



Regular Meeting with Work Session November 28, 2022

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present: Sandy Apidone, Jeff DeLuca, Anita Gantner, Maureen McGinty, Mark Robeson, Mike Selig, Dave Wehner

Also in Attendance: Park Director John Piepsny, Township Trustee Don Laubacher, Village Council representatives Sue Ann Philippbar, Pat Norris, and Ralph Waszak, Administrative Coordinator Polly Wheeler, Volunteer Coordinator Susan Czaplicki, and approximately 16 other attendees.

Work Session

Conflict of Interest and Accountability and Code of Ethics revisions:

Mr. Wehner presented his updates to the policy:

- 1) In second paragraph, first sentence, change "is in conflict" to "intersects".
- 2) In third paragraph, third sentence, add "as set forth in ORC 2921.42" at end of sentence.

Discussion of possible increase in credit card limit:

The Huntington credit card currently has a limit of \$5,000. Due to recent challenges in purchasing materials with the credit card, in addition to regular bills payable by credit card, Ms. Gantner recommended raising the limit to \$7,500. Ms. Apidone asked if this credit card offers a cash back program or similar. Mr. Wehner stated that the park's insurance policy limits credit card coverage to \$5,000 per card.

As an alternative to raising the limit, Ms. Gantner suggested that the Fiscal Officer could check the card balance more than once a month, then pay down the balance if it is getting close to the limit. Mr. Robeson mentioned that other cards exist with more separation between card responsibilities, so that each card would have an independent limit.

Strategic Plan Tier 3 structures:

Ms. Gantner opened discussion by saying that she has given the plan a lot of thought and recently toured the shelters again with Mr. DeLuca and Mr. Piepsny. She read a statement about the Tier 3 structures and recommended that Far-a-Way Pines and Robinson shelters be moved to the Tier 2 level, making them available to potential champions. Ms. Gantner also requested making Cook's Cabin available for dismantling and moving to a location outside the park.

Ms. McGinty asked why Robinson and Far-a-Way Pines should be changed. Ms. Gantner replied that both are in good locations for visitors to sit and "take in" the park. Far-a-Way Pines is in a particularly peaceful spot. Both would need to have a champion. Mr. DeLuca agreed, particularly on Robinson due to its location. He reviewed the condition of the other structures recommended for removal and stated that any champion would need a plan for how to relocate Cook's Cabin.

Ms. McGinty stated that she wants to exchange Robinson for another shelter that is closer to The Lodge and suggested removing Wayside shelter instead. Mr. DeLuca reminded the board that the roof on Wayside is only 2 years old. Mr. Selig offered that the one-year champion process will naturally allow that to play out and demonstrate which shelters are most valuable. Mr. Robeson agreed with Mr. Selig, saying that the champion proposal is a good one, but that structures could be taken down if they were actually dangerous.

Ms. McGinty continued the discussion, stating that Waterfront has value since it gets used quite a bit. Mr. DeLuca mentioned that Wonken Tonken has a good restroom and is in good condition. Mr. Selig asked if there are current safety concerns with Wayside and Wonken Tonken, to which Mr. DeLuca replied that there are not. Mr. Selig said that he appreciated the additional recent review of the shelters by Mr. DeLuca, Ms. Gantner, and Mr. Piepsny and that it is a very useful tool in making decisions.

Ms. McGinty said that the impact on nature would be reduced by reducing the number of structures in the park. Ms. Apidone reminded the board that they are responsible to the entire community and should not pursue their personal interests, since not everything can be saved. Ms. Gantner reiterated that there will be stringent criteria for saving a building. There is a strong push from both sides, to save structures and to remove them. Mr. DeLuca stated that some shelters do not need any repair. They could remain for now and be re-evaluated if something happened to them.

Further discussion of shelters followed.

Comments from the floor:

Sandy Norris (resident) restated that Robinson shelter is in a good location and that the park was making money in the past on some of the shelters.

Karen Smik (resident) asked what actually is the park's mission, as well as when and how often shelters are used. Ms. Gantner reminded the audience that the board is not, in general, answering questions but just listening to comments.

Lynn Richardson said that the board is focusing on resource management, and a top recommendation in past studies was to manage invasive species. As a member of the invasive species crew, Lynn said that it is very helpful to be able to run into shelters if the weather changes while working.

Pat Norris (resident) stated that structures will not cost the board money to keep if there are champions for them. RHP is not a nature preserve; let the process move forward.

Christine Naizer stated that it is reprehensible to focus on removing heritage structures in the park. She mentioned the Brooklyn Exchange cabin in the Cleveland Metropark system and introduced the idea of the sponsorship of a cabin in exchange for the opportunity to hunt to cull some of the deer that are causing damage in the park. She also listed ideas for raising funds and ways that some lower-tier areas are being used.

Clare Paquelet (resident) said she and her family use the park for hiking and horseback riding. Not every structure is a good idea, and she has not seen people using the shelters except for an occasional scout group.

Corey Ringle stated that home stabilization should continue and that it does not represent restoration.

Paul Swan (resident) agreed that the champion process is a good idea. If a structure is not in bad shape, keep it for a little while. The board should take its time making decisions.

Sue Serdinak (resident/press) asked for a copy of the Conflict of Interest policy.

Judy Bowman (resident) thanked members of the board for reviewing the tier levels of the structures. She said that the board should promote shelter rental on the park website and elsewhere.

Regular Meeting

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of September 26 regular meeting, October 6 special meeting, and November 17 special meeting were considered. Vote was taken by voice to approve all of the above minutes, which was unanimous.

Standing Committee Reports

Governance Committee:

No meeting

Park Operations Committee:

Mr. DeLuca said that maintenance technician Chris Moore has been working hard on park maintenance. A lot of tree and fence work has been done. New lights, donated to the park, have been installed in the main parking lot.

Grants and Fundraising:

Mr. Selig reported that the committee met on Monday, October 24. They discussed a possible endowment fund and the Friends' donation acceptance policy. A non-profit attorney will be consulted.

The Friends' One-in-a-MILLion fundraiser was quite successful. There was some discussion of possibly having Friends be responsible for all the fundraising in RHP. The donor plaque for Friends donors to the Mill project was discussed. Several concepts for the donor plaque were reviewed. Some changes will be made, and one design will be finalized in a resolution.

The committee will compile a list of all potential grants for 2023. An outside grant-writing group may be used due to the time involved in applying for most grants. The NatureWorks grant for the Upper Lake dam bridge was declined, but the committee will apply again in the next round.

Marketing/Communications: No meeting. However, Mr. Robeson reported that they are working on increased social media presence and on the newsletter. There is also a continuing technology discussion.

Administration Report:

Park Director John Piepsny reminded the board that Shari Green's contract for her services as Lodge Event Consultant will expire at the end of the year. He would like to move her salary to

\$1,500 per month from the current \$1,000 per month due to the number of hours Shari spends giving tours and helping customers prepare for their events. A brief discussion of an annual vs. a longer term contract followed.

For the convenience and information of the public, the submitted reports for future meetings will accompany the agenda when sent to the agenda distribution list.

OHI quarterly report:

Ms. Judy Bowman read the required quarterly report for Oviatt House Incorporated. She reviewed the Phase II plan and stated that OHI is 90% finished with Phase I. There are two items that OHI wants to move from Phase I to Phase II.

Treasurer Report:

Mr. Wehner reported the following numbers:
Approximately \$800,000 in the bank
Approximately \$260,000 still outstanding
Approximately \$540,000 remaining

The general and Lodge fund has about \$45,000, while the Capital Improvement fund has a deficit.

Old Business:

MOTION by: Mr. Selig and seconded by Mr. DeLuca to accept Park Rules policy as revised.

FURTHER DISCUSSION: None

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

New Business:

A brief review of OHI plan Phase II took place.

MOTION by: Ms. McGinty and seconded by Mr. DeLuca authorizing OHI to proceed with Phase II.

FURTHER DISCUSSION: None

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

Mr. Wehner introduced Resolution 26-2022, a resolution authorizing and approving the tax levies for tax year 2022, collection year 2023. He referred to the tax levy schedule provided by the fiscal officer.

MOTION by: Mr. Wehner and seconded by Mr. DeLuca authorizing and approving the tax levy schedule for tax year 2022, collection year 2023.

FURTHER DISCUSSION: None

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

Mr. Wehner introduced Resolution 25-2022, a resolution amending the 2022 Budget Appropriations to redistribute funds, stating that this does not encumber any additional funds but just redistributes the funds to place them where they are needed.

MOTION by: Mr. Wehner and seconded by Ms. McGinty amending 2022 Budget Appropriations.

FURTHER DISCUSSION: None

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

Ms. Gantner brought up the topic of Strategic Plan Tier 3 structures discussed in the work session. She reiterated that she would like to leave Fernwood, Paddler, and Last Chance shelters and the Nature Hut on the Tier 3 list for removal, but she requested that Robinson and Far-a-Way Pines shelters move to Tier 2 and allow champion opportunities for those shelters. She also requested that Cook's Cabin to be open to moving to another location. Discussion followed, resulting in Cook's Cabin remaining on Tier 3 since it will be removed from its current location.

MOTION by: Mr. Wehner and seconded by Ms. McGinty to move Robinson and Far-a-Way Pines shelters from the Tier 3 list to the Tier 2 list for potential building champions.

FURTHER DISCUSSION: Brief discussion to determine wording of motion

MOTION PASSED: Vote taken by roll call: Mr. DeLuca (Yea), Ms. Gantner (Yea), Ms. McGinty (Yea), Mr. Robeson (Nay), Mr. Selig (Yea), Mr. Wehner (Yea), Ms. Apidone (Yea).

Announcements:

Ms. Gantner announced that the Winter Wonders event will take place on December 3 from 11am-4pm.

The board-appointed RJRD board position term is ending, so the board will have a special meeting on December 15 for the purpose of an executive session to interview potential candidates.

The next regular board meeting will be on December 19, which is the 3rd Monday rather than the 4th.

Questions / Comments from the Floor:

Lynn Richardson announced that Ralph McNerney, a former RJRD board member and long-time supporter of Richfield Heritage Preserve, passed away on November 16. Notes of condolence can be sent to St. Victor's Church which will make sure Mrs. McNerney receives them.

Karen Smik requested the reports submitted to the board in advance of the meeting, since they are no longer being read at the meeting.

Paul Swan registered his concern that Sunshine Laws may not be followed appropriately, since the audience is not permitted to ask questions, and wondered if comments are being recorded to be reported to the public at a later date.

Judy Bowman thanked the board for approving Phase II of the OHI plan.

Christine Nazier noted that all of the flagpoles have been removed from the park and wondered why and when the board voted on that. She stated that a possible revenue source has been lost, since commemorative bricks could have been sold to provide a small paved area around each one.


Adjournment:

MOTION by: Ms. McGinty, seconded by Ms. Apidone, to adjourn the meeting.

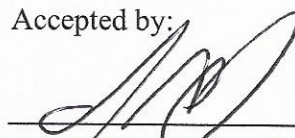
MOTION PASSED: Vote taken by voice, which was unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Submitted by:


Polly Wheeler, Administrative Coordinator

Accepted by:


Anita Gantner, Board Chairperson

