



Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia

Jessie Powers, Executive Director

director@baileystrailsystem.org | 740.517.8445

Proudly managing the [Baileys Trail System](#) in Athens County, Ohio

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Meeting Minutes

September, 8, 2022, 1:00-2:00 PM

Prepared by Lucas Blankenship, lucas.baileystrailsystem@gmail.com

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

Others Present: ORCA Executive Director Jessie Powers, ORCA Sustainable Recreation Director Elle Dickerman, ORCA AmeriCorps Member Lucas Blankenship, Wayne National Forest Athens District Ranger Jason Reed

Meeting Agenda

- Approve Agenda
- Approve August 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- ORCA Board Member Updates
- Financial Report
- Director's Report
- Maintenance Report
- Social Media Report
- Public Comments
- Other
- Adjourn

Meeting Call to Order, Steve Patterson

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

(Motion to Approve August 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes from: Lenny Eliason, Second: Tim Warren, *Approved*)

ORCA Board Member & Partner Updates

- Amy Renner, We are receiving a lot of questions of our park (Chauncey-Dover Park). It's still not done.
- Lenny Eliason, It's coming along slowly.



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- Amy Renner, The pump track is done though and I've seen a lot of kids out there. It's pretty cool to watch them, you guys should check it out after this meeting if you haven't seen it yet. They are getting ready to pave the parking lot and bike path. I think bike path paving is today and parking lot is tomorrow. We think there are significant delays on the playground, shelter house, and amphitheater.

Financial Report, Executive Director Jessie Powers

- Jessie Powers, On September 8th, 2022 our account balance is \$115,702, which as you'll see is more than last month. That's because we have activated our \$400,000 line of credit to start running our funds through to start paying construction invoices. So, the amount we requested is to cover invoice 1 for trail construction and invoice 1 for the development of ARC Outdoor Recreation Assessment and Plan. Which the ARC grant is also a reimbursement grant so, this is helping us out there too. We still have significant amount of funding available to us. We do have an invoice that is not quite due for payment yet, but invoice 3 has been submitted and it's about \$150,000 for one of the trail builders. So, we were really thankful to be able to utilize that line of credit from Hocking Valley bank, very much appreciate that.
- Other update is that Athens Bicycle Club has transferred our Just Transition fund grant which is another \$25,000 which is support for ORCA operations and staff.
- For construction, we paid invoice 2 for construction and we are in month 4 of construction. To date we've expensed \$148,573.55.
- We did request reimbursement from our POWER grant which is about 60+ days ago now. So, we need to follow up with this and, get this transferred to us. It's mainly reimbursement for expenses our partners have accrued for their staff time and working on various grant items. And there is some direct funding that will be coming to ORCA.
- In the development of the AMLER grant when we were hoping to secure a Brownfields grant, what we did was have our engineers separate out the basic infrastructure - the the water line upgrade at the park which will allow us to have a bike washing station and a water fountain, and water and sewer for the campground and Hub location. We also had some items for the access road for the campground and an environmental restoration piece, and another contingency item. When you remove the environmental analysis and contingency items from that estimate the total is \$773,450. The bike washing component alone with just that water line is \$409,000. So, we have that difference of \$364,450.
- What we are proposing is to use the county's ARPA allocation for construction of the amount \$250,000. Alongside our state budget award, that's going to cover the



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\$409,000 activity. And with the Ohio Health grant, which gives us a gap of \$14,450. Then when we do that and separate out the building construction, that where we would request the \$3,000,000 AMLER grant. And we have about a \$64,800 gap there. With a total gap of \$79,250.

- So, we need to commit to providing that gap funding. And we can do that through ORCA or through the AWOADC. My preference would be for maybe ORCA and AWOADC to give us the permission to utilize that much funding as needed. That way we just have multiple options and outline clearly in our grant application how we will fill that gap in funding.
- So, I would like to request a board authorization for that. And maybe that is just a part of the approval for the financial report, or however it needs to be detailed.
- The Buchtel-Snows Fork Trailhead project I believe is unlikely to be awarded, and I do have to get clarification from the project engineer to provide some phased options within our grant application. Of course, we'll ask for the full amount, but we'll also see if a phase one component is possible. This project does have some admin in there which would be for staff time. Again, it's pretty unlikely we'll get \$6,000,000 of projects when there's only \$17,000,000 available for the state.
- We do have two reimbursements for milage for Elle and myself. And those amounts are listed there, \$146.88 and 77.31.
- With that, are there are any questions?
- Lenny Eliason, Before you go there, one thing is, using the county's money for the facilities instead of trail building - wasn't well received.
- Jessie Powers, There was no response to my email sent to the Board of Commissioners, ORCA Board, and AWOADC Board on August 17th.
- Lenny Eliason, Yeah, from that standpoint you probably going to have to do some work if going to try and do that with Charlie. To convince him that that's the best use of the money.
- Jessie Powers, We'll try, my hope was we'll submit a letter of support from the county. That would say that the \$250,000 intended for an ARPA designation to ORCA could be utilized based on fulfillment of eligibility criteria. Since it's a water and sewer project it I think it's very likely that it's a compatible use. I'll try to get on the commissioners' meeting agenda.
- Lenny Eliason, No I wouldn't get on the agenda.



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- Jessie Powers, Okay.
- Lenny Eliason, I would go see Charlie. Have a discussion with Charlie.
- Jessie Powers, Okay.
- Amy Renner, And you'll need this - what's the deadline for the application?
- Jessie Powers, next Friday September 16th.
- Amy Renner, Okay, and even it's just an approval just to apply, can we entertain this later on? Because I think she has to this sorted out by Friday. But its not a commitment if we don't get the grant.
- Jessie Powers, Yes, I'm sure that the grant review team would want to see some kind of letter, but we could put it in the narrative.
- Lenny Eliason, We won't be able to write a letter before Friday.
- Jessie Powers, I think that our ask would be our letter to commit the county's funds to the proposed use contingent upon all the appropriate approvals. That's fair and our audience are grant reviewers, so I would imagine they will also be familiar with the use of ARPA funding on water and sewer infrastructure.
- Lenny Eliason, I would talk to Charlie this afternoon if you want to do it by tomorrow.
- Jessie Powers, Well it's next Friday.
- Lenny Eliason, Oh you have a week, you got time then. We can do it before that.
- Jessie Powers, Should we get on the agenda? I mean, we only need two votes to use the county's ARPA.
- Lenny Eliason, You don't have two votes, I can tell you that right now.
- Jessie Powers, We don't have two votes? Wow.
- Amy Renner, Can I ask why?
- Lenny Eliason, The discussion the commissioners had was to build trails with the money and fund one position. And that's what they said. And to go back and say you want to change that use is not a good idea.



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- Amy Renner, But, even if it's to make something that will make ORCA more sustainable in order to build the trails themselves?
- Lenny Eliason, Again the purpose behind the whole thing was, the county was building trails. And so, we got to get that done. Then we build the facilities.
- Jessie Powers, But the counties revenue is generated from the visitation to the county and this facility makes it a more viable destination.
- Lenny Eliason, Unless you get Charlie to agree it's not going to happen. So, sitting here and arguing with me about it is not going to change any minds.
- Jessie Powers, I'm not attempting to argue, just wondering if those points aren't resonating.
- Lenny Eliason, Right now it's supposed to be used on trails and for one position and that's what the board agreed to.
- Jessie Powers, A response to my emails would have been nice. Thank you for sharing these concerns otherwise we would have not known. Well, perhaps I could request ORCA board authorization, pending the counties decision, to utilize ARPA funding to support the development of the visitor hub of the Baileys Trail System.

(Motion to Authorize the use of ARPA funding to support the development of the Baileys Trail System Hub, pending approval by the Athens County Commission: Amy Renner, Second: Lenny Eliason; *Approved*)

(Motion to Approve Financial Report, including reimbursement requests: Amy Renner, Second: Tim Warren,)



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ORCA'S Report

- Jessie Powers, So, first of all we would like to welcome Lucas Blankenship, who is the new ORCA Sustainable Recreation Manager AmeriCorps Member. Lucas started this week and were excited to have him here.
- We are continuing to follow the Ohio Builds Appalachian Community grant program. We are working with the Athens County Foundation in hopes of finding a way to potentially utilize the Just Transition Fund to provide some fiscal capacity to an entity that might be the applicant for this funding. Also, we are waiting for that guidance to drop, but also we are doing everything we can do to get in front this opportunity to ensure it doesn't pass us by.
- We have talked about the AMLER projects, we are looking forward to submitting those. I think at least one of those will be very competitive. The Buchtel-Snow Fork Trailhead, in my mind, is absolutely that definition of Ohio Builds: Transformative, and is a shovel-ready project. We would hope to get the Buchtel-Snow Fork Trailhead, the remainder of the trails, and the Nelsonville connector submitted as shovel-ready projects for the Ohio Builds. So, we have spent some money getting economic impacts of the hub facility and the third trailhead, which is adjacent to the new Snow Fork venue. Which is really a great space, I'm not sure if anyone else got to go to the Nelsonville Music Festival. But it looks great. It provides a lot of capacity for large scale events that doesn't really exist in a whole lot of places in the country. Another way to set Baileys Trail System apart from the rest.
- We, ORCA and Buckeye Hills, are the Ohio leads on the Outdoor RIVERS strategy, so I have a draft flyer for this. This is the outdoor recreation and vibrant communities' strategy. Its really based on the western North Carolina model, and working across several states and central Appalachia to expand that economy and generate the large-scale manufacturing to be done here. So, I just wanted to give that to you all. It's not finalized yet, but once it is we'll be sending that out.
- The Ohio Builds conversations – it's really become evident where there is a couple of areas where ORCA can work to develop some projects, assist, and lend our skills to some partners that could be future ARC POWER grants. One of the things that is really standing out is the heritage tourism piece. Some of the key players there - the Southeast Ohio History Center has done a tone of work and has a nice facility in Athens as well as The Mount Zion Baptist Church project and Museum at the Ridges. So, looking forward to getting together with those folks and talking about what we have been doing with the outdoor recreation economy; and how we can expand that into destination development.
- The other project is the Capital-to-Capital Bike Trail. Which would be linking Columbus, Ohio to Washington, DC through the Industrial Heartland Trail. So basically, to do that in Ohio you can take the Erie Towpath Trail that way, but what we would propose would basically be connecting Columbus to Jamestown to Washington Courthouse; getting on



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the trail system in Chillicothe and connecting that to the Moonville trail system; connecting Moonville to the Hock-Hocking Adena Bikeway; to the Athens-Belpre rail trail; then West Virginia from there. We are making those connections with folks through a couple different processes like the POWER grant, with the Recreation Assessment and Plan project, the Ohio Builds conversations, as well as looking at the multi-state ARC funding, which would be a long-term project. So, we'll be working on that and looking to make those West Virginia connections in the next coming weeks.

- There's not a whole lot of change with the POWER grant.
- Steve Patterson, Going back to the Capital-to-Capital, what is West Virginia doing to get from Clarksburg to Morgantown?
- Jessie Powers, Yeah, I think that's their gap. So, the Washington County River Valley Mountain Bike Association has connections across that border there and I was talking to Scott, who is doing our recreation assessment and plan, and he is going to connect us to some folks in West Virginia there. So, we can figure out who is leading that and start that conversation.
- There is the trail construction information. We did get a grant agreement from ODNR. I need Sky to sign that as soon as possible and, then I can sign it. Then we can have the grant agreement executed and then we can request for reimbursement.
- Ohio University Outdoor Pursuits have attained their approval to partner on our bike rental, which is the big update there. So, once we can modify the insurance to include our trailers and the equipment we'll be storing in those trailers at those locations, we should be able to advance that effort and get their portion of the bike rental online soon. I'll let Elle talk a little bit more on how the bike rentals been going.
- We've added water bottles as a revenue-generating item, and we have four OU students that are working on a merchandise development plan. We're really excited to have them. So, stay tuned for mountain bike jerseys, hats, maps, and fine art prints - top four things we can start selling. The fine art prints are intended to be Jothose prints that Jasmine made.
- It's not on here but I was invited by Ohio USDA Director, Johnathan McCracken to attend a small group meeting community session with Under Secretary, Xochitl Torres Small So, I did do that last month. I get the impression outdoor recreation is a newer topic for rural development .
- On September 20th I am planning to attend Washington County Frontier Local Economic Development Association FLEDA meeting. I am unsure what FLEDA stands for?
- Jason Reed, Frontier Local Economic Development Association



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- Jessie Powers, I look forward to get an opportunity to meet them and discuss them what we have been doing and our successes to date.
- October 5th is that pre-station that the LDD's and the Mayor's Partnership for Progress are organizing. It's going to be in Shawnee and the invite should be coming out soon. I'm on a panel with someone from the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District and one other person, that I can't recall off-hand. That should be the time when we should have good facetime for some Q & A, with ODOD Director Lydia Mihalik and GOA Director John Carrey.
- Tentatively, Ohio Health is planning for our check presentation on October 21st at 11 AM at the Doanville-York Trailhead. Please attend if you can and mark that on your calendars. I haven't got confirmation that everyone can attend that, but I'll definitely be sure to, that is the date we submitted as our preferred date of the three options they gave us.
- We have a draft of the Communications and Philanthropy Director position and we sent that out for some feedback from some stakeholders in the community who have some expertise. We're hoping to get that posted maybe tomorrow. We'll have that out for at least two weeks.
- The Ohio Environmental Council – I did send them our last meeting minutes from last month and expressed that we wouldn't be participating in their Blue Blaze Event. They are organizing it and in partnership with the Buckeye Trail Association in Shawnee. I look forward to connecting with them and maybe speaking with that group in a more structured setting, potentially alongside Zack/Cora Frank.

Maintenance Report

- Elle Dickerman, Jessie had asked for an update on the bike rentals. They are going well so far for our capacity. We are renting bikes with a 24-hour notice Monday-Friday. So really just during the weekdays at this point, but we plan on scaling up in the coming weeks once we can get our backroom finished/set-up. We have the ramp built. We just working to getting some tools and other things into our tool trailer. We are waiting on our trailer insurance before we do that. So, we should have a phase 2 launch soon where we have a space where people can come-in. We're also going to have some weekend hours with Lucas here to help us. We're excited to scale that up because it has been successful even with our limited ability to manage it right now. I think we'll keep seeing success.
- The rentals we had today – some people came down from Cleveland to spend the weekend in the area. We also had a couple come from Illinois and they're taking a long anniversary weekend in Southeast Ohio, a place they have never been to before. So, pretty cool to see people coming here, using the things we're offering, visiting the trails, and seeing these places.



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- Some maintenance updates - we had a bit of a quieter month but we got out for several small work days. One advantage of our smaller work days is we really get more one-on-one time training new volunteers. So, we had some OU volunteers, an individual from Logan came down. We did have a bigger work day on Saturday, August 20th. We had a full day option and we had four out of eight people decide to stay for a full eight hours, which gave us extra time to work on some trail maintenance projects. And a lot of them liked that option. So, some people came for the morning and really got into it and wanted to stay longer than they were planning on. I think it was more flexible to some peoples' schedules. I think were going to do that model again.
- We went to the OU engagement fair last month on August 31st, and made some good connections with students who are interested in volunteering but also some instructors who want to do more required community engagement with their students.
- We really need to get our business cards, that's something we're working on. So, we can hand those out to people.
- Then finally, the Wayne has offered their Multi-resource crew to do bi-weekly trail maintenance days for a few days this fall, which is really going to help us hit some maintenance needs. A lot of time with the volunteer days, we only have about 3- or 4- hours people are willing to commit to - and a lot the beginning of that is teaching people how to use tools, talking about safety, hiking to the work site, and monitoring each project to make sure the outcome is good. So, we're really excited to have some experienced trail crew out there who can really get some work done on the trails. So, thanks to the Wayne for that option. That's all.
- Amy Renner, I've heard a lot of good feedback about the rentals, so that's exciting. Council at the meeting last night to was pumped about it and wants to rent some bikes.

Other

- Jessie Powers, I didn't mention it but I have a letter of support for the current AMLER applications and maybe we could go ahead and sign those in hopes that the county will allow us to use the ARPA funding.
- I didn't put any numbers in here- still waiting to clarify all the cost estimates with the engineer. There's one for the Hub and one for the Trailhead.
- We did put a sign at the Buchtel Trailhead site. It says "Future site of the Baileys Trail System Buchtel-Snow Fork Trailhead," and Jay put it up for us.
- Scott Frank, Did we ever get a camera on Doanville?
- Jessie Powers, No but I have it here. I just need to get with Tim to figure out the install and WiFi card. Can you get those from anyone?



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- Scott Frank, As far as I know yeah.
- Amy Renner, T- Mobile has them, I think.
- Scott Frank, I know we use T-Mobile standard.
- Elle Dickerman, the camera requires a T-Mobile pre-paid SIM card
- Jessie Powers, I was wondering if we would have service there?
- Scott Frank, We'll need a bucket truck to put it up.
- Tim Warren, We don't have a bucket truck.
- Scott Frank, we'll put it up with our bucket truck.
- Amy Renner, I talked to council last night about the trailhead sign, and we prefer to use the bullseye bricks that we have. We have some others mixed in of star bricks and the flower design. Chris is going to see if he can find those special ones to maybe mix in. But we've been selling them so I told Chris to stop selling them. I think we have enough for the sign.
- Scott Frank, we have street pavers if you want to use them as filler.
- Steven Patterson, Any updates from the Wayne?
- Jason Reed, We have a new Forest Supervisor - his name is Lee Stewart. He started a week and half ago. So, we'll get him out to meet everyone here in the near future. Construction is going well. Looking forward to opening those trails. We're working diligently with the Village of Shawnee on an AMLER project - some Tecumseh Lake rehab buckeye trail work. We meet with Washington county and had a good meeting with Monroe County last week. So, ORCA is really taking on a regional approach here.
 - Jessie Powers, The prosecuting attorney and a private citizen, came over and brought their own presentation. They have a really cool climbing asset to add to Southeast Ohio's asset portfolio, which has almost all local ownership. There's roughly one more easement for access needed, but basically, they have a park off of route 7 that houses the climbing face.
- Steve Patterson, Anything else for the good of the order?

Public Comments

NONE

Meeting Adjourned.