



Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Monday, January 4, 2016

*(Meeting Held at the Village of
Richfield Town Hall, Mayor's
Conference Room)*

STAKEHOLDER GROUP #2 MEETING

5:00 P.M.

In attendance:

Richfield Clubs & Organizations:

Juanita Taylor, Garden Club/Richfield Historical Society
Jim Moneysmith, Richfield Chamber of Commerce
Salena Parker, Richfield Chamber of Commerce
Jen Stencel, Richfield Library
Karen Smik, Richfield Civic Organization
Abby Gretter, Richfield Together Campaign
Ellen Daniels, Richfield Park Board
Ruth Jocek, Richfield Park & Recreation Director
Judy Soroczak
Sue Serdinak, Richfield Town Trust

Trustee Ms. Kelly Clark
Mr. Keith Shy, Capital/Public Improvements Consultant/Manager

Mrs. Debbie Bluso Rogers, Administrator
Mr. Jeff Kerr, Environmental Design Group, Facilitator & Master Plan Consultant

Introductions & Remarks

Mr. Jeff Kerr opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. with an introduction and reviewed the agenda. Participants went around the room and introduced themselves. A sign-in sheet was provided as reflected in the above list of attendees.

Trustee Kelly Clark welcomed the participants and thanked them for their participation.

Review of the Master Plan Process, Schedule and Objectives

A summary of the master plan process and schedule was outlined to the participants. It was noted that RJRD has contracted with Environmental Design Group to assist in developing a master plan for the Crowell-Hilaka property. The master plan process will evolve over the next three-four months. As part of the master plan process, the RJRD board wanted to reach out to the local stakeholders to better understand local perspectives related to opportunities and desires of the park. This is the first of those six scheduled stakeholder meetings.

Mr. Kerr stated that the meetings would be one hour in length and it would include a series of questions to prompt comment and it would be “*just a conversation.*” The following are the salient points from the General Discussion.

General Discussion/Comments Heard

Opportunities:

Abby Gretter: Need to focus on three things: (1) water activities/recreation, (2) camping, (3) place to host events (movie night?) in structures and on the property, i.e. Gund Hall, maintain some Girl Scout history but reflect the future and vision for the residents

Juanita Taylor: progression of uses [i.e. phases], safety, walking safe with well-marked trails, port-a-potties, restore some historically deemed buildings for specific uses [The mill, Kirby home, maybe just outside to preserve and remove internals, the brick buildings], use the property for education, mothball others depending on cost, safety and health of visitors paramount, can other foundations give money to help? Dams need to be looked at – safety. Zip line should be way down the road (i.e. long term). There is a need for short term and long-term plans. Only non-motor boats should be permitted. For the future, a “chagrin falls type gazebo.” RJRD needs to look for grant opportunities for the horses and from the biking community.
Trails: biking paths, horse trails, walking paths safe and well-marked.

Karen Smik: Restore and preserve rich history.

Jen Stencil: camping, retreats from businesses to generate revenue, Wi-Fi technology, Library will help with the digitations of the history, swimming, boating, horses

Sue Serdinak: swimming, boating, horses, is this for local community vs. regional attractions. Connections for regional trail systems.

Jim Moneysmith: Big demand for facilities over 200 people.

Challenges

Juanita Taylor: part of the challenge is the financial sustainability, concerned with upkeep and maintenance of the property

Jen Stencil: Everything was let go and it will be expensive to bring it up to commercial standards and code. Concerned with safety and use of alcohol. Prefers no alcohol or guns. For wedding central, concern about parking and lighting. The buildings are quickly deteriorating – concerned about the cost of bringing just one building up to code could be daunting.

Abby Gretter: Keeping the property safe. Thought that finances to operate is a problem but perhaps it could be balanced with uses and maintenance.

Sue Serdinak: Obvious that the budget can't maintain all the existing buildings

General discussion of conflict between users. Fishing and swimming. The use of weddings in conflict with other users of the park – “wedding guests feel that they own the place while they are renting the facility” – can be loud.

Name of the Park:

Abby Gretter: maintain some Girl Scout history but reflect the future and vision for the residents

Juanita Taylor: The name should have some of the property name included but not totally, likes Richfield Preserve, mix old with the new. The name should have some of the property name included but not totally. Make sure we celebrate history – Kirby, the Mill, Oviatt, underground railroad history, Garfield building.

Sue Serdinak: Unique name with that includes some of the old name, likes the use of Oviatt or other previous Richfield owners. Some of the history with the new. Let's create new memories. Should we have primary name and secondary name?

Jim Moneysmith: the name needs to sell the property; i.e. market and the history underneath that name. The name that sells the property is how you answer the phone and what you are promoting

Financial Stability:

General Discussion included: In general, charge non-residents; develop a system that is nominal or non-existent to residents. Maybe make full charge for non-residents and discount or have no charge for residents.

Several participants were concerned about the financial sustainability of the park. How do we evaluate? May need corporate, grants, or other fund raising to support certain efforts. What happens after ten years? How is the park planning on supporting itself? Renew tax levy? Self-supporting?

Closing Comments:

Karen Smik: impressed with all of the accomplishments including all the volunteers

Juanita Taylor: it should be noted how dedicated everyone is.

Meeting Concluded at 6:05pm

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Bluso Rogers, Administrator to RJRD Board

I, ***Mrs. Debbie Bluso Rogers***

Administrator, of the Richfield Joint Recreation District, Richfield, Ohio, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true correct copy of the

January 4, 2016 Stakeholder Group #2 Meeting

Accepted as part of the record by the RJRD Board of Trustees on **Monday, January 11,**

2016 through motion.

Signed: _____
Richfield Joint Recreation District Administrator