



**Special Meeting with Work Session  
May 16, 2022**

**Call to Order:** The Board met in person at Park Office at Richfield Heritage Preserve. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Anita Gantner, Board Chairperson.

**Roll Call:** Sandy Apidone, Anita Gantner, Jeff DeLuca, Maureen McGinty, and Dave Wehner

**Excused Absence:** Mark Robeson and Michael Selig

**Also in Attendance:** Village Mayor Michael Wheeler, Councilperson Sue Ann Philippbar, Township Trustee Don Laubacher, Councilman Pat Norris, Administrative Coordinator Polly Wheeler, and several interested attendees

### **Work Session**

1) Ms. Gantner asked if there are any concerns about the MOU with the Village for a joint park director/ parks & rec director position.

Ms. McGinty stated that a part time director should be explored separately from the Village if the board is considering a part time position. Ms. Apidone agreed that this is not the right time for a shared position.

Mr. Wehner stated that the board will not get a good candidate for a separate director because they cannot offer good benefits. He also noted that the MOU is light on handling discipline issues. Ms. Gantner acknowledged that this should be put into the agreement, and Mayor Wheeler responded that it is listed in the contract. Mr. Wehner asked that the details of the mechanics be spelled out. Ms. Gantner read the piece of the MOU pertaining to terminating the contract. Mayor Wheeler stated that the arrangement will be revisited every 90 days, or sooner if necessary. Ms. Gantner agreed that the board cannot offer enough to attract a good, viable candidate. Mr. Wehner said that the spirit of the agreement will be agreeable.

Ms. Apidone noted that a good candidate needs to have a business background as well as a parks background. Ms. McGinty stated that the board might find a newly retired person or an at-home parent to work part time in this position. As Ms. Gantner responded, no such person has shown up in the past two months. Such people may exist but may not be looking at Richfield Heritage Preserve. Mr. DeLuca offered that he likes the idea of a better qualified candidate for better salary and benefits. The arrangement would mean that the RJRD could hire other people as support. He asked if the RJRD will be at the table for the hiring process.

Ms. McGinty asked what level of influence the Village Council members will have on the park director. It will be minimal, according to Ms. Philippbar. Mayor Wheeler added that the director is under administrative power, not that of Council. Ms. Gantner that the MOU be changed so that either party will share disciplinary issues with each other. She will ask legal counsel Bill Hanna to make the changes.

Mr. Wehner stated that the park and Village responsibilities of the position can ebb and flow, so the flexibility should be written into the MOU. A discussion followed of the flow back and forth of events or of sharing of events, which should average 50/50 and should be reassessed at least every 90 days.

Ms. Gantner stated that the board will vote on the MOU at the next regular meeting on May 23, 2022.

2) Ms. Gantner opened the discussion of the upcoming ribbon-cutting event, asking where the board will be best placed during the event. The options are to rove around the park, to be at the open buildings, or to be in The Lodge. She wants Kelly Coffman of Cleveland Metroparks to do a presentation and also would like Andrea Irland of CVNP to be present with her trail information. The board members could split their time between things. They should carry a clipboard to take notes while talking to residents.

Mr. Wehner stated that people are needed full-time at The Lodge and at the lower dam. Mr. DeLuca mentioned that board members could move around with groups of people and that he needs to be flexible on that day. He also reminded the board that they need to make sure the correct message is being given and suggested that it needs to be scripted for the docents. Ms. McGinty asked if the 2016 assessment is available to review for information. Ms. Gantner agreed that it would be a good source, but Mr. DeLuca said that it is too outdated and therefore inaccurate.

Focusing on the event logistics, Ms. Gantner asked if the board members should spend one hour in a building. Mr. DeLuca said yes, they should, because they need to familiarize people with the buildings, since they are the next step in upgrading the park. Mr. Wehner expressed concern that the board may indicate a lack of interest in some buildings if they are not present in them, even if that impression is not accurate.

3) Ms. Gantner asked for an update on the open house signage. There will be two signs: They will include information about the Upper Lake dam, the Waste Water Treatment Plant, the Lower Lake dam, and the Mill/Oviatt House or The Lodge, depending on sign location.

A discussion followed regarding how long the signs should remain up, with several members agreeing the signs should stay up until the upcoming levy is passed.

**Comments from the floor:**

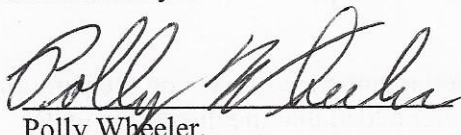
Mr. Norris requested that the board make sure Friends of RHP get credit on the sign for their contributions.

**Adjournment:**

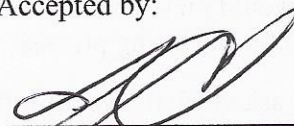
**MOTION by:** Mr. Wehner and seconded by Ms. McGinty to adjourn the meeting at 6:29 p.m.

**MOTION PASSED:** Vote taken by voice, which was unanimous

Submitted by:

  
Polly Wheeler,  
Administrative Coordinator

Accepted by:

  
Anita Gantner, Board Chairperson