May 16, 2023** – No discussion.

- c. Catawba Islander Trail and Greenway – **Meeting Minutes for May 16, 2023** – See the Public Comment section for discussion regarding the Catawba Islander Trail and Greenway.h
- d. Portage River Water Trail – **Meeting Minutes for May 16, 2023** – Jannah Wilson reminded the board that the Little Portage River Kayak Launch ribbon cutting ceremony will be on May 25, 2023 at 9:00 AM at the launch site.
- e. Marblehead Peninsula – **Meeting Minutes for May 16, 2023** – No discussion.
- f. Property/Road/Sidewalk/Trail Opportunities in the Oak Harbor Area – **Meeting Minutes for May 16, 2023** – No discussion.
- g. Davis Besse Railroad Opportunity - **Meeting Minutes for May 16, 2023** – No discussion.

- h. Friends of Ottawa County Parks – Meeting Minutes for May 16, 2023 – Jannah Wilson noted the next meeting of the Friends of Ottawa County Parks will be May 24, 2023 at 6:00 PM at the Park District office.

7. New Business

- a. Board Member Comments – **Meeting Minutes for May 16, 2023** – No discussion.

8. Executive Session – **Meeting Minutes for May 16, 2023**

Jack Madison moved that the board go into Executive Session at 7:17 PM for the purpose of discussing Real Estate in Ottawa County. The board invited Harper Cromley into Executive Session.

Betsy Slotnick seconded the motion.

A vote was held to approve the motion with the following outcome:

Gary Kohli	Absent
Judy Indorf	Yes
Jack Madison	Yes
Mike Shadoan	Absent
Betsy Slotnick	Yes

The motion carries.

Jack Madison moved that the board exit Executive Session at 7:54 PM.

Betsy Slotnick seconded the motion.

A vote was held to approve the motion with the following outcome:

Gary Kohli	Absent
Judy Indorf	Yes
Jack Madison	Yes
Mike Shadoan	Absent
Betsy Slotnick	Yes

The motion carries.

9. Adjournment – **Meeting Minutes for May 16, 2023**

Judy Indorf moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:55 PM

Jack Madison seconded the motion.

A vote was held to approve the motion with the following outcome:

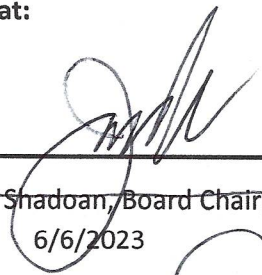
Gary Kohli	Absent
Judy Indorf	Yes
Jack Madison	Yes
Mike Shadoan	Absent
Betsy Slotnick	Yes

The motion carries.

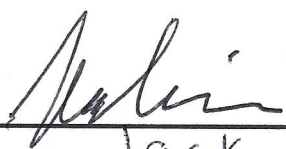
Next regular meeting will be Tues June 6, 2023 at the Ottawa County Agriculture Building, 240 W. Lake St., Oak Harbor, OH 43449

Next working meeting will be Tues June 20, 2023 at the Grinley Aquatic and Wellness Campus, E. 6th St., Lakeside, OH 43440


I attest the meeting minutes have been approved by the Board of Park Commissioners in a public format:



Mike Shadoan, Board Chairperson
6/6/2023



Jack Madison



Jannah Wilson, Executive Director-Secretary
6/6/2023

Catawba Island Township Community Hall

May 16, 2023

I was last here on October 26, 2022 to speak in opposition to the trail plan proposed by the Ottawa County Parks District.

My message is the same as before. By definition, the Parks Board is supposed to be a **PARKS** board and **NOT a TRAIL board**. Their primary function is to build or improve parks in Ottawa County. Of course, an adjunct function is the active Transportation Plan, which means aiming to link **all** parts of the County by hiking, biking, walking or running trails **WITHOUT THE USE OF MOTORIZED VEHICLES**. I have learned, to my dismay, that E-BIKES may be used on trails. That is to say a vehicle powered by an electric motor! Electric powered vehicle you say? You mean like a golf cart? You mean like Put-In-Bay where you can go bar to bar in a golf cart?

Much has been made of the idea that the bike path on Rt. 53 is dangerous. You face danger every time that you bike on a trail or along side a highway. And so, in Phase One, it appears that little is said about how a trail is going to proceed off highway beyond Schoolhouse Rd. **I know the answer**. The trail route proceeding south, for instance, will BE FORCED to go back out onto the bike trail alongside Rt. 53. There are barriers that will not allow a trail to go through the center of this township without, at some point, reverting back to the Rt. 53 bike trail.

First of all, many property owners in the path of the proposed trail have said they are not going to allow a trail on their property. Secondly, (if this ever gets past Phase One) Phase Two, Three, Four, etc. are undefined. There is no complete plan that has been presented to us. It appears that as of now, a trail from Catawba Point down south to the area of Gideon Owen needs to be a zig zag route of going off highway, then back out to the Rt. 53 bike path to complete the trip. This is because of what I previously stated about property owners not allowing a trail on their property.

Finally, there are 6 parks in Catawba Township that could be connected by a trail route and this has never been proposed by this organization which is called a Parks Board.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ken Bogard