



## GRANTS/FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE MEETING

**Monday, Oct 24, 2022 5:15 A.M.**  
(meeting held at Park Office)

### **MEETING NOTES**

Meeting called to order at 5:15pm

Roll Call: Mike Selig, Dave Wehner, excused absence – Mark Robeson

#### **Introductions:**

Individuals present: Mike Selig, Dave Wehner, Lynn Richardson, Judy Bowman, John Piepsny, Pat Norris, Sandy Norris, Corey Ringle, Maureen McGinty, Nancy Kanik, Karen Smik

#### **Review of Previous Action steps:**

##### **Endowment Fund – Mike Selig**

Revisited the idea of an endowment fund through the Akron Community Foundation. Discussed the idea of not duplicating efforts as the Friends group is actively moving towards creating an endowment. Friends group still deciding what the endowment will be designated for and weighing the option of initial intent of making it specific (Kirby's Mill) vs. more general (Historic structures, RHP).

##### **Friends donation acceptance policy – All**

Revisited current donation policy and that it would allow for donation of funds not designated for current fundraising campaigns (Mill, Historic home restoration, invasive species) to the RJRD provided the funds had a designated purpose. The biggest challenge is the desire by Friends to not utilize donated funds for the demolition of historic structures and the need of the RJRD to not have restrictions on funds that are donated. Mike Selig previously discussed with Anita Gantner and her recommendation was to revisit the current MOU. Both Dave Wehner and Mike Selig to do an initial review with the end goal that both groups would be comfortable with donation process.

Cynthia McWilliams brought up the idea of having a non-profit attorney that is familiar with 501c3 donation acceptance regulations be asked their opinion on the above discussion to get an independent view point. Mike Selig to work on reaching out to an attorney prior to the next meeting.

One in a Million fundraiser update provided by Corey Ringle. Overall, the event was very well received and did very well. Net profit of \$85,000 was generated from the event. (Deborah Williams provided this update via email post meeting.) Congrats to the Friends group on such a successful event!

Mike Selig brought up the idea that given the Friends group success with fundraising and that the RJRD does not have the staff to do the same level of fundraising that all fundraising be done by the Friends group. Will plan on bringing this idea up during the strategic planning process as well as confirming where fundraising falls in the strategic plan.

## Land and Water Conservation Fund – Mike Selig

Previous discussion was that given the \$50,000 minimum grant allocation and 50% matching requirement feel that the connector path from Broadview Rd to the rest of the park would be the best fit as group felt that much of the labor involved in creating the trail could be used towards the matching requirement. Forwarded planning documents from the Richfield Village Carter Pedigo trail. Due Nov 15<sup>th</sup> so given impending due date recommend that we hold off on it this year until strategic plan is completed. Upcoming grants and deadlines that were discussed included:

Clean Ohio Trail Funds – April 14<sup>th</sup> (trails)

Recreational Trails Program – April 15<sup>th</sup> (trails)

Nature Works – June 1<sup>st</sup> (bridges)

Paddling Enhancement Grant – Mar 1<sup>st</sup> (increased access and accessibility for hand powered paddling) up to 100% reimbursable and up to \$75,000

- ADA kayak launches, ramp improvements, lighting, restrooms, parking lots.

Discussed the idea of an outside grant writing group (Envision) writing some of the grants. John Piepsny was able to provide additional information and indicated that they tended to have a high level of success with their grant writing.

Will work on developing a list of grants that we will try and go for in 2023 and which ones we would like to go for and which ones we might ask Envision to apply for.

Need to prioritize our request for the 2024 State budget allocation (needs to occur summer 2023). Will work in conjunction with the Friends group to make this request.

## Donor Plaque discussion – Corey Ringle

Corey Ringle provided an update on possible donor recognition plaque ideas. Provided many different concepts for the group to review. The group felt comfortable with a stand-alone plaque with the exact location to still be determined but in the general area of in front of the mill by the current Kirby's mill sign. Will have further discussion on exact location. Corey Ringle to work further on plaque concept.

## Minutes

### Old Business

Nature Works grant update – grant submitted Still awaiting response.

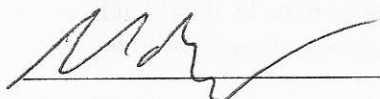
### New Business

### Adjournment

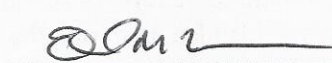
Motion to adjourn by Dave Wehner, seconded by Mike Selig. Meeting adjourned at 6:07pm.

Submitted By:

Accepted By:



Date: 08/15/22



Date: 12.2.22

Mike Selig, Committee Chair

Dave Wehner, Committee Member