



**Regular Meeting with Work Session  
August 26, 2019**

**Call to Order:** The regular meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Bob Becker, Board Chairperson.

**Roll Call:**, Sandy Apidone, Jeff Deluca, Pat Norris, Meg Slifcak, Bill Smith, and Bob Becker

**Absent:** Art Gonzales - excused absence

**Also in Attendance:** Administrative Coordinator Judy Soroszak

**Work Session**

**Water Wells:**

Mr. Deluca received two quotes and his recommendation is to accept the quote from Burgess and Niple. Mr. Smith said he has worked with Burgess and Niple and he was impressed by their professionalism.

Mr. Deluca reported the Home Stabilization Task Force started evaluation on Amity and a work plan was developed. Ms. Slifcak asked if there is a budget. Mr. Deluca said it is still in progress and asked Ms. Ringle for her input. Ms. Ringle provided monetary donations as well as for labor and materials.

**Association of Nature Center Administrators (ANCA) Consult:**

Ms. Slifcak reported she met with the ANCA team and gave a brief overview of the process for the consult. She thanked Ms. Beth Sanderson for her assistance in bringing ANCA to the RJRD.

**Mill Restoration:**

Mr. Smith reported the Friends of Crowell Hilaka (FoCH) were notified they were awarded a grant from the Ohio History Fund for \$15,250 to defray the cost of construction documents for Kirby Mill restoration. Interim reports are required to be filed before the completion of the drawings. FoCH has asked for the Board's review of recommendations made by the architect and engineer. This is not a final consent of the plans and changes will be made as work progresses. He recommended Board approval.

**Gund Hall revisions:**

Ms. Apidone renovations needed to begin renting Gund Hall. She compared area rustic rental facilities and the potential for generating income. She felt that a conservative rental rate for a Saturday evening would be \$4,000. Renovations would include remodeling bathrooms, repairing the floor for heat, and new lighting. Tables and chairs would need to be purchased as well. Ms. Apidone said she would work with Mr. Deluca on quotes for the work.

Mayor Beshara asked on plans for parking lot pavement and status of the water and wastewater. The consensus was that the parking lot would be a future project. Mr. Deluca said that there would be running water and the wastewater treatment plant would be operational.

## Regular Meeting

### Approval of Minutes:

April 8, 2019 Special Meeting

April 23, 2019 Regular Meeting

May 20, 2019 Regular Meeting

**MOTION by:** Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Slifcak to approve the April 8, 2019; April 23, 2019; and May 20, 2019 Meeting Minutes as presented.

**FURTHER DISCUSSION: NONE**

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

### Standing Committee Reports:

#### Governance:

Ms. Slifcak reported working on Bylaws revisions and made recommendation for a first reading at the September meeting. Mr. Norris said a briefing memo was provided for review and asked that questions be directed to a Governance for discussion at the next committee meeting.

#### Park Operations:

**MOTION by:** Mr. Deluca and seconded by Mr. Smith to hire Burgess and Niple for work on water wells.

**FURTHER DISCUSSION: NONE**

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

**MOTION by:** Mr. Deluca and seconded by Mr. Norris to approve work with the Home Stabilization Task Force on Amity House

**FURTHER DISCUSSION: NONE**

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

Mr. Deluca reported the electric company will be working to move a guidewire. Other projects include repair of a power problem running from Garfield to the second well and contractors are being consulted for gutter repairs on Gund Hall. He said painting and furniture moving were completed at Gemini and identified other projects needed to going renting Gemini.

Questions included potential uses for Gemini, parking availability and capacity.

#### Park Services:

Ms. Apidone reported on potential rental uses of Gemini, which would hold approximately 75 people. More research is needed but potential rental cost would be \$350 to \$500. Park Services



has been working on plans for kiosks. She said Trick or Treat on the Trail plans are underway for October 20, 2019, and Dr. Carrie Davis-Todd from Baldwin Wallace and Joshua May from Kent State have been working on educational programming for the park.

Mr. Deluca asked for Park Services to research potential locations for park benches.

**Capital Projects:**

Mr. Smith provided an update on the wastewater treatment plant work. Delays on manufacturing of some of the components for the treatment plant have been difficult to work around and permitting with the EPA is still in progress.

Mr. Smith reported on progress made for the Lower Lake Dam project. Black Horse Construction has been on site since July for the Lower Lake Dam. He provided details on change orders and the schedule for work. Mr. Smith commented that Gannett Fleming has reviewed every request for payment and has represented the RJRD very well. The schedule is sound and plans for Phase 2 construction are expected within the next week.

**MOTION by:** Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Norris to acknowledge and approve the use of architect and engineer reports by the Friends of Crowell Hilaka for the Ohio History Fund interim report requirements for Kirby Mill.

**FURTHER DISCUSSION: NONE**

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

**Special Fundraising Committee Report:** No report

**Administration Report:**

Ms. Soroszak informed trustees on invoicing, electronic upgrades at the park office, and rentals and events planned at the park. She thanked Ms. Apidone for the beautiful landscaping around the building and park office volunteers. Ms. Scorszak announced that she has taken another position but she would be happy to stay in the interim. She thanked the Board for the opportunity and experience.

Board members thanked Ms. Szorozak for her hard work and service to the Board as the park has grown. Mr. Becker said the job has changed dramatically and the board will be discussing what new requirements are for the position.

**Volunteer Coordinator Report:**

Ms. Susan Czaplicki informed trustees on Girl Scout volunteer projects, as well as many additional student volunteers for Key Club, Confirmation service hour requirements, and several area universities.

**Treasurer Report:**

Mr. Norris said that the finance report will stand as submitted for July.

Mr. Becker announced the Board will be going into executive session and expected no further action to be taken under after the executive session.

**MOTION by:** Mr. Deluca and seconded by Mr. Norris to amend the agenda order to have the executive session at the end of the meeting

**FURTHER DISCUSSION:** NONE

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

**Partner Reports:**

**Friends of Crowell Hilaka:** Ms. Corey Ringle thanked the Board for approving the Historic Homes Stabilization Task Force and the Kirby Mill Restoration reports. She reported on work by the Native Plant Restoration and Invasive Species Removal task forces as well as upcoming programs and events in the park.

**Questions / Comments from the Floor:**

Comments included the suggestion for selling benches at the park for donations, similar to other area parks having memorial benches.

**Announcements:**

Mr. Becker said that projects for the Oviatt gate, Summer Barn parking lot, and bridle trails have been completed and will be removed from the list on the next agenda.

**MOTION by:** Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Slifcak to enter into executive session to consider the compensation of a public employee per ORC 121.22(g)

**FURTHER DISCUSSION:** NONE

**MOTION PASSED:** Vote taken by roll call: Mr. Norris (Yea), Ms. Apidone (Yea), Mr. Deluca (Yea), Ms. Slifcak (Yea), Mr. Smith (Yea), Mr. Becker (Yea)

Trustees exited executive session at 8:11 p.m. and resumed the open meeting.


**Adjournment:**

**MOTION by:** Mr. Norris and seconded by Ms. Apidone to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

**FURTHER DISCUSSION:** NONE

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

Submitted by:

  
Mindy Remec, Administrative  
Coordinator

Accepted by:

  
Bob Becker, Board Chairperson