

May 8, 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

Mrs. O'Brien started the meeting off with introductions of the new board members Georg Abakumov and Greg Studen.

2017-43 Move to appoint the fiscal officer Greg Studen was moved by Mrs. O'Brien and seconded by Mr. Abakumov.  
Vote: Mr. Abakumov Y, Mrs. O'Brien Y, Mr. Studen Y. Motion passes.

2017-44 Mr. Studen nominated Georg Abakumov as vice-chairman for the remainder of 2017 year and was seconded by Mrs. O'Brien.  
Vote: Mr. Abakumov Y, Mrs. O'Brien Y, Mr. Studen Y. Motion passes.

2017-45 Mr. Studen nominated Linda O'Brien as chairman for the remainder of the 2017 year and was seconded by Mr. Abakumov.  
Vote: Mr. Abakumov Y, Mrs. O'Brien Y, Mr. Studen Y. Motion passes.

2017-46 Mrs. O'Brien moved to approve and sign the minutes from 4/10/17 as presented and was seconded by Greg Studen.  
Vote: Mr. Abakumov Y, Mrs. O'Brien Y, Mr. Studen Y. Motion passes.

Linda O'Brien gave an update on the Modroo property and mentioned a meeting at town hall with the WRLC and the proposed plan to obtain the rest of the property including the red barn home and out buildings and is approximately 18 acres. There were a lot of options discussed from a winery, vineyard, bed and breakfast and gardening area. Rich Cochran mentioned to Linda that they can't go forward unless the park district unites with the WRLC. Linda mentioned that the stone has been put in on the property. The hayfield will not be mowed until August 1<sup>st</sup> for the bobolinks. If this were to go forward, the master plan currently is using the Modroo current driveway. She stated the concern for wasting money in regards to the entrance way and parking lots. Linda recommended to wait to see what develops in the coming month but doesn't want to wait too long in order to give the benefits of the property to the residents. Perhaps around August 1<sup>st</sup> some rough pathways could be laid out to make it walk able.

Georg Abakumov stated that he would like to know what this is going to cost in regards to the proposed plan as he hasn't seen a budget. What was intended, how does this proposal meet those intents and how much money do we have to meet any of this are of concern to Georg. Mr. Abakumov mentioned if the money isn't available from the park board not proceeding with that but welcomed community input.

Greg Studen commented that we are going to have to work through a process with the Land Conservancy and the public. A lot more information is needed. In regards to the Modroo house and whatever is proposed would require an extensive amount of management and expense. Greg Studen mentioned that it doesn't really fit with the park districts mission in regards to preserve the natural resources of Russell for the benefit and enjoyment of the people. Greg mentioned he liked the idea of sharing the driveway as previously mentioned by Mrs. O'Brien. Mr. Studen mentioned that he is not prepared to make any decisions until we go through the process in close cooperation with the Land Conservancy and their ideas and the Russell Township trustees and members of the public.

- Howard Shanker requested that the conservation easements be made public regarding the Modroo property.

Linda O'Brien stated that there is mowing allowed in specific areas and an approval for an entrance way and a parking lot for light service (not concrete) and there will be walking trails. Linda stated that we will try and get this on the web, but we are in transition with our help in that area.

- Martha Dempsey mentioned that the WRLC wanted a "show piece for them and for us to purchase it".

Linda O'Brien mentioned that relative to getting extra money for Modroo, the Nature Scapes Grant request has gone forward. There is a possibility to get ~\$20K and would benefit the project of the Modroo property.

Mrs. O'Brien gave an update on the Fairmont property by Watt Rd. and stated that Michael Blades is not able to mow due to access limitations. Linda has contacted the Land Conservancy and asked them to contact Mr. Spisak regarding the change.

Information was shared with Mrs. O'Brien regarding the white pines on the Bob Hall Field. The trees are dying. She was informed that four or five years ago the Township trustees took over the maintenance of that property. Linda went on to say that this was due to the adjustment when the millage was reduced. Linda's questions are who owns the Bob Hall field and who will manage these dying trees? Sandy Siegler agreed that a few years ago when the township cut the park boards funding they took back the maintenance. Mr. Siegler believed that the township trustees initially paid for the Bob Hall field but turned it over to the park district some twenty years ago. The park district has done a lot of work there including the parking lot and planting of the many flowers and trees and also park benches. Mr. Studen suggested contacting the trustees and clarify that this is indeed their property and responsibility.

Linda O'Brien gave an update on Olivia Pecharka being recognized at the board of education meeting for taking care of the Park District's website over the past year. Olivia will be graduating and continuing her education at Findley University. Georg Abakumov will head up looking for a replacement to handle the needs of the web design.

Mr. Abukomov mentioned Aspldish Tree phoned and was looking for permission to do some cutting. Linda O'Brien mentioned that this is the company that works for the state or county that clears along the power lines. Georg said he would follow-up on the West Wood Land Labs property with Aspldish.

The Dines Road issue regarding the deer stands and signage issue were presented to Georg by residents. Linda mentioned that the police department has advised her that the stands have been removed. In regards to the private property signs, they will have to be removed.

2017-47 Move to approve and sign check #'s 1001 to 1004 dated 5/8/17 was moved by Greg Studen and seconded by Linda O'Brien.

Joan Heppert noted that the Thrasher, Dinsmore & Dolan check should be \$2,847. And not the \$2,457. As noted on the agenda. This was due to an invoice that was past due and not received; finance charges were waived.

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

- Sandy Siegler inquired the purpose of the Thrasher check. The time period for the service was from April 4 through April 24<sup>th</sup> for legal business as read from the invoice by Greg Studen. The rate per hour is \$390 per hour.

2017-48 Move to have two signature for checks over \$500 for Park Board expenses was moved by Greg Studen and seconded by Georg Abakumov.

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

- Evelyn McCarthy expressed concern over the pedestrian walkway that was discussed at the Township meeting.
- Janet Hargraves stated that her property has stakes marking off where the Modroo property end.

Linda O'Brien suggested them to follow up with the Land Conservancy and to attend future meetings on the development of the property.

- Martha Dempsey asked if the park district was keeping the hayfield.

Linda O'Brien mentioned that the hayfield will be mowed on August 1<sup>st</sup>. The park district is not doing anything else other than what was originally committed to do.

- Howard Shanker asked about reforesting trees.

Linda O'Brien mentioned at the far back corner of the property the potential of reforesting that area to keep the animals safe and have a buffer. The park district is committed to what is down on paper and will need to decide when to go forward with the entrance of the

parking lot. Greg Studen mentioned the need for further public input and will look into the documentation for the easements of the property.

The meeting was closed again at 8:14 p.m.

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Commissioner

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Commissioner

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Commissioner

6/12/17 Next Regular Meeting