



## **Regular Meeting with Work Session July 26, 2021**

**Call to Order:** The Board met in person at The Lodge at Richfield Heritage Preserve. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Anita Gantner, Board Chairperson.

**Roll Call:** Sandy Apidone, Maureen McGinty, Anita Gantner, Jeff Deluca, Art Gonzales, and Mark Robeson

**Excused Absence:** Cindy Lombardo

**Also in Attendance:** Park Director David Green, Administrative Coordinator Mindy Remec and approximately 10 attendees.

### **Work Session**

#### **Richfield Heritage Preserve Logo:**

Mr. Green presented ideas for a new Richfield Heritage Preserve (RHP) Logo and the thinking behind the design. Ms. McGinty shared examples of how the Cleveland Metroparks logo is used. Trustees comments were that they liked the logo and consensus was to wait for board approval until after the Strategic Planning process was complete.

#### **Non-Profit Facility Rental Fees:**

Mr. Green asked trustees for guidance on discounting rental fees for non-profit organizations, partner groups, and village and township governments so that consistent answers are given. The board held discussion and the following consensus was made: Non-profit organizations will receive the same rate as Richfield residents. Richfield Village and Township will receive free reservations for community events but donations would be appreciated. Organizations holding RHP fundraising events would receive free rentals. Partner organizations, such as FoCH, will receive free reservations. The expectation is that fundraising events for these organizations would exceed the rental fee and that preference is for weekday reservations. Mr. Gonzales agreed to put this in writing for future board discussion.

Trustees further discussed current rental rates and lack of reservations. Trustees comments included: the need for more advertising and marketing, the promise to the voters for the park to be self-sufficient, the need for a preferred vendor's list, using the Allardale venue as a comparison for rates, and charging an additional cleaning fee. Trustees discussed lowering the Lodge rental rates for the remainder of 2021 to generate interest.

#### **Oviatt House Term Sheet:**

Ms. Gantner introduced the revised Oviatt House Term Sheet for discussion. She asked members of the Oviatt Group if they had any questions or concerns with the new revision, who requested a board vote to rescind the previous vote to demolish the house. After discussion, the board's consensus was to combine a motion to approve the agreement and rescind the previous motion to demolish the house.

**Strategic Planning:**

Mr. Green spoke about the planning report from Environmental Design Group (EDG) and the importance of looking back on what has previously been done and what may be different now. Trustees commented on how the board has evolved and focuses have changed. Trustees discussed the potential of having a paid or volunteer facilitator for the strategic plan.

**Public Comment on Work Session:**

Comments included that the Village offers their facilities free to non-profit organizations, questions to clarify FoCH fundraising events, the importance of including residents in the strategic plan, comments on the EDG Plan, and support for free use of park facilities for the village and township.

**Regular Meeting****Approval of Minutes:**

**MOTION by:** Mr. Deluca and seconded by Ms. Apidone to approve the June 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes as presented.

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

**Standing and Special Committee Reports:**

**Governance:** No report

**Capital Projects:** Mr. Deluca reported on meetings for the construction of the dam including timelines for the work. Northstar has delayed the start date until approximately September 1, 2021. There is a possibility that Northstar may do some of the concrete work on the mill for FoCH while here.

**Fundraising / Advocacy:** No report

**Administration Report:**

Ms. Remec reported on routine office procedures and donations received.

**Park Director Report:**

Mr. Green provided a written report to the Board. Highlights from his report were: old kitchen appliances in The Lodge have been cleared, ads for The Lodge are being placed in the Richfield Times and surrounding community magazines, and three inquiries for The Lodge have come in recently, and the many events and programs happening in the park. Mr Green summarized the Volunteer Coordinator report from Ms. Czaplicki who submitted a written report and the Friends of Crowell Hilaka (FoCH) report. Trustees requested signs be posted in the park to prevent collecting of mushrooms, etc.

**Treasurer Report:**

Ms. McGinty reported amounts in funds and the need to keep a close eye on the capital fund budget. She proposed installing a secure donation box in the park for visitors outside of the Richfield area and the board concurred with this suggestion.

Ms. Apidone said a township resident has offered to donate a baby grand piano for The Lodge. Trustees were appreciative of the generous offer but discussed that it may be problematic because of the space



needed and potential damage to the piano from young guests. Additional questions were asked on whether the board could auction the piano. Ms. Apidone said she would get more information on the donation offer.

**Questions / Comments from the Floor:**

Comments included: fluctuation in temperature of The Lodge may be problematic with keeping a piano in good working order, and a suggestion for a QR code on the donation box for electronic donations instead of cash.

**Announcements:**

Ms. Lynn Richardson announced she would be holding a fundraiser at The Lodge.

**New Business:**

Ms. Gantner introduced the motion to approve the Oviatt House Restoration Agreement.

**MOTION by:** Mr. Gonzales and seconded by Mr. Deluca to approve the Oviatt House Restoration Agreement as presented and to rescind the November 2019 motion to raze the Oviatt House and to authorize the Board Chairperson and Park Director to execute the agreement.

**MOTION PASSED, Vote taken by roll call:** Mr. Deluca (Yes), Ms. Gantner (Yes), Ms. McGinty (Yes), Mr. Robeson (Yes), Mr. Gonzales (Yes), Ms. Apidone (Yes)

Ms. Gantner introduced a motion for The Lodge rental rates. Trustees discussed an additional cleaning fee.

**MOTION by:** Ms. Apidone and seconded by Mr. Robeson to approve the fee schedule for The Lodge rental rates as follows: Saturday rate for residents is \$1,500, non-residents is \$2,000; Friday and Sunday rate for residents is \$1,000, non-residents \$1,500; Monday-Thursday rate is \$500; and Monday-Thursday half-day rate is \$250 with an additional charge for cleaning to be determined effective for events held in 2021.

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

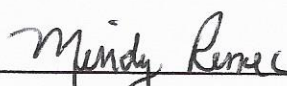
**Adjournment:**

**MOTION by:** Ms. McGinty and seconded by Ms. Apidone to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

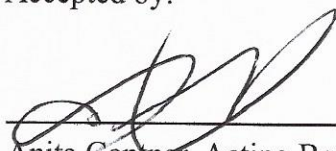
**MOTION PASSED:** Vote taken by voice, which was unanimous

Ms. Bowman asked for clarification on Oviatt House Phase 1 work approval. Mr. Gonzales said he would send suggestions to her that could then be addressed at the next meeting.

Submitted by:

  
Mindy Renee, Administrative  
Coordinator

Accepted by:

  
Anita Gantner, Acting Board  
Chairperson