



Work Session & Special Meeting

Monday, May 22, 2017

(Meeting Held at the Richfield Masonic Hall)

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Bob Becker. After the pledge of allegiance, the roll call was called by Bill Smith.

In Attendance:

Present: Becker, Deluca, Fleming, Norris, Slifcak, Smith, Waszak as was Soroczak.

Absent: None

Work Session:

Presentation from Interfaith Council:

The Reverend John King, pastor of the Richfield United Church of Christ, made a presentation on behalf of the Richfield Interfaith Council (“RIC”), an organization that he founded to promote harmony and open communications among the numerous churches and temples located in Richfield. Rev. King mentioned that the RIC membership had determined to do something tangible for the community which would afford its member congregations the opportunity to work together on a continuing community service project, and they hit upon the idea of installing a “fitness trail” or a par-course similar to the one in Akron’s Sand Run Park somewhere in Richfield. When Rev. King raised the possibility to Mayor Beshara, she suggested that Richfield Heritage Preserve might be an ideal location. The fitness trail that the RIC envisions would require an additional one and a half to two miles of new trail, and would include twenty (20) stations, set off from the trail, at which various exercises (such as stretching, push-ups, sit-ups, etc.) could be performed. RIC would be willing to contribute the entire cost (approximately \$9,000) to purchase the fitness trail, including the various stations and the costs of shipping to the Park, and would look to the Richfield Joint Recreation District to identify the location for the

new trail and to build the trail itself. The RIC member congregations would, with some supervision and tools to be provided by the Richfield Joint Recreation District, participate in the installation of the stations; Rev. King noted that a forklift will be needed to remove the trail components from the truck on which they will be delivered, and that some means of transporting the trail components to the proper locations, along with approximately 100 bags of premix concrete, will be required for the installation. Discussion ensued regarding the appropriate location and shape of the new trail, and Rev. King suggested that it should be reasonably close to parking facilities and should ideally be oval, or at least out-and-back. Board members inquired as to whether a fitness trail would be permitted in the “Clean Ohio” portion of the park, and whether a third-party sponsored activity would comply with “Clean Ohio” rules. The Board thanked Rev. King for his group’s very generous offer, and advised him that it will review the Clean Ohio and trail location issues the offer raises and respond promptly after those matters have been addressed.

Bylaw Review:

At Ms. Slifcak’s suggestion, discussion of proposed revisions to the bylaws was deferred to the meeting scheduled for June 12, 2017.

Master Plan Update:

Mr. Waszak is reviewing the records for the final alternatives for the restoration or replacement of the wastewater treatment facilities serving the park.

Partner Memoranda of Understandings:

Operating Engineers - Mr. Norris reported that the Operating Engineers’ statewide governing body has approved our Memorandum of Understanding with that group in its current form, and said that while there is one additional layer of approval that the Operating Engineers’ organization requires for final approval he has been advised that approval is likely.

Baldwin Wallace - Mr. Smith mentioned that he has (i) provided Chris Stanton of Baldwin-Wallace University with the form of Memorandum of Understanding, which Mr. Stanton will use to describe his institution’s proposal for use of the Coach House and Chagrin Cabin as a biological field station/laboratory, subject to additional review by the Board.

Cuyahoga Valley Career Center – Mr. Smith has completed a draft Memorandum of Understanding for use with Chagrin Valley Career Center’s proposed work on the Gatekeeper’s Cottage, copies of which were previously circulated to all Board members (together with a briefing memorandum describing its terms and a form of authorizing resolution).

Spif’s Garden - Mr. Waszak reported on the terms for the Memorandum of Understanding for Spif’s Garden, and introduced Mr. and Mrs. Pruitt, the sponsoring family, for a brief discussion of the history and meaning of Spif’s Garden and a request for prompt Board approval of that document in order to permit members of the supporting group of friends to work on the garden as usual over the pending Memorial Day weekend.

Office Infrastructure: Judy Soroczak reported that the Board now has a telephone and a telephone number (330-888-0511).

Building Insurance: Mr. Waszak reported that our insurance carrier wants to have an underwriter's representative inspect the park and its buildings in anticipation of the upcoming renewal of the existing policy on June 24. Mr. Norris offered to escort the inspector in his cart. Mr. Waszak agreed to inquire into the availability, advisability and possible terms for workers' compensation coverage for park workers and, potentially, working park volunteers.

Programs, Security: Mr. Norris agreed to update the Board as additional security measures are implemented within the park.

Private/Organizational Camping at the Park: At Mr. Becker's invitation, Lexi Beshara, a Richfield resident and a recent graduate of the University of Akron, addressed to Board to request permission for a loosely organized group with which she is affiliated, the "Green Riders" to camp at the Park on the night of June 10, 2017, as the group passes through Richfield on its planned service trip from New York City to the west coast. Ms. Beshara described the group and its activities for the Board, and noted that she expects that it will, by the time it reaches Richfield after approximately 10 days of riding and camping, contain at most forty-five (45) people, including several couples and a family (requiring some thirty (30) tents). The Board discussed in general terms the issues posed by private groups' use of the park for camping, referring to the possibility that safety and security issues would be of greater concern in the case of groups which do not include experienced campers, adult supervision or safety and first aid certification (unlike scout groups, whose organization and practices reduce those risks). Review of existing Board policy revealed that private camping is permitted at the park, subject to park rules (including restrictions on fires, prohibition of alcohol use, advance registration, completion of required forms, etc.) and subject further to the discretion of the Board chair. A straw poll of the Board resulted in unanimous approval of Ms. Beshara's request, subject to the satisfactory resolution of safety and security issues.

Public Comment on Work Session: There were two questions from the floor in the "public comments" session. The first was a request for clarification as to who would be responsible for the costs of constructing the potential new trail which would be required for the fitness trail proposed by the RIC. It was acknowledged that the actual trail construction would be the responsibility of the RJRD, and was not included in the very generous proposal made by the RIC. The second was an inquiry into the priority that the proposed fitness trail might occupy in the sequence of park projects. In view of the novelty of that proposal to the Board, and the design and Clean Ohio compliance issues that the fitness trail may pose, it's impossible presently to determine where that proposal may rank.

Regular Meeting

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the May 1, 2017 meeting were approved on a voice - vote; the review and approval of the May 8 minutes were deferred to the June 13 meeting.

Standing Committee Reports

Governance: Minutes of Governance Committee's May 1 meeting were approved by voice-vote of Governance Committee members.

Park Operations: Mr. DeLuca reported that the work on the culverts is completed although there are additional spots requiring attention from recent storms. He further indicated that he has invited bids for roof repairs to Amity, North and Coach, and that a roofer with slate expertise will be on site to measure. Jeff mentioned that the slate stored in the Winter barn will fit Amity's roof, and that he'll seek separate bids for each of those buildings. He also received a bid to replace all gutters on Gund Hall for \$1600. Mr. Norris mentioned that he has an additional source for slate as needed. Mr. DeLuca reported that volunteers have completed the removal of the last tent platforms at Seeley and Last Chance.

Minutes of Park Services Committees of May __, 2017 were approved after Mr. Waszak's motion (DeLuca seconded). Mr. Norris mentioned that Cleveland State University has requested the right to conduct archaeological field studies during the summer at the southwest end of the Park (near Oviatt House). Mr. DeLuca mentioned the need to clear the fallen tree by Oviatt House, noting as well that it's tangled up in electrical wires and sufficiently large to require professional attention. Mr. Norris also mentioned the Friends of Crowell-Hilaka has developed new signage reflecting the name "Richfield Heritage Preserve", and has requested Board approval for the design and use of the proposed signs. The mock-ups of the new signage were shown to the Board. Mr. Norris moved to encourage Friends of Crowell Hilaka and to approve the proposed new signage. Mr. Smith seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Treasure's Report: was summarized by Mr. Norris, which was posted for Board review before the meeting.

Unfinished Business

(i) On motion made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Slifcak, a resolution authorizing the Memorandum of Understanding with Cuyahoga Valley Career Center was passed (Mr. Fleming only abstaining; all others in favor).

(ii) On motion made by Mr. Waszak and seconded by Mr. Norris, a resolution authorizing the memorandum of Understanding for Spif's Garden was passed unanimously.

(iii) On motion made by Mr. Norris and seconded by Mr. Waszak, a resolution approving "then and now" certificates for the \$18,130 disbursement from the general fund (to be used in payment of culvert and road repaid, all as part of the \$30,000 previously authorized for use in Park operations projects for 2017) was passed by unanimous voice vote.

(iv) On motion made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Pat Norris, a resolution authorizing the Board's execution of its Memorandum of Understanding with the Ohio Horseman's Council which was passed by unanimous voice vote.

Announcements:

Corey Ringle of Friends of Crowell Hilaka reported that her group has (i) completed the GPS work on all trails and noted remaining problem areas, and with Mr. DeLuca's guidance has installed a primitive log-based boardwalk in one of those; (ii) monitored the property's boundary fences and reported problem areas to Mr. DeLuca; (iii) continued its work of invasive species

removal; (iv) repaired the fire circle at Amity; (v) hosted a discussion of the Park's prehistory with Phil Wanyerka of Cleveland State (whose group, as noted above, will be on-site this summer); and (vi) is working with a corporate group to coordinate that group's volunteer work at the Park this summer.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 by voice-vote on a motion made by Mr. Norris and seconded by Mr. DeLuca.

Presented by:

Accepted by:

B. Smith, Secretary

B. Becker, Chair