

June 12, 2017

Attendees:

Mr. Abakumov
Mrs. O'Brien
Mr. Studen

Joan Heppert, Recording

Regular Meeting
of the
Russell Township Park Commission

West Woods Visitor Center

Call to Order:

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

2017-50 Mrs. O'Brien moved to approve and sign the minutes from 5/8/17 as presented and was seconded by Georg Abakumov.
Vote: Mr. Abakumov Y, Mrs. O'Brien Y, Mr. Studen Y. Motion passes.

Mrs. O'Brien gave an update on the Fairmount property and stated that the neighbor has dumped a considerable amount of manure and believes it is going onto park property. Linda walked the property from a member of the WRLC and they used a hand held GPS and noted that there is also equipment at the back of the park property that is encroaching on park property. Linda has recommended that the park board have this property surveyed and then conversations can be held with the neighbor.

Mrs. O'Brien continued updating about the Dines Road and stated that Michael Blades has removed all the signs. Linda suggested that the park properties need to address neighboring properties for encroachment issues and location notification of the public.

Mrs. O'Brien moved to an update on the Uplands. She stated that Shane from WRLC walked the property with Michael Blades and noted that there are ten trees that have fallen and need to be taken out and notes were taken on the kind, age etc. by Shane. In addition, one of the bridges foundation was washed out and has to be replaced or be removed, along with some of the stones on the paths. Linda stated that the good news on the property is that Michael Blades and Charlie Butters worked together to place the Doggie Doolies in the ground. The signs are the final steps that need to be completed. The system should have water added weekly.

Mrs. O'Brien finalized the updates with the Modroo property. Linda had requested Jeff Burr (relative of Mrs. Modroo) that a path be mowed around the perimeter (this path has been mowed in previous years). Linda stated she received a call from the WRLC and learned they wanted to give a thank you celebration for the community the last week in July.

- Janet Hargrave asked about the property markers around Modroo.

Linda addressed the comment and noted that two stewards (Shane Wolkin) walked the property and noted two encroachments of a deer stand and lawn chairs belonging to 7790 Clarion Dr is the Kennedy Family. Linda informed Mrs. Hargrave that the trail markers are an idea concept and nothing has been decided. Linda acknowledged the concern for privacy and stated that the back part of the property also has the potential for reforestation to protect the animal life.

Conversation ensued between the commissioners about the necessity to have the trees address on the Uplands and noted that this should be considered an emergency situation.

2017-51 Mr. Studen moved to accept the proposal on the Uplands storm repairs as presented on an emergency basis and was seconded by Linda O'Brien.

Vote: Mr. Abakumov Y, Mrs. O'Brien Y, Mr. Studen Y. Motion passes.

Georg Abakumov lead into the update on the Web. He contacted Jay Bishop at the High School and the program is no longer being funded for future students to help out with the website. The goal is to have all information available timely online. Linda O'Brien suggested contacting Auburn Career Center as a possible lead. Greg Studen suggested a professional vs. a volunteer. Greg mentioned Great Lakes Tech Solutions has a service to build a site to maintenance.

Mr. Studen lead into the discussion on Public Records and stated he contacted Dale Markowitz and received information on a policy from Chagrin Falls. Some edits were made to apply to the park board. Greg noted that the park board is at a disadvantage in that we don't have our own copier. Greg stated that he hopes in the near future to have everything scanned.

2017-52 Mrs. O'Brien moved to accept the policy on public records as presented and Mr. Abakumov seconded.
Vote: Mr. Abakumov Y, Mrs. O'Brien Y, Mr. Studen Y. Motion passes.

Mr. Studen moved onto the by-laws from the Park Commission and noted that it is obsolete and from 1984. Greg noted that jobs over \$50K go through the bidding process. Greg suggested that a contract procedure be a part of the by-laws. Mrs. O'Brien informed that the original by-laws were approved by Judge Grendell. She suggested that if new editions are made to pass it through the Judge as a courtesy.

Mr. Studen moved onto the banking location discussion. As of the end of May the balances were \$189K in our Middlefield account and \$130K in the First National account. Greg informed that the FDIC wouldn't insure over \$250K and would confirm that amount.

The checks to be signed were read and Martha Dempsey inquired about the legal fees. Mr. Studen addressed and noted several public records requests with controversy over information being subject to disclosure and it went up to the court of claims. Dale Markowitz represented the Park Board and it did cost some money Greg stated. Mr. Studen went on to say that the advice was needed along with the protection. Dale Markowitz also represents the Geauga Park District and the rate of \$390/hour is not out of line. Greg says the hope going forward is that these legal bills will not be as costly as he knows the pricing hurts. Mrs. O'Brien noted that for a 1.5M land deal that included easements and public property the advice was money well spent not only for the park board but for the residents of Russell.

2017-53 Mr. Studen moved to approve and sign checks #1005 to 1008 dated 6/12/17 and was seconded by Mr. Abakumov.
Vote: Mr. Abakumov Y, Mrs. O'Brien Y, Mr. Studen Y. Motion passes.

Public Comments

Mrs. O'Brien addressed the audience and gave her notice resignation after 18months of service. She wished the new commissioners well and hopes things will settle down in the future.

Discussion ensued on the Public hearing for the 2018 budget and it was agreed upon that it would be advertised in the News Herald on June 14th and the meeting on June 24th in the morning. The location was set for the Geauga West Library at 10:00 a.m.

Further discussion evolved on the next regular meeting date and schedules permitted for July 24 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was closed at 8:17 p.m.

Commissioner

Commissioner

7/24/17 Next Regular Meeting