



GRANTS/FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, February 11, 2022 8:30 A.M.
(meeting held at Park Office)

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 8:37am

Roll Call: Selig, Robeson, Wehner, Richardson – present, Kannenburg – excused absence

Committee organization:

Brief introductions conducted for all individuals present: Mike Selig, Lynn Richardson, Marcia Wehlan, Mark Robeson, Anita Gantner, Cynthia McWilliams, Dave Wehner, and David Green

Discussed committee organization with the goal of having the committee be composed of three board members (Selig, Robeson, Wehner), three committee advisors (Richardson, Kannenburg, open), and a grants volunteer (Wehlan). Will try and find committee advisors that represent different groups and/or skill sets that can provide support for the committee.

Discussed meeting expectations of being respectful of each other's time, being respectful of everyone's opinions, fostering an environment where all ideas are open for discussion, as well as being open to input about different ways of doing something. Action steps will be generated at the end of every meeting.

Grants discussion:

Discussed what grants we have been successfully obtained already:

2015, Clean Ohio Grant

- 1.1 million towards purchase of the property, RJRD/western reserve

2016, Pipeline Grant

- \$12,000, to craft application for the National Registry of Historic Places, FoCH

2019, Ohio History Fund Grant

- \$15,250.00 for construction plans for Kirby's mill, FoCH

2021, Haslinger foundation Grant

- \$15,000 for cost to cover construction of the mill pit, FoCH

2020, State budget allocation

- \$140,000 – for the Lake Jinelle Rehabilitation Project, FoCH/RJRD

Anita Gantner brought up that Richfield Heritage Preserve would be eligible for a one time follow up grant to the original Clean Ohio Grant.

Discussed current challenges with obtaining grants: 1.) that we are in the process of renewing our strategic plan so clear long-term goals for many of the buildings and areas of the park have yet to be

defined, and 2.) a lack of engineering designs/estimated costs for projects we would like to move forward with. Committee agreed that for the short term we should focus on grant projects that have universal agreement between the RHP stakeholders and try and match those projects with grants as grant deadlines approach.

Discussed the challenge of not being ready for grants when they become available. Group discussed the idea of creating a generic grant library so that we can be more prepared for when these grant opportunities become available. Discussed sharing some of the generic narratives that have been used by the Friends group in prior grant applications. Discussed trying to identify short-term grants that we can start applying for immediately as compared to long-term grants that would need a longer timeline to be able to apply for.

Ideas proposed for possible short-term grants included:

- 1.) Water systems (3 wells) – generic grant as we just missed out on a potential grant
- 2.) HVAC system upgrades – to cover what does not get completed in the Lodge, potential for other building as well
- 3.) All-purpose trail – improved accessibility for guests – may be a long-term project based on need to determine location and engineering costs – could look for grant that addresses engineering costs
- 4.) Connector trail from Broadview to main park – multipurpose trail that would get the Buckeye trail off the main road, could serve as a connection to planned sidewalk on Broadview
- 5.) Wayfinding (signs, maps) – trail working group expected to have a report generated by spring, will likely need funding for proposed changes or improvement to enhance wayfinding
- 6.) Parking improvements – immediately adjacent to lodge (handicap accessibility), improvements to main parking lot
- 7.) Bridge replacement – numerous bridges throughout park, most obvious one being the one above the upper lake dam
- 8.) Historic structures – design and engineering costs
- 9.) Aquatic plant treatment – currently spend \$5,000/year - could try and get an aerator for about \$8,000 (may reduce the amount of vegetation and could reduce the need to continue with continued weed treatment) Long-term goal would be the upper lake would need to be dredged
- 10.) Programing – no budget currently – rely on volunteers – would be great to have a naturalist hired to be able to do programs
- 11.) Halloween candy – small ask but would something that could be looked for
- 12.) Volunteer resources - grants for software to help better manage volunteers, provide recognition for volunteers
- 13.) Audio visual equipment in the lodge – would enhance the use of the lodge for meetings/events
- 14.) Habitat restoration – stream bank erosion, fence repair to continue to exclude deer

Reviewed the Excel document put together by Marcia Whelan. It identifies numerous grants, what they are for, and associated deadlines.

Based on above list and upcoming grant deadlines identified the all-purpose trail (design and engineering aspect), connector trail from Broadview to main park, and bridges as good ones to go for. Associated grants being:

Clean Ohio Trail Funds – April 14th (trails)

Recreational Trails Program – April 15th (trails)

Nature Works – June 1st (bridges)

Cynthia McWilliams brought up the idea of evaluating potential tax credits as a source of revenue. She said she would investigate the name and contact details of the person she was referencing.

Other grant ideas would be any that focus on STEM. Given the RHP history with Kirby multiple opportunities exist to be able to use that aspect to qualify for different grants.

Andrea Irland was suggested as an individual to reach out to as she has been involved grants that have been worked on previously.

Discussed that Pat Norris is evaluating the possibility of applying for another Capital Budget Grant and was suggested to reach out to him to see how this committee could help. Mike Selig agreed that was a good suggestion and would reach out to Pat Norris.

Anita Gantner brought up an Education Grant Workshop put on by the ODNR that we could consider attending. Application Workshop is scheduled for October 2022.

Fundraising discussion:

Proposed first step in evaluating fundraising strategy was to be review what we have done the last few years to try and identify areas for improvement.

Fundraising efforts that were described by the group included events by the Ohio Horseman's council, Plant sales, Kirby days, Winter festival, and certain activity groups such as running and yoga groups.

Group collectively agreed that individual philanthropy is the best long-term way to effectively fundraise. Discussed the benefits of having the Friends group be a 501 3c organization for donations as many individuals may be hesitant to donate to a governmental entity.

Talked about creating a group list of individuals/organizations that have donated to both the RJRD and the Friends group for the RHP. David Green suggested that Polly Wheeler could pool that information together for donations to the RJRD. Lynn Richardson explained that this information is available by year on the Friends group website. Brief discussion over contacting donors that the Friends have been cultivating over the years. Group agreed that any contacting of donors from a list that we generated would be done in a collaborative way as the goal was to work together towards developing donors further.

Action steps:

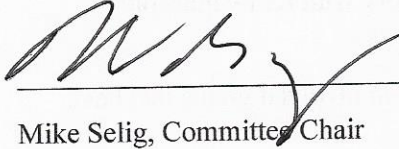
- 1.) Start making a general grant library – Marcia Wehlan
- 2.) Share general grant narrative with Marica Wehlan – Lynn Richardson
- 3.) Create a formal list of previous grants – Marica Wehlan
- 4.) Compile RJRD donor list – David Green/Polly Wheeler
- 5.) Compile Friends donor list – Marcia Wehlan
- 6.) Create contacts list for committee – Mike Selig

- 7.) Start working on the following three grants: Clean Ohio Trail Funds, Recreational Trails Program, Nature Works – Marcia Wehlan, Mark Robeson

Discussed next meeting time and date. Group agreed to the meet March 11th at 8:30 am in the park lodge.

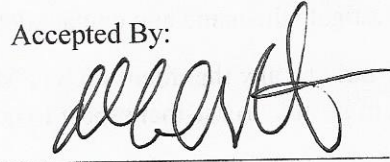
Motion to adjourn by Mike Selig, seconded by Mark Robeson, unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 10:21am.

Submitted By:


Mike Selig, Committee Chair

Date: 11/MAR/22

Accepted By:



Date: 3/11/22

Mark Robeson, Committee Member