

MIAMI COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, August 19, 2025
Heritage Hall at Lost Creek Reserve
9 a.m. Meeting Minutes

Present: Dr. Robert Malarkey, Jay Meyer, Elizabeth Gutmann, Scott Myers, Susan Condry, Dale Gade, Chris Thompson, Amanda Smith and Janeen Selanders.

MINUTES – Mrs. Gutmann made a motion to approve the minutes from July 22, 2025, seconded by Mr. Meyer, motion unanimously carried.

BILLS AND RECEIPTS - Mrs. Gutmann made a motion to approve the bills and receipts as presented, seconded by Mr. Meyer, motion unanimously carried.

DONATIONS – Mrs. Gutmann made a motion to accept the donations and volunteer hours as presented, seconded by Mr. Meyer, motion unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. RESOLUTION 1658-25** - Approval transfers 7/23/25-8/12/25 - Mrs. Gutmann made a motion to approve Resolution 1658-25, seconded by Mr. Meyer, motion unanimously carried.
- B. RESOLUTION 1659-25** – Authorize for the Executive Director of the Miami County Park District to apply for a Niels & Ruth Lundgard Foundation/Armotte H. Boyer Foundation grant for the 2026 Hug the Earth Festival Ohio Outdoor Adventure and to accept it if awarded the grant(s) - Mrs. Gutmann made a motion to approve Resolution 1659-25, seconded by Mr. Meyer, motion unanimously carried.
- C. RESOLUTION 1660-25** – Authorization to enter into an agreement with Nitescapes for installation, teardown, service and repair of the light displays at the 2025 Holiday Lights at Lost Creek Reserve at a total cost of \$81,700. Mrs. Gutmann made a motion to approve Resolution 1660-25, seconded by Mr. Meyer, motion unanimously carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Foundation – The Miami County Parks Forever board meets tomorrow

OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Staff Reports
 - a. Deputy Director – Kevin was absent.
 - b. Operations – Dale displayed photos of projects:
The sidewalk has been installed around the Lost Creek Reserve cabin and gravel added leading to the parking lot. He is hopeful the November 4 board meeting will be in the

cabin. Three light poles will be installed along the entrance drive at Lost Creek Reserve soon.

The pond at Stillwater Prairie Reserve has been lowered to clean the muck and cattails improving the habitat conditions and improving fishing access.

Dan & Olivia attended the accreditation program.

Operations helped with the Trail Run Challenges, three National Night Outs and a fishing event hosted by Miami County Law Enforcement.

There was a drainage issue that needed addressed on the bikeway north of Farrington Reserve.

They had a demo of a boom mower, so that may be a future purchase.

Mr. Meyer asked if the staff is instructed to stop mowers as bicyclists or pedestrians pass by equipment. Dale confirmed they are. Susan spoke about bikeway training conducted before bike camps.

- c. Marketing – Amanda said intern HaileeJo is doing good and has already received four scarecrow entries for the Fall Farm Fest.

Amanda is building a connection with the City of Piqua. She is serving on the Active Transportation Committee and will be giving a general park presentation at the Willpower conference. Scott also went to a Piqua meeting they hosted about parks.

Amanda has spoken with Miami County HR and we will likely partner to offer Food Drive Fridays at the Holiday Lights and possibly the Fun Run. This will benefit the local food pantries. Mrs. Gutmann suggested offering a Christmas Light recycle barrel or something like that. Amanda said she will reach out to Miami County Recycles about it.

- d. Environmental Education – Susan said the summer camps went well and all wait listed children were able to attend with the additional staff we had available. She felt this was a great season and the staff seemed to have an extra level of attentiveness. September 2 is the first school program. The pollinator program will be held at Bradford this year. This program includes a garden. Lara Arnett is planning the garden and making sure the past gardens are being maintained.

Mrs. Gutmann added that they recorded 15 species of butterflies at the last walk at Stillwater Prairie Reserve.

- e. Executive – Scott asked Chris to go over the State audit that is currently in progress. It appears they are almost finished.

The remaining Board meeting dates are now September 30, October and November have a combined date of November 4 and December 16.

Scott said the all-staff meeting is August 20. The staff will work in the corn maze prior to the actual meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Property & Personnel - There was no executive session.

Elizabeth Gutmann motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jay Meyer, motion unanimously carried. The meeting was adjourned 9:56 a.m.

J. Scott Myers

Dr. Robert Malarkey