



**Regular Meeting with Work Session
November 25, 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 14 additional residents/attendees

Work Session

2020 Budget:

Mr. Becker opened discussion and detailed changes to the personnel expenses. Additional comments included discussion on site improvements, well expenses, personnel benefits, and the contract for legal expenses. Mr. Deluca requested seasonal personnel hours be increased to 30 per week. Ms. Slifcak requested board input on capital improvement fund items that Mr. Smith was able to provide. She proposed doing the wells in stages stating that approximately \$30,000 should be cut from the budget. Ms. Apidone stated rental revenue will increase when improvements have been completed on Gund Hall. Ms. Slifcak informed the board that the fire department volunteered to build the new kiosks. Additional discussion on the budget will be held at the Governance Committee meeting on December 2, 2019.

Bridge & Fence Architectural Details:

Brochures and photographs of a potential prefabricated bridge for the upper lake spillway were displayed for discussion as part of the completion of phase two of the dam project. The styles, materials and finishes of the bridge were discussed. Trustees concurred on the style of the rustic, steel bridge with additional discussion needed on the materials as it relates to cost and future maintenance.

Fencing options were discussed for the lower lake dam across the spillway to the auxiliary spillway side. Mr. Becker said the fence is required for the high wall to prevent someone from falling. The options are metal, wood, or vinyl. It is usually made from a lower-grade powder-coated steel. There was no board consensus on the style of the fence. Trustees decided to continue researching to look for more rustic options more closely matching the bridge.

Oviatt House:

Mr. Deluca stated the unanimous recommendation from Park Operations Committee is to demolish the Oviatt House due to the conditions of the structure and the safety hazard it presents. He said that this was not an easy decision to reach because of the history the house represents. Material from the structure could be saved for future projects as a way to honor the Oviatt family. Mr. Deluca said that the Richfield Joint Recreation District could provide the history better than the actual structure. Ms. Slifcak objected to demolishing of the house stating that the Richfield Heritage Preserve will soon be named to the National Register of Historical Places and the one-year agreement with Jim Fry to potentially save the house has not yet expired. Mr. Becker said that he tried to contact Jim Fry and received no response. He

also reached out to Mr. Ray Oviatt and Mr. Oviatt stated he understands the position the Board and he would like the opportunity to do some kind of memorial. Plans for the memorial are underway. Mr. Becker said there is a potential to make this location a waypoint on the Buckeye Trail so visitors can read the history. Additional trustee comments included regret for the condition of the structure and lack of funds for restoration. Mr. Norris questioned whether the one-year agreement with Jim Fry should be honored. Ms. Slifcak requested the vote be postponed to the December meeting.

Rising Valley Park:

Mr. Deluca opened discussion on the opportunity to acquire Rising Valley Park from Richfield Township. He stated some of the benefits include the potential for trail expansion, open field recreation, additional parking, and additional garage and storage space. Mr. Deluca recommended the board pass a motion to send a formal letter to Richfield Township asking what may be included with the transfer of property. Additional discussion was held on the park driveway, potential rental revenue, and operating and maintenance expenses.

ANCA – Name Confusion:

Mr. Becker briefly reviewed the discussion made at the November 18 meeting. Trustees concurred to use the name Richfield Joint Recreation District (RJRD) in formal settings. Trustees discussed the name of the property, Richfield Heritage Preserve. Comments included questioning how the name was chosen and the term “Preserve” versus “Park”. Trustees agreed to formally refer to the property as the Richfield Heritage Preserve (RHP). Additionally, trustees agreed to explore changing the name of the property as part of the planning process in the National Park Service Technical Assistance Grant. Mr. Deluca requested to have decisions made on changing the name of the property prior to installation of new signage.

Regular Meeting

Approval of Minutes:

October 28, 2019 Regular Meeting

November 18, 2019 Special Meeting

MOTION by: Mr. Deluca and seconded by Mr. Smith to approve the October 28, 2019 Meeting Minutes as presented.

FURTHER DISCUSSION: NONE

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

MOTION by: Mr. Deluca and seconded by Ms. Apidone to approve the November 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes as presented.

FURTHER DISCUSSION: NONE

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

Standing Committee Reports:**Governance:**

Ms. Slifcak said they are working with the National Park Service develop a living document detailing the three main deliverables, which are 1. to develop a vision and mission statement, 2. identify a path for developing a strategic plan, and 3. community engagement through trail connectivity. Governance will meet on December 2, at 6:30 p.m. for a 2020 budget review. Bylaws and the credit card policy are also up for review as time allows. Mr. Becker requested the Governance Committee form their committee to review park director applicants.

Park Operations:

MOTION by: Mr. Deluca and seconded by Mr. Gonzales to send a formal letter to Richfield Township to request written proposal to transfer ownership of Rising Valley Park to the Richfield Joint Recreation District

FURTHER DISCUSSION: NONE

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

Mr. Deluca reported the pack out building garage door is in need of replacement.

MOTION by: Mr. Deluca and seconded by Mr. Norris to approve payment of \$1,252.32 for the pack out building garage door replacement.

FURTHER DISCUSSION: NONE

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

MOTION by: Mr. Deluca and seconded by Mr. Smith to demolish the Oviatt House

FURTHER DISCUSSION: In further discussion Mr. Norris questioned whether the vote should be taken after reaching out to Mr. Fry again or until after the one-year agreement has expired.

MOTION by: Mr. Norris and seconded by Ms. Slifcak to postpone the motion for demolishing the house to a future date.

FURTHER DISCUSSION: Mr. Becker explained that, procedurally, the vote for this motion will be taken before the original motion.

MOTION TO POSTPONE DEMOLITION FAILED: Vote taken by voice Yea, 2; Oppose, 5

FURTHER DISCUSSION: Mr. Gonzales asked for the cost to demolish the structure. Mr. Deluca estimated approximately \$9,000 from Operations in 2020

MOTION TO PROCEED WITH DEMOLITION PASSED: Vote taken by voice Yea, 6; Oppose, 1

Park Services:

Ms. Apidone said Richfield Heritage Preserve brochure should be completed in the next month and a final trail map work is being completed. She said that Snow Bird Festival information will be available for the next meeting.

Capital Projects:

Mr. Smith thanked everyone that participated in the celebration for the completion of phase I of the dam project. Phase II plans will be completed in March. The waste water treatment plant work is underway.

Special Fundraising Committee Report:

MOTION by: Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Becker to approve the Fundraising committee minutes from February 28, 2019; April 9, 2019; April 23, 2019; June 5, 2019; and August 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes as presented.

FURTHER DISCUSSION: NONE

MOTION PASSED: Vote taken by voice Yea

Administration Report:

Ms. Remec updated trustees on ongoing office procedure work and upcoming use agreements.

Volunteer Coordinator Report:

Ms. Susan Czaplicki informed trustees of the numerous volunteer projects completed at the park and submitted a written report. Thanks was given to Nancy Kanik for cleaning Gund Hall for the reception to celebrate the dam project.

Treasurer Report:

Mr. Norris said the fiscal officer's report was submitted for review.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Partner Reports:

Friends of Crowell Hilaka: Ms. Corey Ringle updated attendees on plans for Winter Wonders cookie sale. The Mill Fundraising Campaign has already collected \$58,757 towards the goal of \$500,000 and a membership meeting was held in November. Ms. Ringle gave a detailed report on progress of the Invasive Species Project. A written report was submitted.

Announcements: None

Questions / Comments from the Floor:

Ms. Smik questioned the purpose of Snow Bird Festival in addition to the Winter Wonders event. Mr. Becker said his understanding is that Winter Wonders is a fundraising and friend-raising event for FoCH. The Snow Bird Festival is a joint project for Richfield Township, Richfield Village and the Richfield Joint Recreation District to provide a free program for the community.

Agenda and Actions Items:

Mr. Deluca will have FMD proposals for Chagrin and Gemini occupancy permits and Gund Hall bathrooms. Governance will have the 2020 budget and potentially the credit card policy and bylaws

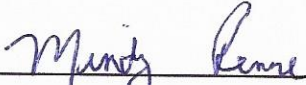
Adjournment:

MOTION by: Ms. Apidone and seconded by Mr. Smith to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

FURTHER DISCUSSION: NONE

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

Submitted by:



Mindy Reme, Administrative
Coordinator

Accepted by:



Bob Becker, Board Chairperson