



Board of Commissioners

Jason W. Boyd, Administrator

lakecountyohio.gov

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County Contact: Jason W. Boyd
440.350.2745
jason.boyd@lakecountyohio.gov

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND CITY OF EASTLAKE APPROVE CLUBHOUSE UPGRADES FOR LAKE COUNTY CAPTAINS STADIUM

Eastlake City Council unanimously approved an American Rescue Plan (ARPA) agreement with the Board of Commissioners at the April 27, 2022 Council meeting. The agreement, approved by the Commissioners on April 14, 2022, will fund clubhouse upgrades using the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program.

Recent guidance from Major League Baseball (MLB) has mandated a series of renovations/upgrades to the Club House and other ancillary items. As noted in the "Captains Stadium Renovation" document, "Major League Baseball (MLB) has instituted player safety protocols to reduce the potential for contact spreading of the COVID-19 virus." This project will address those concerns. The estimated cost is \$3.6m. Project costs will be finalized after public bidding in accordance with Federal procurement procedures.

"The Commissioners fully realize the importance of local attractions and quality of life amenities as it relates to the economic growth of Lake County. Having a beautiful facility and professional baseball in Lake County will continue to assist in the attraction of new residents, businesses and visitors to our area," said Commission President John R. Hamercheck.

As owner of the baseball facility, the City of Eastlake is tasked with maintaining the stadium. The COVID-19 pandemic placed a significant economic burden on the operating revenues associated with the City of Eastlake and the Captains.

"Having a newly promoted High-A Minor League Baseball team right here in Eastlake is a home run for Lake County and Northeast Ohio. The Commissioners are excited to step up to the plate and assist the City of Eastlake and the Captains to upgrade Captains Stadium as we continue to market Lake County as the best place to live, work, play and relax. I am grateful to Eastlake and the Captains organization for their long-term commitment to Lake County," stated Commissioner John Plecnik.

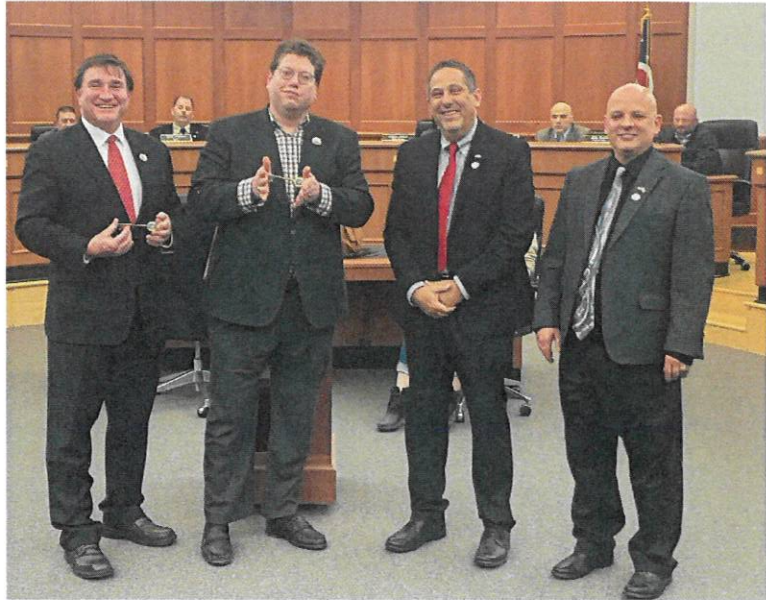
105 Main Street
Building A, Suite 513
Painesville, Ohio 44077
Office: 440-350-2745



"Lake County is blessed to have a variety of destinations for our residents and visitors to enjoy. From our parks, museum, wineries and baseball, Lake County has something for everyone," said Commissioner Ron Young.

The ARPA program provides eligibility for projects that address negative economic impacts of the pandemic to industries such as tourism, travel and hospitality. The Captains and the stadium are a significant generator of tourism dollars for Lake County including contributing to the local bed tax revenue which promotes travel and tourism throughout Lake County. In addition to baseball, the stadium attracts approximately 200,000 people on an annual basis.

Mayor Dennis Morley and Council President John Meyers presented the County Commissioners "keys to the city" in appreciation of the County's commitment to the City and the Captains.



"I would like to thank Lake County Commissioners John Hamercheck, John Plecnik and Ron Young for working with the City of Eastlake to make Captains Stadium in compliance for Major League Baseball's new requirements on lighting and clubhouse/field renovations. The lighting was \$700,000; and the other renovations are \$3.6 million, totaling \$4.3 million. Without the Commissioners stepping up, there was the distinct possibility that the Captains would have lost their ability to keep playing baseball," said City of Eastlake Mayor Dennis Morley.

"The Lake County Captains are very appreciative of the efforts put forth by The Lake County Commissioners and the City of Eastlake to provide American Rescue Plan dollars that will allow for Classic Park to meet the new operating guidelines for professional baseball. The lighting and clubhouse upgrades will provide a world class facility for professional development baseball players and allow for professional baseball to continue to operate in the City of Eastlake for many years to come," said Jen Yorko, General Manager of the Lake County Captains. She added, "the Lake County Captains are proud to provide family fun sports entertainment and generate a yearly economic impact of nearly \$5 million in our community. These upgrades will provide an opportunity for our community's economic impact to grow in the future."

This is the fourth ARPA project approved by the County Commissioners since receiving the funds in the summer of 2021. The County will receive \$44.7 million from the Federal program. All funds shall be obligated in accordance to Department of Treasury guidance by 2024 and spent by December of 2026.

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