

## CONSTITUTION

### AKRON METRO PARKS HIKING CLUB

#### ARTICLE I NAME AND PURPOSE

- Section 1 The name of this Club shall be THE AKRON METRO PARKS HIKING CLUB.
- Section 2 The headquarters of the Club will be in the County of Summit.
- Section 3 The Purpose:
- 3.1 Hiking for pleasure and health
- 3.2 The encouragement of the love of nature, the dissemination of knowledge of the attractions of the out-of-doors, and the sponsoring of other activities incidental to the foregoing.

#### ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1 Active membership in the Club is open to all individuals and families after successfully completing one (1) hike with our Club and payment of annual dues.
- Section 2 The Board shall have the right at any time to suspend or cancel any membership for any conduct which it deems undesirable or against the best interest of the Club.
- Section 3 Members age 18 or older shall have the right to vote and may run for office.

#### ARTICLE III MEETINGS

- Section 1 There shall be at least ten (10) meetings of the executive board annually, with one annual meeting in October.
- Section 2 At board meetings, four of the executive board members shall constitute a quorum.
- Section 3 At the annual or special meeting, 15 of the entire voting membership shall constitute a quorum.
- Section 4 The President may call a special meeting at any time.

#### ARTICLE IV DUES

- Section 1 Dues are due January 1 of each year. Any member in arrears on March 1<sup>st</sup> shall automatically forfeit his/her membership unless waived by the executive board.
- Section 2 The annual dues required by the Club shall be determined by the membership at the annual meeting.

## ARTICLE V EXECUTIVE BOARD AND COMMITTEES

Section 1 The business of the Club shall be managed by the executive board.

Section 2 There shall be an executive board of eight members, consisting of a President, Chief Pathfinder, Assistant Pathfinder, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and two Directors. The past President will serve as one Director and there will be one additional elected Director serving at least one year.

Section 3 Any vacancy of the board shall be filled as deemed necessary by the executive board.

Section 4 There shall be the following standing committees, chairmanships of which shall be appointed by the President: Auditing, Nominating, Membership, Social, Sunshine and Historian. The committee Chairs may solicit other Club members to aid them as they see fit.

## ARTICLE VI AMENDMENTS

### ITEM 1.0 DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

Section 1.1 The President as the chief executive officer shall guide the Club's growth, service and membership; shall preside at all meetings of the Club and executive board; and shall be ex-officio member of all committees. He or she shall form all committees deemed necessary. He or she shall appoint a committee by September to audit the treasurer's books annually.

Section 1.2 The Chief Pathfinder shall arrange the hiking schedule; he or she shall supervise all hikes sponsored by the Club. He or she shall appoint leaders from the membership to prepare routes, scout and lead hikes. The schedule of hikes shall be presented for approval to the executive board at the meetings of the month preceding that of the schedule. The Chief Pathfinder shall keep an accurate record of attendance and mileage made on the hikes. He or she or representatives shall be responsible for discipline and the enforcement of the hike rules on hikes. The Chief Pathfinder or representative shall have the authority to make any change necessitated by any emergency that may arise, except in matters that pertain to the politics of the Club. The Chief Pathfinder shall preside at all meetings in the absence of the President. In case the office of President is vacated the Chief Pathfinder shall carry on the duties of such office until the President's successor is duly elected.

Section 1.3 The Assistant Pathfinder shall be responsible for making arrangements for at least one weekend event per year and various day trips. He or she shall select the site and make all the necessary arrangements. These arrangements shall be presented for approval at an executive board.

Section 1.4 The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the members and of the executive board; shall keep full and complete minutes of all proceedings of such meetings; shall cause all necessary notices to be given to the members of the board; have charge of correspondence; shall perform all other duties incident to such office.

Section 1.5 The Treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds, securities and assets of the Club and shall perform all duties usually appertaining to such office. The fiscal year for reporting purposes shall be from October 1 to September 30.

Section 1.6 The Directors shall act as a special advisory group to the board; shall provide stability to the board and as requested shall serve as committee chairmen.

## ITEM 2.0      ELECTIONS

Section 2.1 Officers and Directors shall be elected in the following manner:

Section 2.1.1 The President shall appoint a nominating committee at the September executive board meeting.

Section 2.1.2 The nominating committee shall choose at least one name for each office and present its slate to the Club at the October meeting in preparation for voting at the Annual Meeting.

Section 2.1.3 Further nominations of candidates for any office will be accepted from the floor.

Section 2.1.4 The Secretary shall be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for the uncontested part of the nominating committee's slate.

Section 2.1.5 Separately for each contested office, balloting shall be by written secret ballot and the candidate polling the majority of the votes shall be declared elected before further balloting may proceed.

Section 2.1.6 Each executive board shall include two Directors: the past President and one other. Each Director should serve at least one year.

Section 2.1.7 Elected officials will be installed at the annual meeting.

## ITEM 3.0      HIKE RULES

Section 3.1 The Hike Leader represents the Chief Pathfinder and is in charge of the hike. He or she is responsible for the route taken, the pace set, and the welfare and conduct of all hikers. The hike leader should remain onsite until all members of a hike have returned safely to the starting point.

Section 3.2 The Hike Leader shall appoint a rear guard. If necessary, a hiker should also be designated to remain behind when a trail may fork into different directions so the rest of the group knows the right path to take.

Section 3.3 The route shall be as specified unless the leader thinks a change necessary. The pace set will be such as to suit the greater number attending. Since the leader is responsible, his or her advice and instructions should be followed.

Section 3.4 If it becomes necessary for a hiker to drop out, an effort will be made to inform leader so he or she may give assistance.

Section 3.5 The rules of the informal good conduct shall prevail at all times and if transgressed by any hiker, the matter will be reported to the leader or a Board member.

Section 3.6 On long hikes a recess may be called by the leader at a suitable place. Rest periods may also be called at the discretion of the leader or by majority request of hikers.

Section 3.7 Property rights must be respected. Do not pick flowers, fruit or break branches or damage other property on private grounds or park systems. At the beginning of each hike leading through such places the leader will inform all persons of this fact. However when the fact is self-evident, the leader's failure to do so shall not lessen the responsibility of the individual.

Section 3.8 In the absence or incapacity of the leader, the Chief Pathfinder shall take charge. If the Chief Pathfinder is not present a leader shall be chosen by members attending. If an aide or rear guard has not been appointed, the leader shall appoint one from the members present.

Section 3.9 Pets will be permitted on hikes but must be on leash and kept to the back of the group. Dog owners shall pick up after their dogs.

Section 3.10 This Club will comply with the regulations of the park in which we are hiking.

Section 3.11 A hike leader can adjust length of hike due to weather and/or trail conditions at starting point.

Section 3.12 If hike is cancelled at starting point of hike due to weather no mileage is awarded.

Section 3.13 If hike is terminated after it is underway due to weather mileage will be awarded.

Section 3.14 At least two hikers must be present to constitute an official hike.

#### ITEM 4.0      RULES OF ORDER

Section 4.1 On all questions of order not covered by this constitution and bi-laws, Robert's Rules of Order, revised shall be considered authoritative.

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