



Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia

Jessie Powers, Executive Director

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Proudly managing the Baileys Trail System in Athens County, Ohio

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Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2023, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Prepared by Emily Sebring, communications@orcaohio.com

ORCA Board Members Present: ORCA Chair City of Athens Mayor Steve Patterson, ORCA Vice-Chair Mayor Amy Renner, York Township Trustee Tim Warren, Buchtel Councilmember Jay Kline (Not present: Nelsonville City Manager, Athens County Commissioner Lenny Eliason)

Others Present: Jessie Powers, Delia Palmisano, Sky Pettey

Meeting Agenda

- Approve Agenda
- Approve March 23, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- Partner Updates
- Legal Updates
- ORCA Board Member Updates
- Financial Report
- Director's Report
- Maintenance Report
- Communications Report
- Public Comments
- Other
- Adjourn

Approve Agenda (Motion: Amy Renner, Second: Steve Patterson; *Approved*)

Approve Minutes from March 23, 2023 (Motion: Amy Renner, Second: Tim Warren; *Approved*)

Partner Updates:

NONE

Legal Updates:

- Sky Pettey
 - Reviewed Ohio dog leashing laws.
 - Wayne National Forest website says leashes in developed areas, Ohio leash law requires your dog on a leash, or have it under reasonable control.



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- Could prosecute people for criminal trespass if they refuse to put their dog on a leash after being asked. If the dog wasn't causing any problems, it couldn't be prosecuted under the leash law.
 - Haven't heard anything from the patent trademark office, may check in myself for any kind of update.
 - Haven't had a chance to look into using Star Brick for a trail name. As understood, there is someone who had gotten some kind of legal protection for Star Brick.
- Jessie Powers
 - Chauncey Trailhead is the only considered designated or developed area according to the Forest Service trails are not included in that definition
 - Amy Renner
 - At our Council meeting last week we approved adding dogs on leashes to the rules, one sign will be in the middle of the park. At a minimum we can add signage at the trailhead.

ORCA Board Member Updates:

- Tim Warren
 - Possible to purchase a false owl to keep birds from making big messes at the Doanville Shelter House
 - Jessie Powers: Yes, and I'd love to have that shelter house boxed in one day

Financial Report:

Jessie Powers, Executive Director

- Balance: \$102,434
- Expenses: \$209,819 - since March this includes grant reimbursements to partners \$93,447 for trail construction and other operating expenses
- Next request for reimbursement from POWER grant will be submitted in June
- Reimbursement from Wayne National Forest for staff time will also be requested soon
- Have yet to deposit city's membership dues
- Request \$1,437.68 Staff Reimbursements mileage and expense reimbursement
 - For Jessie Powers: \$591.69
 - For Elle Dickerman: \$824.38
 - For Delia Palmisano: \$21.61(Motion: Tim Warren, Second: Jay Kline; *Approved*)

(Motion to approve Financial Report: Tim Warren, Second: Jay Kline; *Approved*)

Director's Report:

Jessie Powers, Executive Director

PA Wilds Partnership



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- PA Wilds was the only outdoor recreation organization awarded an EDA Build Back Better grant, that provided half a million dollars for planning for economic development. Would like to submit an ARC ARISE Grant in partnership with ORCA for one component of their EDA planning, integrating technology into rural outdoor recreation economies.
 - Grant would evaluate how we could in rural areas use technology to improve 1. Visitation and business-to-consumer (B2C) sales 2. Supply chains and business-to-business (B2B) sales 3. Harnessing Impact Data 4. Access to capital 5. Stewardship 6. Workforce.
 - Grant funds would cover our travel. We are not providing any match as of now, because my salary is already matching our ARC power grant.
- Request board authorization to partner with PA Wilds and submit a planning proposal tomorrow, pending board approval.
(Motion: Amy Renner, Second: Steve Patterson; *Approved*)

ORCA Expansion of Services to the Region

- Because the ARC power grant is already providing benefits to the communities outside Athens County, such as the ORCA procuring and overseeing the consultant with recreation asset assessment and development plan. This plan was expanded in 2022 to a 10 county footprint. Just this month Wayne National Forest secured \$44,000 to add four remaining counties, Jackson, Scioto, Lawrence and Gallia, in southeast Ohio that contain the Wayne National Forest to this plan. With the addition of more Wayne National Forest counties we're also near Highland, Pike and Adams counties, and I suggest we offer to let them also receive this benefit as all they have recreation assets.
 - This new plan expansion provides an opportunity to expand membership, allows us to identify a larger service area for the PA Wilds planning project, and starts to build regional relationships.
 - We can also offer new communities a portion of the \$89,000 POWER regional collaborative branding promotion (destination development) funding, which their tourism director or other lead identifies. Once we know how many communities agree to join we can split funding equitably.
- POWER grant goes through 2024, unless extended due to construction timelines
- I believe requiring a county is key to ensuring we have buy-in needed to work effectively within communities. We don't want to step on toes, duplicate efforts, or waste our time and resources in areas not yet ready to collaborate/coordinate regionally.
- I suggest a bylaw amendment that allows us to formally establish partners to advance our regional strategy, offer a limited and realistic scope of services at no cost, if communities want to join as partners and agree to receive what we can offer and collaborate with us.
- This establishes two ways to join ORCA as full member paying membership dues as outlined in bylaws and as a partner at no cost that resolves to be a partner.
 - Moving forward should a new community want to be a full voting member they can propose the terms, scope of services they wish to receive and how much they may be willing to pay, for that expanded service.
- An additional benefit we can offer is ORCA Advisory Committee membership
 - This will allow communities to appoint up to three individuals per county to the ORCA Advisory Committee and join meetings discussing operations. This provides ORCA folks too coordinate planning with regionally and allows them to learn more about our work.



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- I would like to request a motion to authorize the ORCA Bylaw amendment as discussed and to extend an invitation to 16 counties communities to join ORCA as partners. I will work with Sky to finalize language and submit the final partnership invitation letter to the Board via email before sending.

(Motion: Amy Renner, Second: Tim Warren; *Approved*)

SOPEC would like to include some electric vehicle chargers for Baileys Trailheads in their grant application.

- Steve Patterson
 - We just want to be reimbursed for the electricity. They say they'll have different meters for their stuff. Company called Electrada will put fast charging stations in various places and do revenue share.

Jessie Powers

Request authorization to look into it further and verify details.

(Motion: Tim Warren, Second: Amy Renner; *Approved*)

Maintenance Report:

- Volunteer maintenance day happening this evening.
- In terms of outreach went to the rural recreation economy for rural communities in Beverly in March, there is another workshop in Lawrence County, which I plan to attend.

Communication Report:

Delia Palmisano

- Numbers are up for social media and the website.
- First newsletter went out on April 26th, and went to 176 people.
- Jessie talked about regional branding, we met with over 50 people from nine counties.
- Next step is fall fundraiser planning.

Public Comments:

NONE

Other:

- Jessie Powers
 - Italian Dirt Fondo - opera singer and professor at OU who is going to do Italian opera at the Chauncy park during the dirt fondo.

No motion to adjourn the meeting - didn't have a quorum