



## **Stakeholder Meeting Notes**

**Thursday, January 21, 2016**

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

### **STAKEHOLDER GROUP #5 MEETING**

**Village Safety Forces, Revere Local School District, Western Reserve Land Conservancy &  
Mayor Beshara**

**5:00 P.M.**

**In attendance:**

Mayor Bobbie Beshara  
Joe Leslie, Western Reserve Land Conservancy  
Chief Keith Morgan, Village of Richfield Police Department  
Judy Soroczak, Richfield Parks and Recreation  
Chief Jason Mihalek, Village of Richfield Fire Department  
Assistant Chief McLean, Village of Richfield Fire Department  
Kendrick Chittock, Western Reserve Land Conservancy  
Kathy Nolan, Revere Local Schools  
Superintendent Matt Montgomery, Revere Local Schools

Mr. Keith Shy, Capital/Public Improvements Consultant/Manager  
Mrs. Debbie Bluso Rogers, Administrator  
Mr. Jeff Kerr, Environmental Design Group, Facilitator & Master Plan Consultant  
Mr. Bob Becker, RJRD Board of Trustee  
Mr. Ralph McNerney, RJRD Board of Trustee  
Mr. Pat Norris, RJRD Board of Trustee  
Mr. Kelly Clark, RJRD Board of Trustee

Prior to the start of the stakeholder group meeting, the RJRD Administrator stated that there was a quorum of trustees in attendance. Addressing this situation per the ORC Open Meetings Act and the Sunshine Laws, the purpose for the meeting was explained; i.e. it was a listening meeting for the Board to glean information first hand for the master plan. There would be no discussion or deliberation by the Trustees in attendance.

## **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.

Mr. McNerney welcomed the group and provided opening remarks to the group.

## **General Discussion/Comments Heard**

KC: The process of preserving the property began in 2011 when discussion with the Girl Scouts began. This is one of the few properties that WRLC was able to conserve while others were timbered and developed. In 2012 there was a letter of intent to purchase and in 2014 a working group was established with the Village and the Township. It is a unique property with natural resources, headwaters streams, highest point in Summit County, topography, rock outcropping, species are special, and there is the historical perspective with Kirby and the Mill. WRLC sought the property not the buildings due to the financial challenges. The property has connectivity opportunities.

JL: WRLC sought out properties and the recreation district was a vehicle to protect the property. He likes the potential connectivity to other park systems: Hinckley and Rising Valley in the Township.

## **Village of Richfield Fire Department Safety Concerns:**

PM: Provided a list of safety concerns:

- Safety in regards to the buildings
- Accessibility is a concern.
- Need to address the condition of the roads and buildings.

- Need proper access to buildings.
- The site was controlled when it was a GS camp it was an organized process.
- The Fire Department has been through all 14 buildings. All need work and all need occupancy permits; which would come from the County Building Inspector.
- The Building Inspector has also toured the buildings on the site and also has a handle on what needs to be done.
- Gemini cabin access is a major fire concern.
- Condition of the buildings: lack of heat
- Inspection on Gund Hall: need to re-inspect. Emergency and fire inspection just needs a re-inspection.
- Performed a Mutual Aid Drill with all departments: EMS, Fire, and Police. Mutual aid with local fire departments that include Valley, Bath and Brecksville were held.
- Will be purchasing an ATV vehicle to help with access in the parks.
- We should look at the roadways to get proper safety access to the buildings. If roads and bridges cannot be improved, perhaps consider converting many to open air shelters.
- Access to Gemini will be a challenge; the road and bridge needs to hold 60,000 pounds for road and bridge for fire truck accessibility with a width of 10-foot minimum with 12-foot being the ideal. EMS vehicles are approximately 3000 pounds for ATV and 15,000 for EMS vehicle.
- The County will issue an occupancy permit.
- Dry hydrants would be desirable if the trucks would have close access.
- Who do you want traveling on the roads?
- Kirby House might be difficult to get to
- Hill Top house is hard to access
- Provide maps to help visitors at the Trail Heads

### **Village of Richfield Police Department Safety Concerns:**

KM Chief of Police:

- Driving is not something we are used to
- Biggest problem is finding people that are hurt and/or lost
- More people the better; less theft and vandalism
- What are you planning? We need to know so that we can make the appropriate emergency plans.
- Village is purchasing 911 cellular GPS program app for mobile phones that could help in locating people. Need help getting users to download it.
- Education on safety programs
- Alcohol served might be a problem
- Camping
- Richfield Police can only enforce the law; park restrictions such as no fishing, cannot be enforced. Park rules are not law, Village or state law.
- Alcohol should have a park ranger or an off duty police officer

- Large events might be served by an off-duty officer
- “Gate is great if you want to keep the cops out”
- Alternative vehicle
- Alarm detection systems in the buildings.

### **Revere Local Schools:**

- Collaboration – YES!
- STEM education district wide.
- Critical partner
- Teach outside the walls
- Want to be part of the education uses.
- Cross Country Team
- Programming
- Professional development
- Partner with universities
- Engaging to dialog with teachers
- Educational Staff – vision
- Partner
- BWU; coach house for lab?
- Allow Revere to be part of it. How can we get K-12 involved?
- Be careful of the universities because they don’t always coordinated well with K-12 [sometimes].
- Health Education
- Jackson Bob; research lab
- Art, music, data collection, science “lens”
- Youngstown state field office
- Questions to staff via survey monkey

### **Concluding Comments**

Chief of Police: Is there a plan to have someone there as a caretaker, part-time or full-time, maybe seasonal? Should have a point of contact for emergencies; such as caretaker

Events need to be coordinated and communicated between RJRD Administration and Safety Forces on an ongoing basis.

Master Plan needs to address signage and directions.

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Meeting Concluded at 6:05 pm

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 21, 2016 Stakeholder Group #5 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