

**RJRD REGULAR BOARD MEETING
November 17, 2025
MEETING MINUTES**

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

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

Roll Call: Holly Price, Dave Wehner, Mark Robeson, Steve McPeake, Mike Selig and Mike Lyons (late)

ABSENT: Anita Gantner

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the July 9, 2025 and October 10, 2025 fundraising/grant writing committee were approved.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Governance: No Report; Committee has not met since last meeting.

Fundraising and Grant writing: Mr. Selig is looking to schedule a site visit with Representative regarding the 2026 state capital allocation in December.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT:

Park Director Piepsny provided an update on the new bridge. It was delivered and is at the staging area awaiting installation by the Ohio Operating Engineers. He noted that ODNR granted a 6-month extension for the project due to federal shutdown. Mr. Piepsny thanked the operating engineers and Local 17 ironworkers for their work with the bridge, and the project team aims to complete the work this year.

The EDG Landscape plan was not discussed.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Mr. Wehner reported the financial status as of October 31st, with a cash balance of \$1,009,000, including \$451,000 in the bond fund and \$549,000 in other funds. Cash inflows were \$31k and outflows were \$31,000.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tricia Steiner presented the Oviatt House their third quarter update. Activities included work on the water system, creation of a video of the inside of the house before drywall is installed and numerous community events. The quarter's income was \$7,184.39, with expenses at \$11,978.29.

OLD BUSINESS:

Water Source for Oviatt House. Ms. Steiner presented information to the Board concerning the costs to drill a new well versus continuing to pursue using the existing Mabel Smith well. She expressed they have done extensive due diligence concerning the well, but the potential costs and unknown nature of the expenses, timing and management have led Oviatt House to believe drilling a new well is in their best interests.

Mr. Selig asked about the cost to drill a new well and asked if it would support the southern end of the park's needs or just Oviatt House. Ms. Steiner said there are differences in a private v. public EPA well and they are awaiting cost estimates.

Mr. Lyons suggested the Park should move forward with performing the initial evaluation on the Mabel Smith well. Ms. Price asked for clarification on what had been spent to date (\$0) and if any of the additional costs presented would also need to be incurred with a new well. Ms. Steiner acknowledged there would be additional costs beyond digging the well.

Mr. Selig asked about timing of a decision. Ms. Steiner said they would like to be able to do some work in conjunction with the waster water treatment plant work and before January is best.

Ms. Price asked where the well would go. She also indicated that a more detailed comparison of costs between the two options would be needed to make an informed decision. The Board felt the first step was to test the Mabel Smith well. Ms. Price asked Mr. Wehner if he had any concerns with incurring the expense. There were none.

MOTION: Mr. Lyons moved that the RJRD allocate funds to approve testing of the Mabel Smith well for \$2,800. Mr. Robeson seconded.

MOTION PASSED: Vote was taken by roll call.

Ms. Robeson (yea), Mr. Wehner (yea), Ms. Price (yea), Mr. Selig (yea), Mr. McPeake (yea), Mr. Lyons (yea)

Budget. Mr. Piepsny asked if there were any further questions about the proposed 2026 budget. Ms. Price asked if there were any items mentioned in the 2026 that were not included. Mr. Piepsny confirmed currently identified items were in the budget. He said he and Mr. Wehner will continue working on the 2026 budget, with plans to present a finalized budget at the December meeting.

2026 Park Plan. Ms. Price noted that Board members had received a working copy of the plan in their board packets and asked for feedback. She and Mr. Robeson will continue to work on it so a final plan can be presented for approval in December.

Kirby Mill Swing Bridge. Mr. Selig gave a short summary of an ad-hoc meeting with representatives of the Friends. Restoring the swing bridge seems to make the most sense, and he indicated the committee asked Friends to gather more information prior to a final recommendation for the Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A presentation on chestnut trees will be held at the Lodge on Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 7 p.m.

Comments from the Floor

Annette Pederson provided feedback from a recent history hike asking about the future use of Garfield Hall.

Fred Pederson raised a question about gates in the fence. The Board acknowledged the topic was inadvertently omitted from the agenda and will be revisited in the future.

MOTION: Mr. Selig motioned to go into executive session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual; seconded by Mr. Robeson.

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

The Board entered executive session at 6:33 p.m.

The Board returned from executive session at 6:45 p.m.

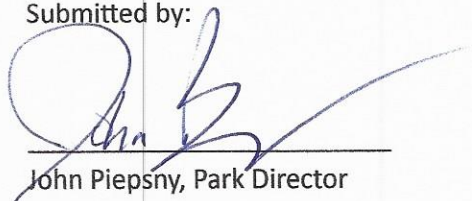
ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: to adjourn made by Mr. Selig. Ms. Price seconded.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Submitted by:



John Piepsny, Park Director

Accepted by:



Mike Selig, Board Vice-Chair

