



## **Meeting Minutes Approved**

Education Citizen Advisory Committee

Thursday, November 6, 2025 | 5:00pm

Ford Nature Center Education Building

Prepared by Cindy Fernback, *Education Steward*

## **Committee Members in Attendance**

Zack Felger, John James, Peggy Palma, Kat Paull, Marla Peachock, Carol Truitt, Cindy Fernback

Missing: Cynthia Andrews

## **New Business**

- Minutes from May 2024 meeting approved
- Review of 2022-2025 data from educational programs
- Review of 2025 data (January-October 2025)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Upcoming Programs
- Haunted/Paranormal Programming
- Field Trips 2022-2025/Schools Served
- Education Department Events 2025
- Nature Camp 2025 (The Forest & Me) / Camp Stats 2023-2025
- Ready Set Grow Gardening Program
- Winter Talks 2025 Review / 2026 Preview

## **Open Discussion**

- Truitt expressed support for the growth that educational programming has seen from 2022-2025. She also suggested a 4-6 part adult educational programming series. Felger pointed out that there may be some over-saturation in the adult nature education offerings with OSU extension offering programming as well. The idea was discussed of running something in connection with Winter Talks to encourage adults to sign up for the entire series of lectures which begin in January.
- Palma suggested some topics for consideration for Winter Talks might include deer management and feral cats. She also suggested that our Community Outreach be focused more on schools with Traveling Naturalist heading out to classrooms.

- James suggested that a program on Hike and Bike Trail Etiquette might be beneficial, though that might be more of a Recreation Department endeavor. He also inquired whether or not the Education Department could solicit funding for events in the form of businesses underwriting the events.
- Peachock inquired about surveys that might be implemented at events and programs as a means for gathering feedback for improvement. She also asked if the paranormal programming could be increased to throughout the year—something we actually have begun doing monthly throughout the year. She suggested incorporating some Drama and Storytelling components to our events/programming.
- Felger stressed the importance of educators attending professional development courses such as ECO. Additionally, he inquired about the possibility of MCMP Education Department collaborating with Mahoning Valley Historical Society on some future paranormal programming.
- Felger inquired if we provide a discounted fee for field trips for Mahoning County schools (we do) and mentioned the availability of grants available for assistance (ODNR Education Grant and Ohio Environmental Fund Grant)

## **Public Comment**

None

## **Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday, June 11, 2026 at 5:00pm

## **Adjournment**

6:19 p.m.