



**Regular Meeting with Work Session  
October 28, 2019**

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

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

**Also in Attendance:** Administrative Coordinator Mindy Remec and 18 additional residents/attendees

**Work Session**

**Eagle Scout Presentations:**

Two Boy Scouts presented their proposed Eagle Scout projects to the Board. John DiFillipo proposed constructing two benches and Sam Gill proposed a foot bridge. Trustees thanked them for their impressive project proposals.

**Trick or Treat on the Trail:**

Nichole Schill and Lisa Shaw spoke to trustees about the October 20, 2019 event. More than 1,500 attended and 86 volunteers were involved. Appreciation was given for monetary donations, as well as businesses, organizations and individuals that donated their time and efforts.

**ANCA Consult:**

Ms. Slifcak gave a brief overview of the consult. Important points that were made included having the Board speak with one voice, hiring a park director, developing a strategic plan, having one brand for Richfield Heritage Preserve, and moving the board from a managing role to governing. A special meeting will be announced to discuss the final report in detail.

**Park Director Job Description:**

Mr. Becker requested comments from Trustees on the park director job description. Mr. Gonzales suggested amending the vacation time to accrued paid time off. Trustees also discussed funding for the position, related work experience and being competitive with area parks for compensation and benefits.

**FMD Certificates of Occupancy and Gund Hall Upgrades:**

Mr. Deluca presented two Letters of Agreement with FMD Architects, Inc. to determine work needed to obtain occupancy permits for Gemini and Chagrin cabins and for Gund Hall restroom upgrade plans.

Ms. Apidone presented plans for information kiosks that were donated by Richfield resident Zoltan Balogh. Plans are to construct three to four kiosks.

## Regular Meeting

### Approval of Minutes:

September 30, 2019 Special Meeting

October 10, 2019 Special Meeting

**MOTION by:** Mr. Gonzales and seconded by Mr. Deluca to approve the September 30, 2019 and October 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes as presented.

**FURTHER DISCUSSION: NONE**

**MOTION PASSED: Vote taken by voice Yea, which was unanimous with the exceptions of Mr. Norris and Ms. Slifcak abstaining**

### Standing Committee Reports:

#### Governance:

Ms. Slifcak announced the RJRD was awarded a Technical Assistance Grant through the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program and thanked Beth Sanderson for assistance with obtaining the grant. Other work to accomplish includes forming a search committee for a park director and approving the 2020 budget. Also announced is a sendoff party for Judy Soroszak on November 2, 2019. Many thanks were given to Ms. Soroszak for all her hard work in helping the park grow.

Mr. Norris said a bylaw update discussion needs to be addressed as well as a review of the credit card policy.

#### Park Operations:

Mr. Deluca reported he will continue to search for contractors to submit bids for gutter work at North House, Kirby and Coach. Gund Hall overhang has been power washed and painting will be scheduled as weather allows. Quotes are being sought for perimeter fence repairs for damage caused by trees. A Park Operations meeting will be scheduled in the beginning of November.

**MOTION by:** Mr. Deluca and seconded by Mr. Smith to accept the Letters of Agreement with FMD Architects as presented with amounts not to exceed \$4,500 for Gund Hall restroom upgrade plans and \$4,500 for occupancy permit plans for Gemini and Chagrin cabins.

**FURTHER DISCUSSION: NONE**

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

#### Park Services:

Ms. Apidone said trail map work is being completed. She again thanked everyone involved in Trick or Treat on the Trail. Ms. Apidone thanked Dr. Carrie Davis Todd from Baldwin Wallace,



who is working on the educational programming, which will be included in the 2020 park brochure.

**Capital Projects:**

Mr. Smith reported Phase I of the Lower Lake Dam project is complete. Gannett Fleming and Black Horse worked well together and the project was completed with few difficulties. Phase II initial design meetings are underway. Waste water treatment plant work will start November 4, 2019 and the project completion is expected before the end of the year.

Mr. Deluca said water well testing is being done and initial reports show Gund Hall is operating well but issues have turned up for wells at Gemini and the climbing course. Options for work will be forthcoming. Mr. Becker said that a type-one operator may be needed, which would be a \$36,000 hit to the budget. The EPA will be providing guidelines.

**Special Fundraising Committee Report:**

Mr. Gonzales reported that Mr. Smith is developing a case statement for review for the Board. He also reported that a Development Task Force was convened to kickstart efforts.

**Administration Report:**

Ms. Remec updated trustees on ongoing office procedure work and upcoming use agreements. She said that a ribbon cutting and reception for the lower lake dam project will take place with a date to be announced and invitations to be sent shortly.

**Volunteer Coordinator Report:**

Ms. Susan Czaplicki informed trustees of the numerous volunteer projects completed at the park and submitted a written report.

**Treasurer Report:**

Mr. Norris said the fiscal officer's report was submitted for review. Expenses year-to-date are as follows: Phase one Kirby Dam, \$571,000 total for engineering and construction; site improvements, \$25,500; hardware/services, \$5,000; office supplies, \$4,100; insurance, \$11,000; contract services, \$17,000; utilities, \$8,000; employee expense, \$68,000.

Mr. Gonzales said that building valuations are being reviewed for insurance.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:**

Mr. Becker introduced Resolution 14-2019, saying that the Hazard Mitigation Plans approval is required by all governments.

**MOTION by:** Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Norris to approve Resolution 14-2019 A Resolution Authorizing the Richfield Joint Recreation District to Adopt the Summit County Hazard Mitigation Plan

**FURTHER DISCUSSION:** NONE

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

**MOTION by:** Mr. Norris and seconded by Mr. Smith to approve Resolution 15-2019 A Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying them to the County Auditor

**FURTHER DISCUSSION:** NONE

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

Mr. Gonzales said that the Friends of Crowell Hilaka have asked for continued approval by the Board through a vote for the Invasive Species Project.

**MOTION by:** Mr. Gonzales and seconded by Mr. Smith to ratify that the Friends of Crowell Hilaka have been approved to handle the Invasive Species Project at Richfield Heritage Preserve and that such ratification may only be rescinded by a majority vote by the Board of Trustees of the Richfield Joint Recreation District

**FURTHER DISCUSSION:** Mr. Gonzales said this motion would preserve this decision in the event there are changes in board members and the decision cannot be rescinded by any individual member. Mr. Norris questioned introducing a motion as opposed to a resolution as recommended by the Governance Committee. Mr. Smith commented that a motion vote is legally equivalent to a resolution vote. Ms. Slifcak agreed with Mr. Gonzales's proposed motion and asked about next steps for the plan. Mr. Becker said plan implementation will require many more volunteers. Mr. Gonzales said that status reports will be needed as progress is made.

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

**MOTION by:** Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Slifcak to approve the Park Director Job Description as presented with amendment of vacation time to paid time off.

**FURTHER DISCUSSION:** Ms. Slifcak asked about forming a search committee, which will be handled by Governance. Mr. Becker said that ideally the park director would be hired by January 1, 2020.

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

#### **Partner Reports:**

**Friends of Crowell Hilaka:** Ms. Corey Ringle thanked trustee for ratification of the Invasive Species Plan. She reported many successful events and projects completed at the park, which includes the Mill Fundraising Campaign. The campaign has already collected \$45,000 towards the goal of \$500,000. A written report was submitted.

**Ohio Horseman's Council:** Molly Eastwood reported that a Ride for the Cure went well. A History Ride is being planned in September 2020.



**Announcements:**

Ms. Apidone announced Joe Leslie from the Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC) attended Trick or Treat on the Trail and was extremely complimentary of the progress made.

**Questions / Comments from the Floor:**

Ms. Ringle said that WRLC has commented that they are very proud of their involvement with the park.

Ms. Richardson asked for clarification on additional volunteers needed by Mr. Becker for the Invasive Species Project. Mr. Deluca confirmed that Ms. Czaplicki would coordinate all new volunteers for this project through Ms. Sanderson, the project coordinator.

**Agenda and Actions Items:**

Mr. Becker said that a special meeting will be called to discuss the ANCA Consult. He also said that there has been an informal offer from Richfield Township for RJRD to take Rising Valley Park. Information will be put together for a thorough review.


**Adjournment:**

**MOTION by:** Mr. Gonzales and seconded by Mr. Deluca to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 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