



Regular Meeting with Work Session January 25, 2021

Call to Order: The Board met remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic per House Bill 197. The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Anita Gantner, Board Vice Chairperson.

Roll Call: Anita Gantner, Cindy Lombardo, Maureen McGinty, Art Gonzales, and Sandy Apidone. Jeff Deluca joined the meeting at 6:37 p.m. and Bob Becker joined the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Also in Attendance: Park Director David Green, Administrative Coordinator Mindy Remec and approximately 34 attendees.

Work Session

Master Plan Update:

Mr. Green provided an update on his research into the Master Plan process and the scenarios presented and voted on at the time. He spoke about the need for more clarity on the plan and for a Strategic Plan and vision for the park going forward. Additional trustee comments were appreciation for Mr. Green's work, next steps to move forward, and concerns on the budget to support the plan.

Fire Rings:

Mr. Green made an inventory of the fire rings in the park. He proposed the need to regulate campfires in the park and remove some fire rings for safety reasons. Additional trustee comments were in support of Mr. Green's efforts.

Policy Updates:

Mr. Becker said that as the Board is transitioning from a working board to a governing board, authority in some policies need to be transferred to the Park Director. The policies are being drafted for legal counsel to review and will be brought to the board at the February meeting. Mr. Green said he is looking for trustee feedback on suggestions for changes to Committees and their responsibilities.

Gannett Fleming Agreement:

Mr. Gonzales said the purpose of this agreement is to fulfill the Ohio Department of Natural Resources requirement for an inspector for phase 2 of the dam project. The cost was discussed when the board approved the bid for phase 2 but approval of the resolution is still needed.

Public Comment on Work Session:

Comments from attendees included questions about budgeting for the Master Plan and the need for additional fundraising to support the plan, the buildings scheduled for demolition in the Master Plan document, and comments on requirements to remove structures for receiving Clean Ohio Grant funds.

Regular Meeting

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION by: Ms. Lombardo and seconded by Mr. Deluca to approve the January 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes as presented.

MOTION PASSED: Vote taken by voice, which was unanimous with the exception of Mr. Gonzales who abstained

MOTION by: Mr. Deluca and seconded by Ms. Gantner to approve the January 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes as presented.

MOTION PASSED: Vote taken by voice, which was unanimous with the exception of Mr. Gonzales who abstained

Standing Committee Reports:

Governance:

Mr. Becker said that policy updates would be prepared for the February regular meeting.

Park Operations:

Mr. Deluca reported the Ohio Operating Engineers provided help with work on the parking lot and trails.

Park Services:

Ms. Apidone reported brochure holders had been installed.

Capital Projects: No report

Special Fundraising Committee Report:

Mr. Gonzales reported on work with volunteer grant writers.

Administration Report:

Ms. Remec reported work on an employee handbook and the addition of a button to pay for park facility reservations on the Richfield Heritage Preserve website.

Park Director Report:

Mr. Green reported for Friends of Crowell Hilaka (FoCH) on work by the Historic Home Stabilization Task Force and 2021 planning for the Invasive Species Management Task Force. Mr. Green reported he would be meeting with FoCH on 2021 programming. Mr. Green said he had been reaching out to stakeholders, working with college students on projects in the park, and meeting with representatives from ANCA and the Western Reserve Land Conservancy.

Volunteer Coordinator Report:

Ms. Czaplicki reported volunteer work on removal of tent platforms at Wonken Tonken, the backstop and baseball storage shed from the ballfield, and exterior wood from the one Adirondacks. She also reported the Eagle Scout Project on the Windy Hill shelter roof was completed.

Treasurer Report:

Ms. McGinty reported receiving status reports from the fiscal officer and funds are in good standing. Mr. Becker thanked Ms. McGinty for looking into the bond rating change due to using an Agreed Upon Procedures audit instead of a full audit in 2020. Bond counsel has advised there would be no issues since a full audit would be done prior to renewal of the levy.

New Business:

Ms. Gantner introduced Resolution 03-2021, A Resolution Authorizing the Richfield Joint Recreation District to Negotiate A Written Agreement With Gannett Fleming Engineers and Architects, P.C., for Construction and Administration of the Upper and Lower Lake Dam Rehabilitations Phase II.

MOTION by: Mr. Becker and seconded by Mr. Gonzales to approve Resolution 03-2021

MOTION PASSED: Vote taken by voice, which was unanimous with the exception of Ms. McGinty who abstained

Ms. Ganter introduced discussion on Oviatt House, that she would like a motion made to work through a set of terms for an agreement with the Save the Oviatt House Group to move forward. If accepted by the group, a motion to rescind the motion for demolition of the house could be made. Additional trustee comments were that this motion to rescind would be premature until after the Strategic Plan is developed, support for developing a term sheet, and the need for legal counsel.

MOTION by: Mr. Becker and seconded by Mr. Gonzales to enter into negotiations with the Save the Oviatt House Group for the purpose of developing a Term Sheet

FURTHER DISCUSSION: Trustees discussed an upcoming presentation from the Save the Oviatt House Group for the March meeting and that opening negotiations prior to that presentation may be helpful. Trustees discussed confusion about photos of the house and documentation for the Underground Railroad.

MOTION WITHDRAWN: Mr. Becker withdrew the motion

Mr. Becker suggested that the terms and conditions be developed and brought to the board for discussion. He proposed that the terms include: the name of legal entity in the agreement, the goals and timeframe, that the maintenance of the house be at no cost to the taxpayers and RJRD in perpetuity, and if any of the conditions are not met then the house would be razed regardless of monetary investment at that time. Mr. Gonzales agreed to develop a term sheet. Mr Becker said this could be done in the Governance Committee with Mr. Gonzales working with Ms. McGinty and Mr. Green. A draft can then be reviewed by the Save the Oviatt House Group and then reviewed by legal counsel.

Questions / Comments from the Floor:

Attendees commented on historical documentation for the Underground Railroad and questioned trustee confusion about Oviatt House photos, appreciation for the board's willingness to develop a term sheet, and the need for the board to work on projects other than the Oviatt House such as handicap accessible trails.

Agenda & Action Items:

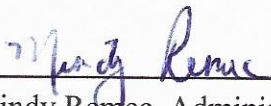
Mr. Becker said that a briefing memo and the policy and procedure changes would be distributed a week before the February meeting for trustee review.

Adjournment:

MOTION by: Mr. Becker and seconded by Mr. Deluca to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

MOTION PASSED: Vote taken by voice, which was unanimous

Submitted by:



Mindy Reme, Administrative
Coordinator

Accepted by:



Bob Becker, Board Chairperson