



Regular Meeting with Work Session March 22, 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 6:30 p.m. by Bob Becker, Board Chairperson.

Roll Call: Cindy Lombardo, Maureen McGinty, Bob Becker, Anita Gantner, and Sandy Apidone. Art Gonzales joined the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

Excused Absence: Jeff Deluca

Also in Attendance: Park Director David Green, Administrative Coordinator Mindy Remec and approximately 27 attendees.

Work Session

Policy, Rules, and Regulation Changes:

Mr. Green summarized the amended Committees Policy with changes suggested at the February 22, 2021 meeting. The three continuing committees will be Governance, Capital Projects, and Fundraising / Advocacy. Mr. Green will oversee partner group relations instead of the Governance Committee and he will begin reviewing the memorandums of understanding with each group.

Oviatt House Term Sheet:

Mr. Gonzales developed a draft term sheet that was then reviewed by the Save the Oviatt House Group who requested some changes. Copies were provided to trustees prior to the meeting. The summarized key points of the draft included: length of the agreement, obligations for fundraising, activities reporting to the RJRD Board, and ownership and use of the structure. The group has said they are retaining legal counsel and intend to form a 501(c)(3). He recommended this draft be used as an outline for an agreement with the Oviatt House Group. Board members' comments and questions included responsibility for associated costs for the house, concerns over the length of the agreement, and the group named in the agreement.

Rising Valley Park:

Mr. Becker introduced discussion on the potential Richfield Township donation of Rising Valley Park land to RJRD. Richfield Township Trustee Mr. Luther was in attendance to answer Board questions. Board members' comments and questions included concerns over lack of continued revenue for the park, ability to sustain the property with RJRD current levy revenue, why the township is interested in donating the property, expenses for maintaining the property, opportunities to reduce maintenance costs, immediate maintenance needs, and pros and cons for Cleveland Metroparks' interest in the property.

Mr. Luther commented that Rising Valley Park is an expense to Township and that the Richfield Township Board of Trustees may consider supporting the RJRD financially for a defined number of years. He wanted to offer the property to RJRD first before looking into other options such as the Cleveland Metroparks.

Public Comment on Work Session: None

Regular Meeting

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION by: Ms. Lombardo and seconded by Ms. McGinty to approve the February 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes as presented.

MOTION PASSED: Vote taken by voice, which was unanimous

Standing and Special Committee Reports: There were no reports for the Governance, Park Services, and Capital Projects.

Park Operations:

Mr. Green reported that the maintenance garage requires roof repairs.

Fundraising:

Mr. Gonzales reported that a new volunteer to research and write grants may be joining the committee and a meeting will be held in the near future.

Administration Report:

Ms. Remec reported working to get RJRD in compliance with the new credit card policy and legal review of the draft employee handbook is pending.

Park Director Report:

Mr. Green reported on work done by the Friends of Crowell Hilaka (FoCH) for the Historic Home Stabilization Task Force, Invasive Species Management Team, and the trash and latrine cleaning group. He said that horse trails are still closed and that he is working with the Ohio Horseman's Council on park rules. The scheduled work day for the Buckeye Trail is April 17. Mr. Green said the seasonal park maintenance position is now posted. He reported work done by volunteer coordinator Susan Czaplicki and volunteers, which included monitoring of the bluebird boxes, spring cleanup at the park, multiple groups completing service hours, and Eagle Scout projects.

Treasurer Report:

Ms. McGinty reported the budget is in good standing.

New Business:

MOTION by: Ms. Lombardo and seconded by Ms. Gantner to adopt the Committee Policy as revised.

MOTION PASSED: Vote taken by voice, which was unanimous

Mr. Becker reiterated that Mr. Green would now be in charge of partner group memorandums of understanding and thanked him for taking this work on.

MOTION by: Mr. Gonzales and seconded by Ms. Gantner to turn over the Oviatt House term sheet as an outline for legal counsel, Mr. Hanna, to develop a contract with the Save the Oviatt House Group.

MOTION PASSED: Vote taken by voice, which was unanimous

Mr. Gonzales said he would forward information to Mr. Hanna to start this process.

Questions / Comments from the Floor:

An attendee asked if there is an update on the Strategic Plan timeline development. Mr. Green said that he is working on preparing groups and individuals for this process, which can take three to six months. Ms Lombardo said this would be critical before a levy campaign. Additional comments by attendees including concern over Village of Richfield potential plans for a community center.

Announcements:

Ms. Philipbar announced that Project Pride is scheduled for April 24. Mr. Green announced the Northeast Ohio Orienteering Club has a course set up in the park through March 28.

Agenda & Action Items:

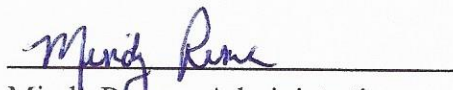
Mr. Becker said upcoming agenda items are the employee handbook and a decision on Rising Valley Park. He said a special meeting may be held for an executive session with legal counsel.

Adjournment:

MOTION by: Ms. Lombardo and seconded by Ms. Apidone to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

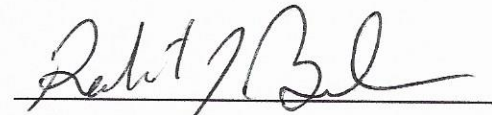
MOTION PASSED: Vote taken by voice, which was unanimous

Submitted by:



Mindy Remec, Administrative
Coordinator

Accepted by:



Bob Becker, Board Chairperson