

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park
General Board Meeting 11/13/2024
MS Teams
Meeting Agenda & Presentation-**minutes****

Minutes

Motions

Actions

AGENDA / STRATEGIC PLAN.

1. Introductions
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Treasurer's Report
4. ODNR Report
5. FLMSP Administrative Business
6. Beauty
7. Volunteer Management
8. Amenities/Convenience
9. Trail Condition & Drainage
10. Outreach
11. Safety
12. Future General Board Meetings

Call to Order: Dick Feldmann

Introduction of Board:

Dick Feldmann	President
Ron Gorley	Vice President
Becky Retzer	Treasurer
Bill Brown	Secretary
Rick Forrester	Member at Large
John Telintelo	Member at Large
Bruce Cortright	Member at Large

Introduction of Members and Guests:

Casey Marcum	ODNR
Tiffany DeChant-Hunt	ODNR
Margee Kirkpatrick	
Diane Wright	

Approval of Minutes: Bill Brown

- **Oct.** Board Meeting, distributed October 21, 2024.

MOTION: Bill made a motion to approve Oct. meeting minutes

Dick seconded

Motion Approved

Treasurer's Report: Becky Retzer - INTERIM

FLMSP CASH ON HAND	09/30/24	10/30/24	
Unrestricted	121,774	120,179	-1,595
Restricted	115,541	116,415	874
Memorial Benches	51	0	-51
Pavement Fund*	105,490	106,415	925
Grandin Rest & Info Station	10,000	10,000	0
Savings Account	42,611	42,619	7
CD(s)	159,423	161,132	1,709
Receivables	64	0	-64
Total	237,315	236,594	-721

P&L Comparison	YTD 10/23	YTD 10/24
Revenue	72,451	89,946
Expenses	57,341	64,772
Net Operating Revenue	15,110	25,174

Treasurer Narrative, Becky Retzer

- 990 emailed to Board on 11/4/2024. Rick questioned why the below 2 questions were not marked "no. He also asked about equipment depreciation
- **The boxes have not been checked in past 990 forms.**
- **In the filing to the State the board of directors has been updated.**
- **990 will be published to the FLMSP web page.**
-

MOTION: Dick made a motion to accept the 990 form emailed to the board 11/4/2024

Bruce seconded

Approved

2	Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ?	☐ Yes ☐ No
	If "Yes," describe these new services on Schedule O.	
3	Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services?	☐ Yes ☐ No
	If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O.	
4	Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported.	

- Ohio Charitable Registration filed October 31st.
- CD Renewal Dates: LCNB 04/03/25 4.40%
Huntington 10/13/24 \$31,768.90
(Needs to be renewed, rates below 4%)
Huntington 2 01/29/25 4.88%
- Giving Tuesday falls on December 3, 2024

- Agreed last month to send a general appeal for our operating funds out on Dec. 3rd to the total FLMSF mailing list.
- A capital campaign appeal will be considered the start of 2025.

ODNR, Casey Marcum, Tiffany DeChant-Hunt

Staffing

- Casey
- Putting up signs with Dick
- Casey will look at the dead deer reported on the trail. Casey usually disposes of deer on the trail.
- Bids have been solicited for various bridge repairs.
- Spring Valley bridge, culvert before the horse farm and culvert at Oregonia.
- Tiffany will keep board informed on these projects

Ron on paving:

- \$200K from state legislature
- \$50K from FLMSF
- \$10K donation
- Totaled \$106K currently
- Leaves us \$45K short of what is required
- Request from TriState Trails to Ohio to Erie for \$xxK????

Trail slip at I-71 Jeremiah Morrow Bridge (MM 22.1)

- No change.
- Park staff and ODNR Engineers continuing discussions a long-term solution to correct the issue.
- Very likely trail will have to close during construction. Trying to resolve a requirement for a detour during the work where no appropriate detour is available.

Trail slip at Glady Run (MM 4.5)

- No change.
- Slip is within 2 inches of pavement.
- Glady Run is covered by scenic rivers restrictions.

Trail slip at Glendale-Milford Rd (MM 50)

- No change.

FLMSF ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Funding for pavement replacement, Ron Gorley

- We learned that we received \$200,000 from the Ohio capital budget to repave between South Lebanon and Morrow. (FLMSF has committed \$50,000)
- We started a major campaign out to our Constant Contact list with a goal of \$100,000. Have received ~\$56,000.

- Ron applying for a \$10,000 impact grant from Warren County Foundation.
- Dick submitted a grant request to Cincinnati Cycle Club for \$5,000.
 - Have a tentative promise for \$2,500. But some CCC board members expressed opinion that our rates for blacktop are high. So, also possible we will not receive this grant.
- Becky has a volunteer working on a spreadsheet with approximately 50 large organizations/donors to include with our communication.
- Will research Grant Station for possible donors.
- ODNR researching using the pavement project funds as a basis for a matching grant.
 - The matching grant funds would be used for the park infrastructure, but probably other issues such as pavement slips or bridge replacement rather than repaving.
- ODNR may use an existing paving contract through ODOT.
 - This would speed up the contracting process.
 - Tiffany is meeting with Melissa and will discuss this topic.
 - Becky: We assumed we would be transferring funds to ODNR, but not sure why we need to transfer funds before the project begins.
 - All FLMSF funds will be applied to paving.
 - If we donate it earlier it opens up a matching grant that doubles our funds for the project.
 - Tiffany will take our questions and inform us further after she talks to Melissa this week.
 - Trying to get this down before the end of the state's fiscal year. It should happen quickly.
 - Tiffany will also find out the timeline during this discussion.
 - We prefer ODNR manage this project instead of FLMSF and urge them to be aware of past issues that have occurred. Tiffany and Casey are aware and sensitive to this issue and assured us it will not be repeated.
- ODNR requested a transfer of funds to their accounting.
 - Advantage, they would manage the contracting for the work.
 - Motion, Transfer currently received pavement funds to ODNR
 - \$50,000 from FLMSF committed at the November 2023 board meeting.
 - \$56,000 of restricted donations from pavement campaign.

Purchase of Mini-Excavator, Rick Forrester



Additional Storage at Fosters, Dick Feldmann

- ODNR concerned about future plans to redirect entrance to Monkey Bar parking to other side of restrooms and impact that might have on any storage building.
- Continuing study.
- **Dick hears the time frame is the next 5 years and not the next year.**
- **Monkey Bar has talked about tearing down the barn where our blower is and the excavator will be stored.**
- **Another storage facility may need to be built or a pole barn next to foster's cash or at State land in Morrow.**
- **Melisa Clark told Tiffany the road work and driveway change will include a roundabout at this intersection. This would be a big change to the area.**
- **Tiffany said she could scope out some land for a possible location for a new storage building.**
- **This project will be addressed in 2025.**

EarthShare, Dick Feldmann

- EarthShare is our link into the Federal Combined Federal Campaign and the Ohio Employee Campaign.
- We only received in 2024 \$305 from EarthShare.
- The application for 2025 was due October 31st.
- Because our 990 for 2024, which arrived October 31st, shows Annual Revenue of at least \$100,000, (\$119,368) Earth share is requiring that we submit "either an audit or a review of its fiscal operations completed annually by an independent certified public accountant."

- We haven't done that for several years based on advice from our CPA who didn't believe it was necessary for our size organization.
- I consulted with Ron and Becky and we decided to drop EarthShare for the 2025 campaigns and revisit with our CPA next year.

BEAUTY

S Lebanon Rain Garden, Becky Retzer,

- **Raingarden** – after meeting with Cindy Meyer from Warren County Soil & Water Conservation, there are some additional revisions we need to make to the garden. Bill Newton, Greenfield Nursery plans on completing them this week. This will mean an additional payment will be due.
- **Becky says they are going to build a little swale to drain more of the rain runoff to the rain garden.**
- **Bill will move the Chronolog camera station when the work is done.**

MOTION: Becky made a motion to allocate up to 5,000 for the remaining work & materials to Greenfield Plant Farm.

Bruce seconded

Motion approved

- Only remaining cost will be for printing of poster for the S. Lebanon Kiosk.
- Warren County will provide the below signage to put at the rain garden:
 - o (Donor Appreciation sign???)



- Camera Sign post placed.
 - <https://chronolog.io/site/FLM102>

Pollinator Gardens, Becky Retzer, Rick Forrester

- MM 19.9 Oregonia Pollinator Prairie
 - Working with Christopher on his Eagle Scout Project. Christopher will be presenting a drawing with detail on pathways & garden areas. FLMSP/ODNR will need to spray area once he marks off location.
- MM 39.1 under power lines doing well. New sign supplied by ODNR has been installed at garden.
- New area at MM 38.5.
- **Received a donation from Natorps for any garden or prairie along the trail. We will discuss this at the start of next year.**

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

2024 Volunteer Events, Dick Feldmann

- Winter Volunteer gift
 - o LaRosa's willing to supply gift certificates for 1 2-topping pizza for \$11 per certificate.
 - o Identifying active volunteers as volunteers:
 - Up to date on volunteer agreements and have recorded hours.
 - Known to FLMSPP leaders as supporting FLMSPP and/or park in other roles.
 - Initial count 62 volunteers.

MOTION: Dick made a motion to purchase 75 certificates, gift cards and postage and send them to volunteers. Budget: \$1,050.00

Ron seconded

Motion approved.

AMENITIES/CONVENIENCE

Information Kiosks, Becky Retzer

- John has received the work from the mapographer and is working on adding amenities at each trailhead as well as logos. Each trailhead will have an enlargement of the area to easily read streets. We need to provide link to our website where we want the qr code to land.
- **Can we have a link on the FLMSPP website that goes directly to the trail map? Dick says it can be done.**
- **Becky will send out the map to board members, Tiffany and Casey for critique before it is finalized.**

Portable Restrooms, Dick Feldmann

- Switchover to winter configuration occurred October 30th.

Park Entry Signs, Dick Feldmann

- Proposing new signage at all entry points. Trail has
 - o 45 Intersections – Require full sign in each direction.
 - o 2 Terminations – Already has a large park sign but needs the trail rules signs only in one direction.
- Status
 - o 5 **(Now 7)** out of 14 new or replacement sign posts installed.
 - o Almost all class A intersections have new signs.
 - o Preparing order for additional signs to complete class B intersections.



tree

and

- o Casey said law enforcement advised them that we should put rule signs at every road/trail intersection.

Corwin Parking, Dick Feldmann

- Steve Williamson of Red Barn in Corwin has our approval to purchase the material and increase the bike user parking in Corwin.
- Work hasn't started.

Spring Valley

- Bike Pump broke again. Will need to order new hose and valve connection.

TRAIL CONDITION & DRAINAGE

Blower Teams, Dick Feldmann

- North blower fixed by Ed Kramer. Did not require the remote-control assembly.
- Blowing crews have been keeping up with conditions.

Route 73 Bridge over trail at Corwin (MM 14.5)

- Bike trail open.
- Road: New west bound lane open. East bound lane closed and gone.
- Managed by ODOT District 8.
- <https://www.transportation.ohio.gov/about-us/news/district-8/warren+county+bridge+rehab+project+set+to+begin+on+s.r.+73+02+14+24>
- "The project is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2024."
- Project is continuing into the winter and spring.

Route 42 Bridge over trail at Spring Valley (MM 7.0)

- Trail is open.
- Road: New north bound lane open. South bound lane closed and gone. Forms are up for the south bound lane sub-structure.
- Managed by ODOT District 8.
- <https://www.transportation.ohio.gov/projects/projects/102746>
- "The interim completion for the project is November 2024, and the final completion is June 2025."

Trail slip at I-71 Jeremiah Morrow Bridge (MM 22.1)

- See above.

Trail slip at Glendale-Milford Rd (MM 50)

- See above.

Trail slip at Gladly Run (MM 4.5)

- See above.

Middletown Road area, Rick Forrester

- Part of the trail (north of the intersection about 50 feet) is being undercut by either a collapsed drainage pipe or by groundhogs.

OUTREACH

Miami Valley Regional Active Transportation Committee, Dick Feldmann

- October 18, 2024 in Yellow Springs. Ron and Dick attended.

Train Rail, Rick Forrester

- Working on a trail historical plaque project with Gerry York. One at Fosters and one on the history of Little Miami Railroad. Gretchen and Phil Stone own the Butterworth property (part of Underground Railroad) and may be able to provide information.
- **Met with Gerry York and Don Hahn.**
- **Meeting again next week.**
- **Rick will send out a message to the Thu. crew if they want to be in on the project.**

Cincinnati Cycling Club Annual Banquet, Ron Gorley

- February 2, 2024 **(2025)**, Barrel Room at MadTree in Oakley

MOTION: Bruce made a motion to fund winter servicing of the Kubota tractor for \$400.

Dick seconded

Motion approved

- **Bruce said someone ran into a caution cone at night on the trail. He asked if the park is open at night. Tiffany said they may be open but the user incurs the risk.**
- **Someone is camping out of their truck by the Village Grocery in Miamiville, but not on state property.**
- **Rick is revising the chain saw training manual with current addresses. First edit done today and will be posted on the website after completion. It will be sent to the board, Tiffany and Casey when the final version is ready for review.**
- **24MM bench had a small tree near it that has been cleared to allow mowing behind it.**
- **The excavator and trailer could be stored at the Far South cache at Ernst Concrete.**
- **21MM (Wilmington Road) ditches will be cleared using the excavator. Rick asked if Casey or Tiffany had any concerns. Casey asked to be present during the digging.**
- **Rick: FLMSF website needs updating. Becky will check with Volgistics to see if they have any suggestions.**

SAFETY

FUTURE GENERAL BOARD MEETINGS

No December Board Meeting.

January General Board Meeting, Wednesday, January 8th on MS Teams.

MOTION: Dick made a motion to adjourn

Ron seconded

Meeting adjourned