



Meeting Minutes for the Park District of Ottawa County

April 15, 2025

Meeting Location: Salem Twp. Hall
11650 W Portage River South Rd.
Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449

The Park District of Ottawa County meeting was called to order by Mike Shadoan at 6:00 PM.

1. Roll Call

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| a. Judy Indorf | Present - Y |
| b. Jack Madison | Present - Y |
| c. Trish McCartney | Present - Y |
| d. Mike Shadoan | Present - Y |
| e. Betsy Slotnick | Present - Y |
| f. Jannah Wilson | Present - Y |
| g. Others | |
| i. Chuck Mattimoe – Park District of Ottawa County, Operations Assistant | |
| ii. Jennifer Widmer – Ottawa County Auditor; exit 6:57 PM | |

2. Minutes for Approval – Meeting Minutes for April 15, 2025 –

Trish McCartney moved to approve the minutes for the April 1, 2025 Park District of Ottawa County Meeting with one typo fixed.

Betsy Slotnick seconded the motion.

A voice vote was held with 5 in favor and 0 against.

The motion passes.

3. Financial Report – Meeting Minutes for April 15, 2025 – No discussion. Fiscal Report given at the first meeting of the month.

4. Public Comments – Meeting Minutes for April 15, 2025 – No discussion.

5. Executive Director Report – Meeting Minutes for April 15, 2025 – Jannah Wilson introduced Jennifer Widmer, Ottawa County Auditor, to explain how the amount of funds the Park District of Ottawa County receives each year from our property tax levy is determined. Jennifer provided the board members with a summary of Ottawa County's property tax receipts and disbursements for 2024 and explained which entities' tax revenue receipts within the county are affected by property reappraisals and which are not. Jennifer explained that Ohio House Bill 920 regulates property taxes in the State of Ohio. She noted that taxes paid to most entities for which voters have passed a tax levy stay essentially flat for the life of the levy, with few exceptions. The primary exception is that property taxes increase for new construction for the year the new construction taxes take effect at the new, higher property valuation based on the new construction value. Following the first year, the tax level for the new construction is held flat at the level set at the initial new valuation level. The effect on the Park District of Ottawa County's tax levy receipt is therefore that our receipts remain essentially flat at the amount of tax money we received from property valuations when our levy was first passed, the exception being that new construction will increase our receipts at the new construction valuation level. This therefore means that the Park District of Ottawa County's tax fund receipts will not increase as Ottawa County's property values are increased from reappraisals over the life of our levy, except for valuation increases for new construction. The term used for our type

of levy in which tax fund receipts remain constant is “outside millage” whereas millage for an entity such as a school is termed “inside millage” and their tax fund receipts do increase as the property valuations increase due to reappraisals. Jennifer noted that property values are reappraised for property taxes every 6 years and the next reappraisal will be in 2027, reiterating that the Park District of Ottawa County’s tax fund receipts do not increase with the reappraisals. Jennifer also explained that entities with outside millage can place a “replacement” or “renewal” levy on the ballot during or at the end of their tax levy, or we can place a new levy at a new millage rate on the ballot. A “renewal” levy would mean that our tax receipts would stay at the same level as when the levy was passed previously, again, excepting an increase based on new construction, but not increasing based on new appraisals of property. A “replacement” levy would keep the millage at the same level as the previous levy, but the millage would be applied to the new reappraised property values across Ottawa County. Discussions are currently being held in the state legislature regarding whether to allow “replacement” levies. The board thanked Jennifer for attending our meeting and spending a very generous amount of time explaining Ohio’s tax levy legislation to the board in a very understandable way.

Jannah Wilson noted she included an updated version of the Park District of Ottawa County’s Mission, Vision and 5- and 10-year goals in the board packet, revised to include the comments Jannah received at our previous meetings. She also handed out several new Vision statement options that have been developed since our last meeting. Following discussion, the board suggested that the Mission statement Jannah passed out be modified to add “and recreational” and agreed with removing “scenic and environmental”. The board also agreed with the second Vision statement of the several Jannah handed out to the board. Specifically, the board agreed with the following Mission and Vision statements:

Mission: The Park District of Ottawa County is dedicated to preserving, enhancing, and connecting Ottawa County’s natural and recreational resources for the enjoyment and benefit of all.

Vision: Building a future where nature is accessible, shared and connected to Ottawa County’s communities.

Jack Madison moved the board approve the Mission and Vision statements as agreed above for adoption by the Park District of Ottawa County.

Mike Shadoan seconded the motion.

A voice vote was held with 5 in favor and 0 against.

The motion passes.

Jannah Wilson reported that she contacted GEOACE LLC to explore their capability and interest in developing some maps for the Park District to use primarily on our website. One map discussed is a map of the North Coast Inland Trail through Ottawa County, indicating its continuation east outside of Ottawa County and intent for the trail to continue west. A second map discussed is an interactive map that would illustrate the location of each of the projects constructed through each of the Parks and Trails Improvement Grants the Park District has provided. The map would be interactive and provide a viewer with information regarding each Parks and Trails Improvement Grant project. Jannah provided the board members with a copy of the proposal received from GEOACE LLC, noting they propose to conduct the work described at a cost not to exceed \$3,335.

Mike Shadoan moved the board approve Jannah Wilson to accept the proposal from GEOACE LLC to develop a map of the North Coast Inland Trail and an interactive map illustrating the Parks and Trails Improvement grants awarded by the Park District of Ottawa County for use on the Park District's website at a cost not to exceed \$3,335.

Trish McCartney seconded the motion.

A voice vote was held with 5 in favor and 0 against.

The motion passes.

See Catawba Island Twp. section for related discussion.

See North Coast Inland Trail Genoa/Elmore section for related discussion.

6. New Business – Meeting Minutes for April 15, 2025 –

See Catawba Island Township section for related discussion.

See Friends of Ottawa County Parks section for related discussion.

See Marblehead Peninsula section for related discussion.

7. Old Business – Meeting Minutes for April 15, 2025 –

a. **North Coast Inland Trail Genoa/Elmore - Meeting Minutes for April 15, 2025 –** Jannah Wilson reported that the construction of the separated multi-use path along Martin Williston Rd. is going well and still scheduled to be completed by the end of May 2025.

b. **North Coast Inland Trail Genoa/Millbury – Meeting Minutes for April 15, 2025 –** No discussion.

c. **Catawba Island Township - Meeting Minutes for April 15, 2025 –** Jannah Wilson reported that Catawba Island Township would like to change the scope of the project they were awarded a Parks and Trails Improvement grant to execute. However, Jannah has not yet received the documentation from the township requesting a variance from the Park District to change the scope. Jannah will request the board's approval at a future meeting after she receives the formal request.

Jannah Wilson reported that we will close on the Davenport property on April 30, 2025.

d. **Portage River Water Trail – Meeting Minutes for April 15, 2025 –** No discussion.

e. **Marblehead Peninsula – Meeting Minutes for April 15, 2025 –** Jannah Wilson reported that she will be presenting the Marblehead Peninsula Trail Feasibility Study to the Marblehead Village Council on April 23, 2025 and to the Danbury Township Trustees on May 28, 2025. Jannah noted that she plans to upload the report to the Park District website after these presentations.

f. **Oak Harbor Area – Meeting Minutes for April 15, 2025 –** Mike Shadoan informed the board that the Oak Harbor Development Group and the Chamber of Commerce would like to fund the painting of a mural on the side of the NAPA building in Oak Harbor. They have been working with Black Swamp Conservancy, Kenn Kaufman, author of many bird field guides and Kim Kaufman, both expert birders, and Amy Arent, Executive Director of Friends of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge to design the mural of local wildlife and migratory birds. The building is located at a primary entrance route to the village. Birding during the spring migration draws approximately 80,000 people to Ottawa County and the suggested tour route of the area will pass by the NAPA building. The cost of the mural is estimated to be ~\$57,000.

g. **Friends of Ottawa County Parks – Meeting Minutes for April 15, 2025 –** Jannah Wilson reported that the next Friends of Ottawa County Parks meeting is Wednesday May 14, 2025. They plan to walk the Davenport property on Catawba Island Township.

8. Executive Session – Meeting Minutes for April 15, 2025 – No Executive Session.

- a. At our March 18, 2025 meeting, following Executive Session, the board approved Resolution 2025-12, discussed in the North Coast Inland Trail Genoa/Millbury section.
 - b. At our January 14, 2025 meeting, following Executive Session, the board approved the wage increases for 2025.
9. **Information Items – Meeting Minutes for April 15, 2025** – Jannah Wilson noted that there will be a volunteer event on Earth Day, April 22 from 4:00 – 6:00 to clean-up the NCIT starting in Elmore at the Depot. They have had a good response for volunteers to attend.
- a. **Board Member Comments – Meeting Minutes for April 15, 2025** – Mike Shadoan reminded the board members there is a webinar training/information session regarding board members and tax levies. He will send the link to view the session to the board members.

Trish McCartney told the board that Kenn Kaufman, noted above in the Oak Harbor section, was a consultant for, The Residence, a Netflix comedy, murder series set in the White House in which the lead character is also an avid birder. Kenn consulted on content related to birding.

See Oak Harbor section for related discussion.

10. Adjournment – Meeting Minutes for April 15, 2025 –

Mike Shadoan moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Trish McCartney seconded the motion.

A voice vote was held with 5 in favor and 0 against.

The motion carries.

The next two meetings will be:

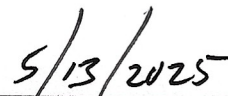
May 13, 2025 at Clay Center Village Hall 420 Main St., Clay Center, OH 43408

AND

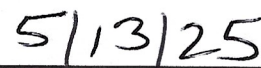
June 10, 2025 at the Village of Marblehead Municipal Services Building 517 W. Main St. Marblehead, OH 43440

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


Michael Shadoan, Board Chairperson


May 13, 2025


Jannah Wilson, Executive Director-Secretary


May 13, 2025