



## **Regular Meeting with Work Session September 28, 2020**

**Call to Order:** The Board met virtually 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:** Bob Becker, Cindy Lombardo, Jeff Deluca, Pat Norris, Sandy Apidone, and Maureen McGinty, Art Gonzales

**Also in Attendance:** Administrative Coordinator Mindy Remec, and approximately 32 attendees.

### **Work Session**

#### **Capital Fund and Phase II Bidding Process:**

Mr. Gonzales introduced the discussion and reported that a breakdown in pricing was received from Gannet Fleming for Phase II of the lower lake dam. The cost is estimated to be approximately \$875,000. The upper lake dam cement work and pedestrian bridge is excluded from that estimate. These two items can be added as additional options to a bid. There is approximately \$950,000 unencumbered in the capital fund. The question is whether to go forward with the bid. If the estimate is accurate then it would leave \$75,000 in the capital fund for future projects and matching grant dollars.

Trustees held an extended discussion which included the following topics: support of the residents for the project and how that information was obtained, original budgeting and the master plan, the reliability of the estimate, timing of the bid and increasing costs. Trustees also discussed the need to hold back enough capital funds for park amenity projects and grant matching.

Mr. Norris read a letter from Paul Swan from the Historical Society in support of completing Phase II of the dam project. He also spoke about the possibility of receiving funds through the state budget allocation process to a limited degree.

Mr. Chris Hallahan from Gannet Fleming spoke about the bid process and the expertise and work involved.

Mr. Becker asked board members where their comfort level would be in holding back funds in the capital fund. Mr. Norris, Mr. Deluca, and Mr. Gonzales concurred that they would be comfortable with having \$50,000 to \$150,000 in the capital fund. Ms. Lombardo and Ms. Apidone would like to hold back \$100,000. Ms. McGinty said she would like to hold back \$500,000.

**Oviatt House:** Topic held for a future meeting.

#### **Public Comments on Work Session:**

Ms. Kelly Clark spoke about her recollections as a previous board member. She questioned promises made to save the lake and the results of the Historical Society's survey. Ms. Clark cautioned the board on fiscally responsible for future levy support.

Ms. Judy Bowman asked if the bid would include dredging. Mr. Becker said it would not. She further commented that she supports moving forward with the dam work.

Village Council member Ms. Phillipbar commented that obtaining bids would provide clarity.

## **Regular Meeting**

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Approval of minutes will be held at the next meeting.

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

**Governance:** No report.

### **Park Operations:**

Mr. Deluca reported a new gate opener was installed for visitors to access the lower lake area. A new port-a-potty was also put in by the winter barn. He spoke about security camera installations. Mr. Deluca said clean up work is being done and a new kiosk will eventually be installed by the lower entrance. He thanked volunteers for their work on installing bathroom exhaust fans and main entrance driveway cleanup. He also thanked volunteer coordinator Susan Czaplicki for her assistance.

Mr. Norris asked for board input on accepting a donation of planting and fencing of ten native trees from the Rocky River Rivershed Council. The contribution will help fulfil commitments for the Clean Ohio Grant. Mr. Deluca said he would work with Mr. Norris on planting the trees and commented that Far-o-Way Pines and Last Chance meadow areas would be good. Mr. Deluca also spoke about the mowing plan and timing for the mowing.

### **Park Services:**

Ms. Apidone reported on behalf of Molly Eastwood from OHC saying that they held a successful prayer ride. Ms. Apidone spoke about plans for Trick-or-Treat on the Trail because of the Coronavirus pandemic. She thanked Village Council Member Mr. Jeff Stoppenhagen and Mrs. Stoppenhagen for donating funds and volunteer time to purchase and paint new doors for Gund Hall. Ms. Apidone said the new furniture for Gund Hall should be received shortly and many calls have been received regarding interest in making reservations.

### **Capital Projects:**

Mr. Gonzales said the work session discussion would serve as his report and reiterated a decision on going to bid needs to be made.

### **Special Fundraising Committee Report:**

Mr. Gonzales reported contact with new and returning volunteers that have offered to assist with grants and fundraising. They conducted a walkthrough of the park to discuss projects that need funding to and also discussed deadlines for grant applications.

### **Administration Report:**

Ms. Remec reported interest in Gund Hall reservations and donations received. Mr Gonzales asked for specifics on the pricing to reserve Gund Hall which Ms. Remec provided.

**Volunteer Coordinator Report:**

Ms. Susan Czaplicki submitted a written report and informed attendees that QR codes were added to Gund Hall kiosk and additional sites throughout the park so visitors can access a park map. She thanks Ms. Kathy Donchess for coordinating a video with Fox 8 News to feature the volunteer accomplishments at the park.

**Treasurer Report:**

Ms. McGinty reported that line items on the budget are getting close and she is working with the fiscal officer on the ability to reappropriate funds.

**Unfinished Business:****Park Director position:**

Mr. Becker thanked Ms. McGinty and search committee members for their work in recommending a candidate and for follow-up work on checking references. An offer letter has been extended and accepted by Mr. David Green with a potential start date of November 2, 2020.

**Oviatt House:**

Trustees discussed holding a special meeting to the continued discussion of Oviatt House.

**New Business:**

**MOTION by:** Mr. Gonzales and seconded by Mr. Norris to approve Resolution 03-2020 Authorizing the Richfield Joint Recreation District to Proceed to Solicit Bids for Phase II of the Dam Restoration Project

**FURTHER DISCUSSION:** Mr. Becker read the resolution in its entirety

**MOTION PASSED** Vote taken by roll call: **Mr. Becker (Yea), Ms. Lombardo (Yea), Mr. Deluca (Yea), Mr. Norris (Yea), Mr. Gonzales (Yea), Ms. Apidone (Yea), Ms. McGinty (Nay)**

Mr. Becker asked for any additional new business. Ms. Lombardo voiced her concern about information available for the Modified All-In Master Plan. She requested additional discussion. Mr. Becker said this will be added as a future agenda item.

**Partner Reports:****Friends of Crowell Hilaka (FoCH):**

Ms. Ringle reported that FoCH is holding an online celebration to celebrate Mr. Kirby's birthday. She reported volunteer work for weekly cleaning of the outhouses, port-a-potties and trash pickup and the Invasive Species Task Force. Ms. Ringle requested additional room in Kirby House for storage. FoCH was referred to Park Operations and Park Services for approval. Ms. Ringle said two briefing memos were submitted to the board. The first memo was on Kirby House stabilization and she spoke about work that needs to be done. The second memo was modified Winter Wonders plans due to the Coronavirus. The board asked FoCH to work with Park Operations for Kirby House work and Park Services on approval for Winter Wonders. Ms. Ringle reported hearing negative comments made about the FoCH. She spoke about the importance of the RJRD board and FoCH working together. Mr. Gonzales spoke in support of FoCH.

Ms. McGinty asked about two donations made to FoCH that were requested to be given to RJRD. Mr. Gonzales questioned why the donations were not made to RJRD. Mr. Becker clarified that the donating organizations needed to write their checks to a 501(c)(3) and said he is working with FoCH towards a resolution. Ms. Ringle said FoCH bylaws prevent them from passing donations through to RJRD.

**Questions / Comments from the Floor:**

Village Council Member Ms. Beshara recommended that written reports be submitted for partner groups to save time at board meetings. She commended everyone on their hard work.

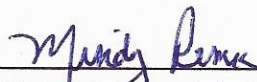
**Adjournment:**

**MOTION by:** Ms. Lombardo and seconded by Ms. Apidone to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

**FURTHER DISCUSSION: NONE**

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

Submitted by:

  
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Mindy Remec, Administrative  
Coordinator

Accepted by:

  
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Bob Becker, Board Chairperson