

RJRD REGULAR BOARD MEETING

September 29, 2025

MEETING MINUTES

The RJRD Board met in The Park Lodge at Richfield Heritage Preserve.

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Holly Price, Dave Wehner, Anita Gantner, Mike Lyons, Mark Robeson, Mike Selig,

ABSENT: Steve McPeake

Also present: John Piepsny, Susan Czaplicki and members of the public

MINUTES: Deferred until the next meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Governance: Met September 10 to discuss work agreement.

Fundraising and Grant writing: no Report

ADHOC Trail Signs: Met September 5 to discuss trail names.

- A summary of potential trail names was distributed to the Board. Discussed specific versus generic trail names and that full names would be used on the map and main signage stations but only a symbol and color would be on the trail markers.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT:

Park Director prepared an initial 2026 draft budget for the board to review. Mr. Piepsny shared a summary of a meeting with CVCC regarding the High Lea shelter and their conclusion that it requires a professional contractor to oversee any repairs. A sketch of the main park drive area was skipped. Mr. Piepsny stated that permission to remove the Lower Lake bridge was received and he hopes it can still be removed before Winter. Finally, he commented on the success of the special concert.

TREASURERS REPORT: Mr. Wehner reported a bank balance of \$679,000, with cash inflows of \$32,000 and outflows of \$32,000, representing 60% of the operating budget, 86% of the lodge budget, and 47% of the bond budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

A discussion regarding the swing bridge with the engineer, Friends, Mr. Piepsny, Ms. Price and Mr. Lyons were summarized. The current design is a limited access bridge. It was also reported that the contractor (Redwing) has previously only completed projects on private property. Having a full access bridge would significantly change the design. The Board indicated it preferred a full access solution.

A revised work agreement was presented to the Board after revision by the Governance Committee. Mr. Lyons stated he wants the insurance clause for the volunteer group to be re-added and will circulate a new draft. Board to review a final copy at the next meeting for approval.

MOTION: Mr. Wehner moved to adopt Resolution No. 07-2025: A resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the budget commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the county auditor. Ms. Price seconded.
No further discussion

MOTION PASSED: Vote was taken by roll call.
Ms. Gantner (yea), Mr. Wehner (yea), Ms. Price (yea), Mr. Selig (yea), Mr. Robeson (yea), Mr. Lyons (yea)

OLD BUSINESS:

MOTION: Mr. Selig moved to enter into an agreement with Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Ohio State History Connection for the replacement of the Upper Lake pedestrian bridge. Mr. Wehner seconded.

No further discussion

MOTION PASSED: Vote was taken by roll call.
Ms. Gantner (yea), Mr. Wehner (yea), Ms. Price (yea), Mr. Selig (yea), Mr. Robeson (yea), Mr. Lyons (yea)

MOTION: Mr. Robeson moved to adopt the following trail names in the park:

- Neal Orchard Trail
- Kirby Mill Trail
- Oviatt Pioneer Trail
- Crowell Hilaka Camp Trail
- The Heritage Trail.

Ms. Price seconded.

No further discussion

MOTION PASSED: Vote was taken by roll call.
Ms. Gantner (yea), Mr. Wehner (yea), Ms. Price (yea), Mr. Selig (yea), Mr. Robeson (yea), Mr. Lyons (yea)

A draft of a community survey regarding the fence was discussed by the Board. Minor changes were discussed and it was agreed to move forward with the project.

Ms. Steiner of Oviatt House gave an update to the Board regarding the Donamarc estimate for work needed to the Mabel Smith Well to bring it up to code. The cost (approx. \$9k) was slightly less than the cost for a new well (\$12.2k) and additional work is likely. The Board indicated it preferred Oviatt continue with the plan to use the existing well. It was agreed to proceed with testing the Mabel Smith well before making any major investments, and Ms. Steiner requested additional support if costs exceeded initial estimates.

Comments from the Floor

Ms. Smick asked that the survey mention RJRD received an offer to pay for fence repairs.
Ms. Richardson asked about the donor recognition plaque for the mill. Ms. Gantner stated comments were for issues discussed during the meeting.
Ms. Norris suggested advertising the survey in the Richfield Times.
Ms. Ringle asked if the Friends could move forward with repair and replacement of siding on the Mill. Ms. Gantner indicated that could be discussed with the Park Director. Ms. Ringle also asked about a public records request.

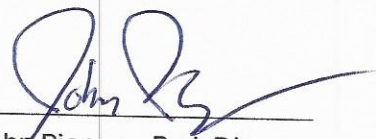
ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: to adjourn made by Mr. Lyons. Mr. Wehner seconded.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.

Submitted by:



John Piepsny, Park Director

Accepted by:



Anita Gantner, Board Chair

