



Regular Meeting with Work Session February 26, 2024

Call to Order: The Board met in person in Council chambers at Richfield Village Hall. The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Anita Gantner, Board Chair.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present: Anita Gantner, Mike Lyons, Steve McPeake, Holly Price, Mark Robeson, Mike Selig, Dave Wehner

Also in Attendance: Village Councilperson Sue Ann Philippbar, Township Trustee Don Laubacher, Park Director John Piepsny, Administrative Coordinator Polly Wheeler, 6 other attendees and 4 attendees by Zoom

Regular Meeting

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of Jan. 22, 2024 regular meeting and Feb. 6, 2024 special meeting were approved as submitted.

Standing Committee Reports

Governance: No new business to report. Next meeting is planned for March 18 at 5:30pm at park office [later changed to 6pm in Mayor's large conference room at Richfield Village Hall].

Grants & Fundraising:

NatureWorks grant from the state for the upper lake bridge was received, so the board will move forward with getting an RFP together for that.

Committee will take a look at other grant opportunities coming up in the next year or two. One project is an accessible trail from The Lodge to some of the other structures. The second is to create a connector trail between RHP and Richfield Woods and find funding for that. Other possible projects were discussed at the last committee meeting.

The next meeting is planned for April.

Administration Report:

Mr. Piepsny showed a Power Point presentation to demonstrate the progress that has been taking place in the park, including work by maintenance supervisor Chris Moore and several skilled volunteers, partner groups, and corporate groups. Brush clearing and log splitting has been done, and a lot of progress has taken place at Amity House, including replacement and repair of supports posts on the porch.

Last Chance and Fernwood shelters were removed. Last Chance was in very bad condition, and Fernwood was not a lot better. Removing these and some other structures was part of the Strategic Plan approved by the board.

Treasurer Report:

Mr. Wehner reported that at the end of January, there was \$442,000 in the bank account, with outstanding checks of about \$5,000, leaving about \$436,000 available. Operating non-restricted funds were \$159,000 in the capital improvement fund and \$277,000 available for all other uses.

Cash inflows were about \$17,000, with \$14,000 from RecDesk. There is a new rental revenue stream from American Trademark Construction, along with the radio tower lease and a couple of others, plus about \$1,000 from the Snowbird Festival.

Expenses were about \$20,000 for payroll and related items, about \$40,000 in expenses, about \$2,000 in utilities, \$4,000 in commissions on The Lodge, and another \$2,000 for repairs and maintenance and miscellaneous items around the park.

Old Business:

None further

New Business:

- 1) Mr. Piepsny proposed the sale of the Buffalo turbine blower on GovDeals. He said it is a nice industrial blower, but it's not meeting the needs of the park. It can blow either to the left or the right and is a tow-behind, making it inefficient to use for blowing leaves off the trails. These can sell on GovDeals for \$7,000 - \$8,000 with many more hours than this one.

A new Steiner piece of equipment was received from the township. An attachment for this equipment that costs around \$3,500 is available to do the same job but attaches on the front of the machine and can blow in a 180 degree arc, from left to front to right.

To see the current blower on GovDeals, a minimum bid can be put on the piece of equipment. If this is sold then the new, more efficient could be purchased.

Ms. Gantner said that this seems quite reasonable. Mr. Lyons agreed.

MOTION by: Mr. Lyons moved and seconded by Mr. McPeake to authorize Mr. Piepsny to sell the blower on GovDeals.

DISCUSSION: None further.

MOTION PASSED: Vote taken by voice vote, which was unanimously yea.

Ms. Gantner asked Mr. Piepsny to introduce the logo, containing the iconic mill, that was created a few years ago by graphic designer Christie Bell and presented to the board at that time.

Mr. Piepsny said he thinks it would be wise to use this logo in addition to the current text logo. There are many options for the use of this logo, and he thinks it would be wise to start using this.

Ms. Price has made a couple of adjustments to enlarge the text at the bottom. Mr. Piepsny was unable to locate the most recent version, but he showed several variations, with the 4-color logo as the primary feature version. Ms. Price noted that the revision is basically an increase in the font size of "Heritage Preserve", extending it to the length of the "Richfield" portion of the logo, to give it more prominence.

Ms. Gantner suggested that Mr. Piepsny should send the updated version to the board, and they should consider it for the next meeting. Ms. Price said it would be nice to include this in the revised website that's being worked on right now. Ms. Gantner questioned the need to obtain board approval for the logo. Mr. Lyons had no objection to the logo and did not hear objections from other board members. Ms. Gantner said that Mr. Piepsny should move ahead with the logo as proposed, but it would be nice to see the latest update.

Announcements:

The next regular board meeting will be on March 25.

The youth art contest display will be March 10 from 2-4pm in The Lodge.

There is a photo contest in April.

The "Total Eclipse of the Park" will be April 8 from 1-4pm in the park.

Comments from the Floor:

Corey Ringle (Hawthorne Dr) asked Mr. Piepsny to forward the revised logo to the Friends for their use in marketing materials, as required.

On March 16 the Friends will have a photography hike and program led by professional photographer Jim McClintock. Hike is titled "Let's See What's Hiding in Plain Sight".

Ms. Ringle said that, speaking as a resident, she is disappointed that the shelters had to come down. She asked the board to please let Friends know if there are other structures that are intended to be removed. They would like to be allowed the opportunity to help refurbish and save any future structures.

Lynn Richardson (Bedford, OH) said that the new logo is beautiful. However, she would like the board to consider that the proposed logo is very similar to the Friends logo. It may be confusing to people when they see both logos on marketing materials.

Adjournment:

MOTION by: Mr. Lyons moved, seconded by Mr. Selig, to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION PASSED: Vote taken by voice, which was unanimously yea.

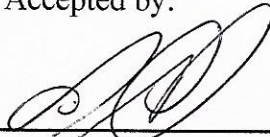
Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by:



Polly Wheeler, Administrative Coordinator

Accepted by:



Anita Gantner, Board Chair