



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

April 18, 2022 1:00pm

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

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

Others Present: Jessie Powers, Elle Dickerman, Sky Pettey, Jack Pepper, Ross Kuhns from Baileys Basecamp

- **Meeting Agenda**
 - Approve Agenda
 - Approve March 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes
 - Financial Report
 - ORCA Board Member & Partner Updates
 - Director's Report
 - Public Comments
 - Other
 - Adjourn

Meeting Call to order 1:01pm: ORCA Chair Mayor Steve Patterson

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

(Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes from March 21, 2022: Lenny Eliason, Second: Tim Warren *Approved*)

- **Financial Report, Executive Director Jessie Powers**
 - Account Balance: \$82,325
 - Deposits since last meeting include 2022 Athens County membership dues
 - Expenses include Applied Trails Research Training for \$7,953.76, processed change order 2 for phase 3 construction on Gorges Curves – came in over budget at \$5,600 due to needing to add French Drain to a number of dips



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- Working on the phase 3 cost share for ORCA for POWER grant
- Request to reimburse Elle Dickerman for mileage for \$572.42, large majority of which was for travel to Outdoor Economy Conference, and to reimburse Jessie Powers for \$870.51 for Outdoor Economy Conference expenses including car rental

(Motion to Approve Financial Report, including reimbursements: Lenny Eliason, Second: Jay Kline, *Approved*)

- **Board Member / Partner updates**

NONE

- **Director's Report, Executive Director Jessie Powers**

- I have obtained legal agreements to utilize state budget funds from WNF, the Village of Buchtel, and the Village of Chauncey; those are now pending legal review. We anticipate receiving a decision from them soon to accept those agreements. They have already approved the WNF agreement
- We hired Applied Trails Research as Construction Manager for Phase 4 construction
- We will be putting out our bids for construction this week or next for about \$1 million of construction, including construction management
- If Athens County decides to provide ARPA funds for construction, those could be added to the bid but we will see how the timeline works out for that
- There is a new brownfields grant program with its application due in July. The Chauncey trailhead is a qualified brownfield, and we could utilize impact investment funding for a match for the grant application to do sewer and water lines for the park. This would allow for utilities there to service a large-scale hub facility
- York township has interest in adding playground equipment to the Buchtel trailhead.
- We asked EDA for an update on the grant application for the Buchtel Snowfork Trailhead and have not received new information.
- The AWOADC purchased 35 mountain bikes for rent, we have 15 here now. We have executed a campground design contract from a company in Logan, and that has been presented to the Chauncey council.
- For the Bike Rental, we had originally intended to partner with Ohio university Outdoor Pursuits. There were some issues on Ohio University's side of things, and they



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are working on some policy changes so we can still implement the partnership in the fall.

- We are talking to our landlord about accessing the back room, such as adding stairs for a retail/bike rental program. We are waiting on a quote for insurance for the bikes.
- For our merchandise, we promoted our new 2022 membership stickers, and are seeing order for those come in. We are still working on a bike jersey design, and we will meet with Passionworks soon to discuss additional merchandise design ideas. We are also working on a bike bottle design.
- Updated on 2022 events – construction will limit us for events this year, right now we just have the Run Baileys event. They would like for us to use the fee structure we used last year.
- Once all the amenities at the park are built out, and we have staff capacity, we can transition to a \$5 per participant fee for events
- Where we are now, it will be easier to go forwards with utilizing the same structure for payments as last year for events

(Motion to approve Southeast Ohio Trail Runner's Run Baileys 2022 event scheduled for August 12 - 14: Lenny Eliason, second: Jay Kline, *Approved*)

- A grant-funded commercial from the Athens County Convention and Visitors Bureau was shared on social media today
- We do not yet have our grant agreement for the POWER grant, as we need clarifications regarding the match for that grant. Our partners had committed to \$200,000 of match, which seems like it may not actually be there. We will need to come up with that match funding. Currently, our partners are not counting staff time as match, so that is an option. With the proposed ORCA positions, we could utilize our staff funding for the match.
- Our first POWER kickoff meeting is tomorrow. We will be working to develop MOUs, including one outlining the vision for the outdoor recreation economy and how the partners will participate. Once the grant agreement comes to ORCA, we will be responsible for sub-awarding grant funds
- We have been doing networking and media promotion. Wayne National Forest paid for us to do an interview with the Cleveland CBS affiliate
- Jessie Powers went to Public Lands store in Columbus on April 10th along with the Ohio Erie canal and Yay Bikes and did a presentation. Their staff is interested in coordinating with us for some volunteer maintenance activities



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- We have our maintenance plan, so if we attempt to do this with another recreation asset eventually, we have the template. The Public Lands Store working with us will work right within the template we have created
- Membership/Staff updates: We are making progress, working with Lenny for creating the Director of Maintenance and Director of Programs positions. For this, we will request to utilize 80% funds from ARPA and 20% we will cover as ORCA
- This still gives us one position we can create with the ARC POWER grant if we can do maintenance and events positions using ARPA funding
- I met with folks from the Voinovich school to discuss our needs in terms of financial policy. Their advice was to sit down with our accountant to discuss the accounts we will need, once we have a list of accounts we should be able to procure services locally. This year we will be receiving more than \$750,000 of federal funds which brings us into the next level of audit, we want to make sure we have the correct policies in place.
- AWOADC/ORCA submitted a grant for the Ohio University Economics of Altruism class. We requested a little over \$12,000 of tools and equipment for trail maintenance. We are one of three finalists and had a face-to-face meeting with them last week
- Trail maintenance updates: we have our manual, completed our crew leader training, and created traffic calming signs for the Chauncey Depot Trail. We are hoping that the village will install them alongside the Depot Trail to aid in avoiding any user collisions.
- We will need updated insurance policy in May or June
- We are working on information to update the kiosk at the Chauncey Trailhead. Wayne National Forest will be moving the kiosk soon
- Team Athens is a nonprofit charitable organization focused on promoting wellness through cycling and a licensed cycling club. They would like us to become a sponsor. They are working on their jersey and are hosting the state championship gravel race this year. Sponsorship fees are \$250 for a small logo, \$500 for a medium logo, \$750 for a large logo, and \$1000 for multiple logos.
- Steve Patterson, what are the different logo sizes?
- Lenny Eliason, can we do a large logo on the back?
- Jessie Powers, we can ask for a large logo on the back and ask how much that costs. Do I need a motion?



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- Lenny Eliason, you are authorized to spend a certain amount so that will be your call.
- Jessie Powers, Integrated Services will begin to use 2 offices in this building for client intake. I will be meeting with their executive director and Tammy Bobo to see how we can best share the space. We do plan on getting a landline phone here as well.
- The Outdoor Recreation Economy Conference was phenomenal with high-level production quality at the Cherokee Casino. They did a great job of highlighting the entire economy, from trail assets, to businesses, to retail, etc. We made some good connections including with people at PA Wilds. I also had a chance to ride some of their trails.
- For the Build Back Better Challenge – the phase 1 application was not funded, Gayle Manchin did reward funds to the New River Development Authority for creating a database for supply chains. Pennsylvania was a 7th state added to a working group there. There has been a lot of progress within the central Appalachian network and outdoor rivers networks. We could see the ARC funding multi-state coalitions in the future. ORCA and ACEDC are representing Ohio, we will continue to follow those efforts and make sure we are part of the conversation.
- Lenny Eliason, the June timeline is accurate for ORCA's staffing decision.
- Steve Patterson, we may have a trashcan for the Doanville Trailhead. The big belly trashcans uptown were removed by the company. We now are in ownership of all of those big belly trashcans, and there might be a way that the city could re-purpose one. They look nice with a wrap on them. I can explore that further.
- Tim Warren, that sounds good, we are in need of a trash receptacle there
- Steve Patterson, with the ARC money and state money, how many miles are we going to have developed within the next 12 months?
- Jessie Powers, I won't know concretely until I receive bids back, but right now we are looking at 28-35 miles and hoping that can be completed this year, but this is late in the year for construction bidding. If we don't use the other 1 million as a match for the trailhead, we will split it between the waterline construction project and additional trail construction. We won't know for sure until we hear back from the EDA. As it is a capital budget, they reappropriated the funds so we have another 2 years to spend that funding.
- Steve Patterson, the City Manager of Greenfield, Ohio is coming to Athens this Wednesday and he wants to understand more about the Baileys Trail System development and expansion
- Jessie Powers, I am happy to speak with him.



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- Steve Patterson, 1:00pm at my office.
- Steve Patterson, I began thinking about this building/site. Bird scooter and electric bikes are coming to Athens with 120 scooters and 30 e-bikes. We were discussing the possibility of extending it to Nelsonville and creating a new mode of transportation between the two cities. Thinking about the connector here, we could expand the range to get people here. It would be a cool concept and we can see if Bird is interested.
- Scott Frank, Nelsonville is still interested and we have been discussing it
- Jessie Powers, one day we will also do a Doanville Trailhead to Nelsonville connector
- Steve Patterson, it would be cool to see if Bird would put a station here in Chauncey
- Jessie Powers, I discussed with Will from Sunday Creek Horizons about their interactions with Washington county. They did advise Washington county to not become a member at this time due to our capacity. I believe we can still work through adding new members to ORCA as there's value in coordinating our plans throughout the region. We can continue to improve our model for expanding membership and additional staff capacity will undoubtedly help. One thing we had talked about last meeting was having a follow up meeting with them.
- Jack Pepper, you want to work with Washington county?
- Jessie Powers, we want to work with anyone who can expand our membership. The POWER grant may enable us to do some work there. We'll first work with the POWER team members to get everyone on the same page.
- Steve Patterson, does anyone know what's happening with the Moonville Rail Trail or the Zaleski trail?
- Jessie Powers, they received a grant, I heard that they are interested in pursuing a POWER grant to connect that to Jackson County and Athens County. We have had some email correspondence
- Steve Patterson, that's the type of partnership I think will be important to us. I see how we could help them with some capacity issues for some of these development projects as they likely don't have that capacity. It would be amazing to connect the Moonville trail to Athens and to here.
- Jessie Powers, we will have the 7-county recreation asset assessment, so we will have a multi-county planning document in our toolkit which will help us pursue partnerships and additional funding requests



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- Lenny Eliason, Zack Space (Sunday Creek) and I are still working to set up a meeting
- Steve Patterson, Heritage Hall is no longer being used for vaccines, correct?
- Jack Pepper, it isn't, there is confusion however as Heritage is offering vaccines, so people are either getting the booster with us and getting confused where to go
- Steve Patterson, for your boosters, it can be either vaccine
- Jack Pepper, there is some literature out there recommending getting the alternative vaccine

Motion to adjourn: Scott Frank, Second: Jay Kline, 1:42pm.