Meeting Minutes (Draft)
Natural Resources Citizen Advisory Committee
October 28, 2026 | 3:00 PM
Cushwa Building, Children's Garden, Fellows Riverside Gardens
Prepared by Rachel Sobnosky, *Natural Resources Manager*

Committee Members in Attendance

Rachel Sobnosky ■| Joshua Noble ■| Ryan Jackson □| Serene Awad ■| Peter Milliken■| Sara Scudier ■| John Zimmerman ■| Ronald Kichton ■ |Gary Davenport■ | Joshua Emanuelson ■|

Public Attendees:

Mia Swain, MCMP	

I. Call to Order – 3:00 PM

Old Business

* **Review of Previous Meeting's Minutes**
  Rachel Sobnosky provided the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. (5.6.26) Members reviewed the minutes and found no corrections necessary. Davenport moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Kichton.

* **Roll Call**
  Voting Aye – Noble, Awad, Milliken, Scudier, Zimmerman, Kichton, Davenport, Emanuelson
  Voting Nay – None

II.

New Business

White-tailed Deer Management Update

Sobnosky shared with the group updates on the WTD management program.

The group briefly discussed hunter protocols regarding identifying themselves when on properties hunting. The group concluded that logistics and relying on hunters to remember a sign or flag would make it a non-viable option.

The group briefly discussed deer population estimates and survey efforts, as well as invasive species management. Emanuelson offered to send a list of possible contractors interested in invasive species treatment at the park.

HWA Treatment Update

Sobnosky updated the group on treatment plans for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, including timeframe and acreage.

YSU Legacy Forest Update

Sobnosky provided updates on planting plans for tree planting on Nov.12. Updates on future planting plans with YSU Legacy Forest were also discussed.

Trail Improvements

Sobnosky provided updates on multiple trail improvement projects that have been completed or ongoing.

Fordyce Update

Updates regarding George L. Fordyce Park were shared by Sobnosky, stating that improvements are almost complete.

Invasive Species Treatments/Restoration Projects

Sobnosky shared with the group restoration project updates at Bears Den Meadow and plans to convert more grassy areas into no-mow meadows.

Future Healthy Streams Initiative Ideas

Sobnosky discussed the current Healthy Streams plans. Then the group discussed ideas for future projects.

Noble suggested a restoration project at Mirror Pond.

Milliken suggested removal of three trees downstream of East Gorge and upstream of the Suspension Bridge.

Sobnosky suggested a riparian zone restoration and asked the group to continue brainstorming ideas.

Open Discussion

Milliken presented a folder of brochures containing educational material regarding ticks and mosquitoes. He suggested that the park should obtain brochures from the Ohio Health Department in bulk and offer brochures at kiosks. He also suggested the addition of a website link to the park's website that would direct viewers to the Ohio Health Department's website about ticks and mosquitoes.

Scudier suggested signs in lieu of brochures to minimize waste.

Sobnosky suggested a sign with a QR code linked to the Ohio Health Department's website.

Emanuelson suggested reaching out to the Ohio Health Department and inquiring about grant opportunities that the park could become involved in. He also Suggested multiple educational social media posts regarding ticks and mosquitoes.

Milliken suggested a news conference.

The group discussed that a news conference was outside of the realm of the natural resources department.

Sobnosky inquired about perspective sign location ideas.

Davenport suggested Newport Wetlands. Milliken suggested Daffodil Meadow and other no-mow areas, as well as the golf course. Scudier suggested Ford Nature Center.

Kichton inquired about updates on the plastics recommendation to the board.

Sobnosky explained recommendations do not go to the board until the end of the year.

Noble brought the group's attention to trail erosion issues. He recalled one section on the East Newport trail north from Newport toward the covered bridge that has been repeatedly washed out and suggested that the trail be tilted towards a ditch to allow water to mitigate erosion.

Noble inquired about McGuffey Preserve.

Sobnosky explained the property is no longer owned or managed by the MetroParks.

Sobnosky gave updates on Liberty Park acquisition, and boardwalk completion at Hawkins Marsh.

Sobnosky inquired about fish stocking suggestions.

Emanuelson suggested stocking smaller fish.

Noble suggests dredging lakes to increase fishing success and conducting surveys to gain more information about the current populations.

Davenport motioned for the meeting to adjourn. Seconded by Emanuelson.

III.	**Public Comment** None
IV.	**Committee Questions/Comments**.
V.	**Date of Next Meeting** TBD – Sobnosky will send out poll
VI.	**Adjournment** – 4:30 PM