



RICHFIELD JOINT RECREATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MONDAY, May 20, 2019

Meeting Held at Richfield Masonic Hall

1. Mr. Becker called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. Soroczak called the roll. All Board members were present other than Ms. Slifcak, whose absence was excused. Board counsel Bill Hanna was also present.

3. Work Session

(a) By-law Revisions. Mr. Hanna summarized the proposed changes to the Board's existing by-laws, which he prepared with input from Board members and on the basis of discussions at a prior meeting. He emphasized that the point of the revisions was to tailor the by-laws as closely as proper to the Board's actual practices, and discussed several substantive areas of the by-laws which would be most affected by the proposed revisions (the requirements and procedures for the appointment of Board members, the duties of the officers of the Board, the requirements for calling special meeting, the standards for public appearances before and communications with the Board and the process of amending the by-laws). Mr. Gonzales discussed a number of the proposed changes, mentioning in particular his belief that in the interest of transparency and accessibility special meetings should be easier for Board members to call and public appearances before the Board should be encouraged. Mr. Gonzales also stated that in view of the centrality of the by-laws to Board operations additional discussion and analysis of the proposed revisions and their consequences were warranted and should be held in Governance. Mr. Becker agreed that discussion and analysis were critical, and noted that the April 8 Governance Committee meeting was held as a special "Committee of the Whole" meeting in order to facilitate a broader discussion. After considerable discussion, including an analysis of the current by-laws' treatment of check-writing procedures, Mr. Becker opened the floor to Rick Hudak, Village Council President, who asked if the Board could confirm (a) that the present procedure for amending the by-laws afforded Council a 30-day period in which to comment on the proposed amendments, and (b) whether the Board is presently in compliance with its by-laws. The Board responded affirmatively to each inquiry, without dissent or qualification. Further discussions of the proposed revisions to the by-laws will take place at the next Governance Committee meeting, scheduled for June 4.

(b) Maintenance Technician. Mr. DeLuca mentioned that candidates for the maintenance technician's part-time position have been interviewed, and that the position had been offered to one of the candidates. He also mentioned that one of the other candidates has volunteered to perform work in the park and is well-qualified to do so. The terms and conditions of the technician's employment will be identical to those used last year with Mr. Schutt.

(c) Water Wells. Mr. DeLuca reported that he met with Well Drilling Company of Kirtland, Ohio, in compliance with Mr. Becker's suggestion that the well analysis and engineering needed a second potential provider (in addition to Burgess & Niple, which had previously made a proposal for that work)> The new provider will furnish a written proposal, which will be compared to that of Burgess & Niple so that a selection can be made and the work undertaken.

(d) Public Comment. Responding to discussion during Mr. DeLuca's well presentation of the possible future availability of city water within the park, Ms. Healy noted that current Village law prohibits the distribution of city water outside of the boundaries of the Village without specific approval by the Village Council.

4. Regular Meeting.

(a) Approval of Minutes. The minutes from the April 8 and April 22 meetings are not available.

(b) Standing Committee Reports.

(i) Park Operations. Mr. DeLuca reported on Park Operations' activities, which included the completion of the Oviatt gate, the installation of buoys along the upper dam and of signposts for the boating rules signs, the opening of clogged culverts and the continuing work on roads and culverts.

(iii) Park Services. Ms. Apidone reports that the signs for the lake usage and rules will be ready for installation promptly, that her committee will replace the existing signs at the boat house with the appropriate new signs (with Mr. DeLuca's help), and that she has confirmed with the Village that the Trick and Treat on the Trail is scheduled for October 20 this year. At Mr. Becker's suggestion, a resolution authorizing the change of the scheduled date for the Trick or Treat event to October 20 was passed unanimously.

(iv) Capital Projects. Mr. Smith mentioned that pre-construction meetings for the wastewater treatment work and for the lower dam project are scheduled in the immediate future.

(v) Fundraising. Minutes for last year's meetings of the Fundraising Committee were approved by the unanimous vote of all of the former members of that committee. Mr. Gonzales reported that the recent meeting with FoCH representatives had gone well and that two seats on the Fundraising Committee were offered to FoCH and that the committee was awaiting FoCH's response. Corey Ringle, FoCH's president, responded from the audience that FoCH was happy to accept and asked Mr. Gonzales to identify specific skill sets might be useful to the committee so that the appropriate FoCH members could be appointed. Mr. Gonzales also mentioned that he met with Deb Fristic, an experienced writer who is very interested in the park and would be willing to help create park-related content useful to the committee.

(vi) Administration Report. Ms. Soroczak mentioned that in view of the occasionally vague lines between the responsibilities of the various committees, communications with are critical to avoid confusion and that use agreements and similar matters need to be routed through the administration office. She also mentioned that while the park has no official alcohol policy we have followed that of the Village (which requires, for any event at which alcohol is served, that an off-duty policemen – from Richfield if possible – be present at the event).

(vii) Volunteer Coordination. Mr. DeLuca reported that Northfield Boy Scout Troop 575 moved 12 tulip trees to the area surrounding Oviatt House, as part of an effort to clear space for another potential campsite. He also mentioned that the Strongsville ROTC moved a portion of the Summer Barn fence, that Clive continues his work clearing the Oviatt fence line, that new stringers and steps were installed at the upper dam, that volunteers repaired the boardwalk near Gemini and removed debris and the remnants of an old latrine along the Buckeye Trail.

(viii) Treasurer's Report. Mr. Norris approved the fiscal officer's report for April as it was filed. In response to Mr. Becker's inquiry as to who was presently authorized to sign checks on the Board's behalf, Mr. Norris said that the by-laws presently authorize all officers to sign on the Board's behalf, that he and

Mr. Smith (as treasurer and secretary, respectively) were currently the only parties whose names appeared on the signature card on file with Huntington Bank and that he hoped that Mr. Becker and Ms. Slivcak – the other Board officers – would sign the signature card as well.

4. Executive Session. The Board withdrew to executive session to consider the compensation of an employee as required by Ohio law at 7:58, returning at 8:05.

5. New Business

(a) At Mr. Becker's guidance, the motion from the April 23 meeting authorizing the exchange of surplus Ventrac equipment was withdrawn by unanimous motion of the Board, and was replaced by a resolution (which is necessary to dispose of surplus property), which was duly made by Mr. Norris, seconded by Mr. Smith and passed unanimously.

(b) Following both the partner reports and a motion to proceed out of sequence (which was passed unanimously), Mr. Smith moved to grant Mr. DeLuca the authority to hire a maintenance technician on the terms and for the compensation agreed to in the executive session and identical to those which governed the position in summer 2018. That motion was seconded by Mr. DeLuca and was passed unanimously.

5. Partner Reports

(a) FoCH reported that the Historic House Stabilization studies have been completed for North House, Amity House and Kirby House, and that the report for Amity has been submitted to the Board. Reports for North and Kirby will be forthcoming. The Invasive Species Task Force continues its work, and to date this year has removed 360 pounds of garlic mustard, three large stands of barberry and a number of other invasives from the park. Ms. Ringle noted the number of upcoming events in the park, including a "History Hike" on June 23, and mentioned that a number of centennials in park history are approaching in the near future.

(b) Mr. Becker mentioned his receipt of a letter from Western Reserve Land Conservancy which stated that the park is in compliance with all of the requirements that WRLC had imposed on the park at the time of its creation.

(c) Ms. Apidone mentioned that the park is increasingly popular as a site for professional photographers.

^ Adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20.

Submitted by:

W. Smith
William Smith, Secretary

Accepted by:

Bob Becker
Bob Becker, Chairman

Date: 8-28-2019

Date: 8-28-19