

## Special Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 16, 2015

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

### **Call to Order:**

The Special Meeting was Called to Order at 3:35 p.m. by the Chairperson Mr. Floyd Ostrowski. Roll Call was taken by Administrative Assistant Mrs. Bluso Rogers.

### **In Attendance:**

Ms. Kelly Clark  
Mr. Bob Becker *(Arrived During Work Session After Roll Call)*  
Mr. Rich Fleming  
Mr. Ralph McNerney  
Mr. Pat Norris  
Mr. Floyd Ostrowski  
Mr. Bill Taylor

Mayor Bobbie Beshara  
Mr. Mike Lyons *(Arrived During Work Session After Roll Call)*

Mrs. Debbie Bluso Rogers, Administrative Assistant

Dr. Chris Williams, Focus Consulting Group and Facilitator

### **Others in Attendance:**

Mr. Bob Luther, Richfield Township Trustee  
Molly Eastwood, OHC  
Cynthia McWilliams, OHC  
Lynn Richardson, FOCH  
Roy Moore, 3437 Prestwyck Lane

Lucia Hanigosky, FOCH  
Jeff Campbell, FOCH  
Corey Ringle, FOCH  
Greg Schrank, Resident

Introductions were made of all in attendance and the objectives for the works session were discussed. Facilitator Dr. Chris Williams stated that the session was for an open conversation to establish a priority list. All in attendance would be recognized and ideas would be shared but the priority setting was the responsibility of the RJRD Board of Trustees. The overall plan was to specify an operational work plan that would include immediate, short range and long term strategies and goals.

Further, the meeting purpose was to develop a shared understanding and reach agreements among the RJRD Board regarding the strategic direction, focus, and priorities for the upcoming year, particularly as it relates to the Crowell Hilaka property.

**The following statements reflect high level agreements and/or common ground among attendees:**

1. The community, Board, and key stakeholders are proud of the many accomplishments achieved thus far by numerous volunteers and stakeholder groups including but not limited to:
  - Founding and six year efforts of the Friends of Crowell Hilaka;
  - Passage of 2 joint resolutions to form the RJRD
  - Formation of RJRD and selection of Board members;
  - Passage of Issues 10 & 11;
  - Partnerships developed with the Western Reserve Land Conservancy and other stakeholder groups;
  - Purchase agreement completed
  - Submission for Clean Ohio Grant
  
2. The Board concurred that the vision for Crowell Hilaka continues to emerge based upon available resources, zoning, and ongoing community input. At this point in time, following are the known and agreed upon long term vision attributes:
  - The park will feature passive activities on the trails such as hiking, horseback riding, and cross country skiing;
  - The lakes will be featured in some way such as fishing, swimming;
  - The historical aspects of the park will be preserved;
  - The park will provide numerous educational opportunities for users;
  - There will be opportunities to rent facilities (i.e. Gund Hall);
  - No part of the property is deemed conducive for development;

3. In order to support the current vision the following are key factors to adjust/accomplish the vision:
  - The Conservation Easement will influence what and where activities can occur;
  - In order to support desired park activities, we will need to generate income in some way (i.e. grants, partnerships, etc.) that is beyond the current levy allowance for the next ten years;
  - Need operational personnel to create and maintain park activities and structures;
  - The Clean Ohio Grant—depending on if the grant is awarded to the RJRD and if the Board accepts the award per the conditions of the grant will greatly influence what the Board can/cannot do with the property;
  - Active volunteer group(s) are important to maintain/sustain the park.
  - Although a current and baseline vision exists, additional potential use and expectations of the property and offerings continues to emerge.
  
4. The Board recognizes the importance of developing a **Master Plan** that lays out an organized, thoughtful approach to develop the recreational property, taking into account available resources, zoning regulations and other needed infrastructures. Listed below are the short term (through 12/31/15) Board priorities that set the stage for the more fully developed Master Plan to be executed in 2016 and beyond.

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**RJRD Board Priorities for 2015:**

1. Complete the Conservation Easement
2. Issue bonds for long term financing
3. Close out the deal with the Western Reserve Land Conservancy and take Possession and ownership of the property
4. Secure the property
5. Complete necessary road maintenance for public access to the property
6. Assess and complete necessary trail repairs
7. Ensure handicapped accessibility requirements are met
8. Assess the dams
9. Communicate to the public current and future plans for the property via various public forums.
10. Make decisions regarding partnerships and formalize those partnerships
11. Organize volunteers
12. Complete proposal for historic recognition of the property
13. Purchase necessary insurance
14. Assess the outhouses and identify needs
15. Install necessary signage (i.e. park rules, parking, etc.)
16. Assess electricity needs
17. Hire an Administrative Assistant to support Board activities and business
18. Develop a Master Plan for the property

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**Board Priorities for 2016 as of 2/16/15:**

1. Assess the waste water management system
2. Develop an Action Plan for the dams
3. Implement Partnership agreements and plans
4. Assess the use of Gund Hall

**MOTION** made by Ms. Clark and seconded by Mr. Taylor to recess until 6:30 p.m.

**DISCUSSION: NONE**

**MOTION PASSED: Mr. Becker (Yea) Ms. Clark (Yea), Mr. Fleming (Yea), Mr. McNerney (Yea), Mr. Norris (Yea), Mr. Ostrowski (Yea), and Mr. Taylor (Yea)**

**MOTION** made by Ms. Clark and seconded by Mr. Taylor to resume the Special Meeting Work Session at 6:31 p.m.

**DISCUSSION: NONE**

**MOTION PASSED: Mr. Becker (Yea) Ms. Clark (Yea), Mr. Fleming (Yea), Mr. McNerney (Yea), Mr. Norris (Yea), Mr. Ostrowski (Yea), and Mr. Taylor (Yea)**

After the recess, the Work Session resumed and this work session was between the RJRD Board of Trustees and the Village of Richfield Parks and Recreation. The following were in attendance.

**In Attendance:**

Ms. Kelly Clark  
Mr. Bob Becker  
Mr. Rich Fleming  
Mr. Ralph McNerney  
Mr. Pat Norris  
Mr. Floyd Ostrowski  
Mr. Bill Taylor

Mayor Bobbie Beshara  
Mr. Mike Lyons  
Mrs. Debbie Bluso Rogers, Administrative Assistant

**Others in Attendance:**

Mr. Bob Luther, Richfield Township Trustee  
Molly Eastwood, OHC  
Cynthia McWilliams, OHC  
Lynn Richardson, FOCH  
Roy Moore, 3437 Prestwyck Lane  
Lucia Hanigosky, FOCH  
Jeff Campbell, FOCH  
Corey Ringle, FOCH

**Village of Richfield Parks and Recreation Board**

Alex Burlotos  
Theresa Kovak  
Ellen Daniels  
Ruth Jocek, Director Park and Recreation  
Barb Lanford, Council Person and Parks Liaison

The strategy work session details were presented to the Parks and Recreation Board. The PSA (Purchase and Sales Agreements) details were reviewed from the last meeting, the Clean Ohio and Western Reserve Land Conservancy map areas were shared.

In regards to residential development on the property, the statement from the December 1, 2014 Regular Meeting was read to those in attendance in the hopes of clarifying the development issue: *“Throughout the last several months, the RJRD thoroughly and diligently investigated and analyzed various options for the Crowell-Hilaka property which included selling portions of the property. Alternative development plans and selling portions of the property are not in the best interest for the residents.”*

It was the consensus of the RJRD Board and the Village of Richfield Parks and Recreation that a common goal would be to connect the Village trails and paths to the RJRD property. Bike trails would also be pursued.

No follow-up meeting was scheduled.

**MOTION** made by Ms. Clark and seconded by Mr. McNerney to adjourn at 7:35 p.m.

**DISCUSSION: NONE**

**MOTION PASSED: Mr. Becker (Yea) Ms. Clark (Yea), Mr. Fleming (Yea), Mr. McNerney (Yea), Mr. Norris (Yea), Mr. Ostrowski (Yea), and Mr. Taylor (Yea)**

Respectfully submitted,



Debbie Bluso Rogers, Administrative Assistant to RJRD Board



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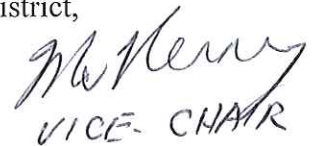
Richfield Joint Recreation District,  
Chairperson

FOR SECRETARY



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Richfield Joint Recreation District,  
Secretary



VICE-CHAIR