



Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Thursday, January 7, 2016

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

STAKEHOLDER GROUP #3 MEETING Village of Richfield Representatives & Mayor Beshara

5:00 P.M.

In attendance:

Village of Richfield Council Members and Various Directors
Mayor Bobbie Beshara
Roger Swan, President of Village Council & Member of the RJRD Working Group
Pat Healy, Village Council
Jan Weber, Director of Senior Center
Brian Frantz, director of Zoning & Planning
Melanie Baker, Director of Service
Ruth Jocek, Director of Parks and Recreation
Judy Soroczak, Resident
Barb Lanford, Village Council
Mike Lyons, Village Council
Sandy Apidone, Resident and Member of Campaign Committee
Brad McKay, Village Service

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.

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:

Roger Swan: the objective was met; Richfield preserved the land from development.

Mayor Beshara: Agreed with Swan's comments and added that vehicular access points should be limited and green projects should be pursued. Mayor noted that most people that were against purchasing the property also noted that it should at least be financially self-sustaining.

Melanie Baker: Endorsed the preservation of the tree canopy, trails for hiking, lake. Structures are not in the best condition. The property helps in watershed protection from impacts from storm water. Some of the structures are positive to the community: Kirby House. As Director of Service, Mrs. Baker stated that there is a big cost associated with the renovations. Some of the roads and access ways are in fairly good condition and can be kept. The property has the potential for many different things.

Brad McKay: Agreed with Baker and added that the Amity House was a worthwhile structure to evaluate. Property still needs lots of clean up.

Sandy Apidone: From the business point of view, three structures should be renovated and used to generate revenue: Gund, Chagrin and Gemini. During the campaign it was stated that the structures would generate revenue to offset the operating levy. Weddings can bring in between \$3500 and \$7500 for Saturday and Sunday events. The twin buildings should be for local residents' rental for up to 50-100 people. Kirby Mill should be saved. The other buildings not mention are too expensive to save without much cost benefits. Educational institutions can use the structures for revenue generation such as Baldwin Wallace or John Carroll. Uses for horses.

Mike Lyons: Sustainability comes in a variety of ways; it is complicated and sustainability is not always about high revenue but limiting expenses. We should be skeptical of expectations of revenues as there may be other expenses associated with generating revenue. Buildings should be removed to reduce operating costs. No regional playground; enjoy the land, enhance the natural setting and amenities to enhance the natural setting rather than modifying. Level of activity may impact people that live near the park.

Jan Weber: Building materials from the buildings being removed should be re-purposed for the good of the property and history. Neighbors may be concerned about the park renting the property.

Ruth Jocke: The operations should be streamlined to make the property unique for the residents. Owning a public park is not really a financially sustainable situation.

General Discussion: The Park is open to all of the public. Residents want preservation for their own uses. Discussion on merits of providing for local residents versus regional draw.

Brian Frantz: Greenway connectors – especially finding opportunities for regional connections; i.e. Buckeye Trail, rustic camping, school and education, camps for schools, regional tourism, cross country skiing and snow shoeing. Open park to all of the public

Expectations of Amenities:

Sandy Apidone: Bathrooms, kitchens and parking should be brought up to code but it appears that those situations are in fairly good condition and near code.

Challenges

Melanie Baker: Many storm water issues, lakes are undersized, bridge concerns, number of roads and driveways problematic, dams, sewer and water issues, conflicts of uses.

Name of the Park:

General discussion: It is the highest point in Summit County: use this in the name and exploit the location, removed Crowell-Hilaka, Use Park, e.g. Richfield High Point.

Financial Stability:

Closing Comments:

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 7, 2016 Stakeholder Group #3 Meeting

Accepted as part of the record by the RJRD Board of Trustees on **Thursday, January 28, 2016 through motion.**

Signed: _____
Richfield Joint Recreation District Administrator