



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

May 16, 2022, 1:00pm

Prepared by Elle Dickerman, elle.baileystrails@gmail.com

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

Others Present: Jessie Powers, Elle Dickerman, Sky Pettey

Meeting Agenda

- Approve Agenda
- Approve April 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- Financial Report
- Legal Update – Trade Mark Status
- ORCA Board Member & Partner Updates
- Director's Report
- Public Comments
- Other
- Adjourn

Meeting Call to order 1:03pm: ORCA Chair Mayor Steve Patterson.

(Motion to Approve Agenda: Tim Warren, Second: Scott Frank, *Approved*)

(Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes from April 18, 2022: Scott Frank, Second: Tim Warren, *Approved*)

Financial Report, Executive Director Jessie Powers

- Account Balance: \$82,325
- Requested reimbursement for WNF ORCA AmeriCorps Cost Share expenses: \$6,910.51
- Requested transfer from Athens Bicycle Club for Just Transition Fund grant: \$25,000.00
- Authorization to reimburse Elle for mileage for \$47.97, Jessie for rental car gas for \$10.41



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(Motion to Approve Financial Report, including reimbursement requests: Scott Frank, Second: Tim Warren, *Approved*)

Legal Update, Sky Pettey

- Still working on the trademark process. We chose the image for our trademark, should have it filed by next meeting.
- Record retention policy update – I have a sample policy that I could share, will report at next meeting for our record retention policy
- Jessie Powers, the AWOADC is awaiting review of our rental contract and liability waiver for the bike rental

ORCA Board Member & Partner Updates

- Steve Patterson, in regards to the 500 million being discussed at the state level, we don't know where it is going to land. I have been mentioning the idea of having something large and extremely impactful in southeast Ohio – it would be an active transportation project. I have spoken with a number of local elected officials about having active transportation connections. For Chauncey, this would be connection to the Hockhocking Adena Bikeway, connecting the bikeway to Belpre, connectivity to Logan, connecting Nelsonville to Doanville, it's big. Every mayor and city manager I have spoken to is supportive of having something. Wanted to share that with this group that those conversations are happening.
- Scott Frank, we are working on adding a multi-use road with our canal project. We should be fully connected near Nelsonville within the next year and a half
- Scott Frank, we just submitted a paddle grant to put one into our old sewer plant
- Amy Renner, what needs to be done to figure out White's Mill?
- Steve Patterson, it's in the Corps of Engineer's hands right now. We are still working with the Corps to review the site. The plan is not to take out the rock feature/waterfall by the mill; it is to remove the old concrete and rebar from the old dam which is creating a safety hazard. The little red schoolhouse – our plan is to put a put-in on the other side of White's Mill. So could bring your kayak from West State Street Park to below the falls.
- Amy Renner, when people get in the river at Nelsonville, where to they get out?
- Scott Frank, where Carter's Lumber used to be, they put in at the bridge at Dee's Diner, or go up 278 and put them in at the railroad bridge. The city only has one ramp – we just put in for the grant, which will also be part of the dog park project.



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- Amy Renner, there is a private developer who purchased land between the plains and Chauncey with the purpose of putting in a livery, but they don't have too far to go on the river.

Director's Report, Executive Director Jessie Powers

- The 500 million dollars listed six bucket items and trails, recreation, tourism is one, we are paying attention to this and being part of early conversations in Athens County to go after these funds. Outdoor recreation could be the framework for which we can ensure further infrastructure investments. Structurally we (ORCA) can work across county borders. In the current ARC POWER grant, we've hired a contractor to create a recreation asset assessment plan and development plan for 7-counties.
- We've also been a part of Buckeye Hill's CEDS advisory committee and conversations surrounding their comprehensive economic development strategy update. They are listing outdoor recreation as a new opportunity in their 2022 plan update. I provided a narrative overview that intends to link recreation asset development to tourism to more traditional economic development.
- While we're talking about improving outdoor recreation infrastructure and development, we are also looking at the long-term conditions which make us competitive at a national scale. Everyone is talking about outdoor recreation. At the end of the month, I am going to be connecting with regional recreation stakeholders.
- Bids are due on Wednesday for 2022 Baileys Trail System trail construction.
- We are continuing to look into the brownfield grants program for utility infrastructure in at the Chauncey-Dover Park Trailhead.
- We did not receive our EDA grant, so we will use the remaining 1 million of the state budget award for the Chauncey water line project as well as adding additional trail miles to the Baileys. We hope to use our state funds as match for a brownfield grant to make those dollars go even further.
- We are talking to Tim about a grant for a playground at the Doanville Trailhead.
- The AWOADC, is making progress. We received a grant from the OU Economics of Altruism Class for \$12,563.71 for tools and equipment for volunteer trail maintenance. For our revenue streams, we are evaluating considerations for purchasing this building. It was appraised for \$285,000 in 2020. We will continue to look into it, perhaps putting some Airbnbs on the side of the property, to get our revenue streams going to support this work. I was told in 2020 they offered the building for sale for 200,000, but was not part of that conversation.
- Amy Renner, there is someone looking for space for a community health clinic, they don't



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need a lot of space.

- Jessie Powers, yes, we were connected with those interested in the clinic. However, I think there's not really enough space in the building at the moment.
- The AWOADC may also develop more merchandise and we are planning to work with Passion Works to get them to do a mural on the side of the building to then use for shirts etc. We also want to connect with the community to see if or how they may want to be involved with the Mural.
- I revised our proposal for the county commissioners – I'm on the schedule for tomorrow. Revisions are 2 staff positions at 80% funding. We also had some conversation around funding the remainder of the Baileys Trail System construction, and the Buchtel Snow Fork Trailhead.
- Amy Renner, how much for the remainder of the trail's buildout?
- Jessie Powers, best estimate is 1 to 1.3 million for trails, but we'll know more once we receive bids. Depending on the waterline project costs, estimate around \$400,000, we'll use the remainder of the state budget award for trail construction. The Buchtel Snow Fork Trailhead has a 2.6-million-dollar price tag. The Buchtel trailhead is a unique opportunity with the Nelsonville music festival adjacent to it. We can seek additional grant funds for this, but ARPA funds could be an option.
- Amy Renner, perhaps at a minimum we could have a parking lot for the trailhead.
- Jessie Powers, trail development or use of federal funds on federal land has been a challenge, but the trailhead has more potential funding sources.
- Amy Renner, I also know commissioner Eliason pointed out the importance to the commission of completing the trail system.
- Jessie Powers, I don't know if perhaps the county will support our three positions instead of two which would better enable us to go after additional funding opportunities? Specifically, the half a billion dollars available that's seemingly for projects like the capital-to-capital trail, which would complete multiple gaps in Athens County trail connectivity.
- Amy Renner, I think the only way anyone is going to get that funding is through collaboration, which makes ORCA an obvious answer.
- Steve Patterson, there wasn't one mayor who said no to this at the mayor's partnership for progress meeting.
- Amy Renner, that's the common thread we all have.



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- Jessie Powers, we've had success with one trail system, can you imagine the case we would make for the entire economically depressed area?
- Steve Patterson, they are now building a mountain bike trail system in Chillicothe, and that's because of the Baileys.
- Amy Renner, I hope the commissioners would see that this investment would go toward a unified approach that would support the whole county. Especially now that this big pot of funding has been proposed.
- Jessie Powers, should we give them a few options?
- Amy Renner, maybe 3 different options? I think they would be more inclined for a trail buildout.
- Lenny Eliason, I think we have to have priorities. The priority from the commissioners' perspective is building out the trails. If you go with the proposal you have, you're much more likely to get some of it if not all of it based on building trails and sharing the costs rather than funding the positions entirely out of commissioner's funding.
- Amy Renner, what about one proposal for the positions, and a separate proposal for the buildout?
- Lenny Eliason, I would have one proposal and create priorities, the priority at ORCA is the buildout and the positions, I would argue that we need both in order to make it work.
- Amy Renner, in my opinion, the staff positions are a higher priority because we can't have all this trail without a way to manage it.
- Lenny Eliason from a political perspective, the buildout would be the first priority.
- Jessie Powers, is the Buchtel Trailhead part of the buildout?
- Lenny Eliason, the pot of money is not endless. Maybe. You may want to think about having that be a part of the capital-to-capital project.
- Jessie Powers, maybe being willing to set aside a certain amount of match for it could be helpful.
- Lenny Eliason, yeah, that could be helpful.
- Jessie Powers, any thoughts about buying an office for ORCA? Ultimately the benefit would be helping us to get to less dependency on membership dues.
- Lenny Eliason, that's going to be hard to pass muster as we're not buying it for us. That's a



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discussion I would have to have with the prosecutor to see if we could even do it. Real estate development is a different game than just leasing a facility we have a no longer need for.

- Amy Renner, are you pursuing a Natureworks grant for the playground?
- Tim Warren, we're going to talk about that tonight at the meeting.
- Amy Renner, it could also be an option for Buchtel to get just a basic parking lot out there.
- Jessie Powers, as far as trail construction goes, we won't know exactly how much we will need, we will need to bake that flexibility into the request
- Lenny Eliason, if it's a range, that makes sense.
- Jessie Powers, does this draft proposal to the county include too much information or not enough to evaluate?
- Lenny Eliason, as much as you have in there now, I would keep it in there.
- Jessie Powers, I would like to recommend the board to nominate Mary Jane Kelley Moonville Rail Trail President and Pat Quackenbush of Hocking College to be on ORCA's advisory board.

(Motion to add Mary Jane Kelley and Pat Quackenbush to the ORCA Advisory Board: ORCA Vice Chair Amy Renner, Second: Tim Warren, *Approved*)

Public Comments

NONE

Other

- Steve Patterson, in regards to the Natureworks grant for playground equipment – there's another grant, the Dr. Pepper Snapple Kaboom grant, it's also for playground equipment, we were successful in getting it. It requires community involvement in construction. The Highland Park playground was a result of that grant. \$35,000 I think is the cap for a Natureworks grant.
- Amy Renner, look at playgroundequipment.com to see the prices.
- Scott Frank, we have a small structure coming from 2019, it was \$33,000, not big at all.

Motion to Adjourn: Tim Warren; Second: Scott Frank, 1:50pm.