



## **Stakeholder Meeting Notes**

**Thursday, December 17, 2015**

*(Meeting Held at the Village of  
Richfield Town Hall, Mayor's  
Conference Room)*

### **STAKEHOLDER GROUP #1 MEETING 5:00 P.M.**

On behalf of the Richfield Township Board of Trustees, the RJRD Administrator called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and stated for the benefit of all in attendance and in accordance with the Sunshine Laws and Open Meetings Act, that due to a quorum of the Township Trustees, all three (3) Trustees were present.

The RJRD Board of Trustees are in the process of developing a master plan and part of that process is the participation of six (6) stakeholder groups and two (2) public forum meetings. The RTWP Board of Trustees along with other township representatives was invited to participate in first of six meetings.

#### **Call to Order:**

Trustee Ms. Janet Jankura, Chairperson Richfield Township Board of Trustees  
Trustee Mr. Jeff Shupe, Vice Chairperson, Richfield Township Board of Trustees  
Trustee Mr. Bob Luther, Richfield Township Board of Trustees

#### **In Attendance:**

##### **Richfield Township Trustees and Other Representatives:**

Mrs. Mindy Remec, Richfield Township Administrator  
Ms. Laurie Pinney, Richfield Township Zoning Inspector and Fiscal Officer  
Mr. Doug Mory, Member of the Richfield Township Zoning Commission  
Ms. Patti Dorsett, Member of the Richfield Township Zoning Commission  
Mr. Ed Pepera, Member of the Richfield Township Zoning Commission  
Mr. Rich Fleming, Richfield Township Resident  
Mr. Larry Fulton, Summit County Engineer  
Ms. Kathy Galvin, Richfield Times Magazine

Trustee Mr. Pat Norris, RJRD Treasurer  
Trustee Mr. Ralph McNerney, RJRD Vice Chairperson  
Mr. Dominic Cugini, 2016-2018 RJRD Board of Trustee  
Mr. Keith Shy, Capital/Public Improvements Consultant/Manager

Mrs. Debbie Bluso Rogers, Administrator  
Mr. Jeff Kerr, Environmental Design Group, Master Plan Consultant

### **Introductions & Remarks**

Mr. Jeff Kerr opened the meeting with an introduction and reviewed the agenda. Participants went around the room and introduced themselves. A sign-in sheet was provided as reflected in the above list of attendees.

Trustee Norris welcomed the participants and thanked them for their participation.

The RJRD Administrator noted that all three (3) Richfield Township Trustees were in attendance for the meeting and that it was open to the public and meeting minutes would be available per the ORC.

### **Review of the Master Plan Process, Schedule and Objectives**

A summary of the master plan process and schedule was outlined to the participants. It was noted that RJRD has contracted with Environmental Design Group to assist in developing a master plan for the Crowell-Hilaka property. The master plan process will evolve over the next three-four months. As part of the master plan process, the RJRD board wanted to reach out to the local stakeholders to better understand local perspectives related to opportunities and desires of the park. This is the first of those six scheduled stakeholder meetings.

Mr. Kerr stated that the meetings would be one hour in length and it would include a series of questions to prompt comment and it would be *“just a conversation.”* The following are the salient points from the General Discussion.

### **General Discussion/Comments Heard**

- JK opened up the discussion session with a question to the participants on what they saw as the biggest opportunities/challenges for the park.
- JJ discussed the need for the park to be financially sustainable.
- JJ: Can the existing facilities/buildings provide community meeting space for the public?
- JJ: Can the park provide passive and active recreation such as boating, swimming, adventure course, zip line, and other activities?
- JJ: Discussion on whether the park should provide other active recreation needs that are currently available in the community such as ball fields.
- JJ: Potentially look at including a fenced dog park.
- JJ: How can the park connect to other local and regional trail connections such as the Buckeye Trail; encouraged regionalization

- JJ: Discussion on accommodating uses for different age groups.
- Several participants noted the importance of “doing it the right way” and making sure that the park can support the costs of maintaining the facility which may mean that we can’t do everything immediately.
- Suggestion was to look at current and changing demographics and understand how that may affect use and revenue opportunities.
- BL: One of the ideas that was generated was looking at possibilities for archery or rifle ranges. It was noted that there is a potential demand and possible revenue stream associated with those uses. Further discussion was about how any use, such as a rifle range, could conflict with other passive uses. Some were concerned that people would not support gun range, but noted it could be a big draw - could generate 'big' revenue.
- JJ, JS, and PD: Several participants thought that weddings and corporate events could be accommodated in one of the existing buildings as a potential rental facility. However, it was also noted that it may be expensive to bring buildings up to code for public use. Those issues will need to be evaluated in the master plan process.
- PD: Question was raised if RJRD was focused solely on the Crowell-Hilaka Property or if they are reviewing other property acquisition opportunities. Pat Norris confirmed they are only concentrating on this property for now. He noted that they had been approached to look at another property but were not interested at this point.
- JJ: Maintenance and tree trimming could be a challenge (scale and financial)
- PD: Activities - no motor cross (engine) disruption, environmental concern about impact, and intrusion of noise.
- Hard to be all things for all people - probably not able to do everything.
- We are surrounded by parks - we shouldn't try to compete.
- JJ, BL, and JS: Resource sharing for emergency conditions - not using other equipment maintenance and money issue.
- Perhaps collaboration could be possible between the TWP and RJRD. The TWP would need to review what they are legally allowed to do.
- Further discussion on revenue opportunities related to rental facilities. Discussion included concerns that by the time you pay your rental, labor, you may not make money. KS recommended doing a market study to determine demand and fee/revenue/expense structure that could be supported.
- There was concern that relying on a volunteer force for long-term maintenance of the facility could be a challenge as the novelty tend to wear off over time.
- LF noted that we should review the existing drainage structure and bridge structures to make sure that they meet current standards and safety. It was noted that an evaluation of the damns and bridge structure would be evaluated.
- Idea for camping was also discussed as there is currently not a lot of opportunities locally. However, demand and logistics would need to be further evaluated. Possible structured camper and yurt camping might also be a potential. It was noted that CVNP only has 5 camp sites. KS noted that Summit Metroparks has several camping sites near the Towpath, but they are rarely used.

- Question was asked by the facilitator about current and potential access points to the park. Are they appropriately located, or how to maintain them. KS noted that they were county/state road paving programs for park districts that may be evaluated, however, they are competitive. Winter time operations, drives may be blocked off to prevent vehicular use so the park doesn't need to maintain them in low use seasons.
- KS – Park districts are not in the business to make money. Doesn't make money - use and protect.
- JJ: Are there any partnerships with sport operators to collaborate? Cabela's? Get support?
- BL: Farming opportunities?
- Partner with University with agriculture, research?
- Ralph handed out spreadsheet.

**Adjournment:**

The Meeting concluded at 6:00 p.m.

I, ***Mrs. Debbie Bluso Rogers***

Administrator, of the Richfield Joint Recreation District, Richfield, Ohio, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true correct copy of the

**December 17, 2015 Stakeholder #1 Group Meeting**

Accepted as part of the record by the RJRD Board of Trustees on **Monday, January 11,**

**2015 through motion.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Richfield Joint Recreation District Administrator