

June 11, 2018

Attendees:

Mr. Suhay
Mr. Wayt
Ms. Weiss Carson

Joan Heppert, Recording

Regular Meeting
of the
Russell Township Park Commission

West Woods Visitor Center

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

2018-28 Mr. Wayt moved to approve and sign the minutes from 5/7/18 as presented and was seconded by Mr. Suhay.
Vote: Mr. Wayt Y, Mr. Suhay Y, Ms. Weiss Carson Y. Motion passes.

2018-29 Move to increase purchase order to the Auditor of State 2018-5 from \$1,000 to \$3,526.00 from fund P10 was moved by Mr. Wayt and seconded by Mr. Suhay.
Vote: Mr. Wayt Y, Mr. Suhay Y, Ms. Weiss Carson Y. Motion passes.

2018-30 Move to approve up to \$7,500 for professional legal services on PO 2018-18 from fund P10 was moved by Mr. Wayt and seconded by Mr. Suhay.
Vote: Mr. Wayt Y, Mr. Suhay Y, Ms. Weiss Carson Y. Motion passes.

2018-31 Move to approve and sign the MOA for deposit of public funds from Middlefield Bank as presented was moved by Mr. Wayt and seconded by Mr. Suhay.
Vote: Mr. Wayt Y, Mr. Suhay Y, Ms. Weiss Carson Y. Motion passes.

2018 -32 Move to approve up to \$100.00 to advertise for the budget public hearing was moved by Mr. Wayt and seconded by Mr. Suhay.
Vote: Mr. Wayt Y, Mr. Suhay Y, Ms. Weiss Carson Y. Motion passes.

2018-33 Move to approve and sign check # 1053 – 1056 dated 6/11/18 was moved by Mr. Wayt and seconded by Mr. Suhay.
Vote: Mr. Wayt Y, Mr. Suhay Y, Ms. Weiss Carson Y. Motion passes.

Donna Weiss Carson addressed some misconceptions regarding saving the Modroo Farm. The operating plan is to lease the home and farm market. The expenses are insurance, grounds maintenance, minor repair and miscellaneous for a total of \$15,500 and the revenue projections are \$28,000. The money not used would go into a rainy day fund as a surplus.

2018-34 Move to enter into executive session per ORC 121.22 (G) (2) and (G) (1) was moved by Mr. Wayt and seconded by Mr. Suhay.
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Wayt Y, Mr. Suhay Y, Ms. Weiss Carson Y. Motion passes.
Time: 7:17 p.m. Mr. Leslie will be invited into executive session.

2018-35 Move to enter into regular session at 7:56 p.m. was moved by Mr. Wayt and seconded by Mr. Suhay.
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Wayt Y, Mr. Suhay Y, Ms. Weiss Carson Y. Motion passes.

2018-36 Move to approve and sign a resolution to request the Geauga County Budget Commission to disburse .50 Mill of available inside millage to the Russell Township Park District as presented was moved by Scott Wayt and seconded by Dennis Suhay and read in its entirety.
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Wayt Y, Mr. Suhay Y, Ms. Weiss Carson Y. Motion passes.

Donna Weiss Carson noted that the above resolution does not raise your taxes; and the resolution listed below will increase your taxes approximately \$35 per one hundred thousand.

2018-37 Move to approve and sign the Certificate of millage rate to Geauga County Auditor and request for Revenue produced by such rate as presented was moved by Mr. Wayt and seconded by Mr. Suhay and read in its entirety.
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Wayt Y, Mr. Suhay Y, Ms. Weiss Carson Y. Motion passes.

Mr. Wayt gave an update on the Upland volunteer clean up day. Mr. Wayt's family were the only attendees and picked up 8 garbage bags full of trash and covered only 1/5 of the area. Another date later in the summer would be considered for another pick up day.

Mr. Wayt moved to discussion on a visit to Russell Uplands. Michael Blades mentioned concerns of ash trees along the paths. Shane Wohlken of WRLC walked with Scott Wayt and a letter has already been received granting permission to cut down 30 trees infected with the ash borer virus and leave them on the forest floor. The trees are a danger to those that are walking the paths. Shane acknowledged this was not the stewardship walk, but stated that the understory of the forest was in very good condition. Mr. Wayt mentioned the beech tree disease may be a concern in the years ahead.

Mr. Wayt noted that the stewardship visit for Hillbrook lots was completed and the information is posted on the park website.

2018 -38 Move to approve and sign the quote for the Uplands work as presented from Michael Blades in the amount of \$6,100 was moved by Mr. Wayt and seconded by Mr. Suhay. The gravel for the work is for erosion and not for trail purposes.
Vote: Mr. Wayt Y, Mr. Suhay Y, Ms. Weiss Carson Y. Motion passes.

The meeting was opened up for public comments. Residents voiced concerns over green space vs. a commercial venture, maintain a leased property and maintenance, and management of the property. There is a limited time to work with WRLC and the window is closing.

Mr. Wayt asked if a compromise could be reached. What if the park district could work with the WRLC to take off 10 acres away from the homestead property? This would allow for the sale of the Modroo home and not allow cluster housing. The barn is on several acres and can only be developed for one house. The park district has no interest in the barn Mr. Wayt stated.

Ms. Weiss Carson closed the discussion stating that the WRLC has a \$325K grant towards the acquisition. The park district has ~\$200K and the rest could be picked up in donor ship. The park district would get the property and have the endowment. Donna Mintz went over her experience of running a bed and breakfast and her visions for the property. Farm stays are very popular and are trending for this type of experience in such a desired, charming location.

Joe Leslie from the WRLC said that there was a risk involved when the property was purchased. He stated that there could be further conversations if the property doesn't sell quickly. This would take serious community engagement. Donations are what made the last acquisition successful along with the monies from the park district.

Mr. Wayt thanked everyone for coming and for their input.

The meeting was closed at 9:29 p.m.

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Warrant Listing:

6/11/18	Blades Lawn Care	\$640.00	#1053
6/11/18	Joan Heppert	\$463.75	#1054
6/11/18	Scott Wayt	\$49.99	#1055
6/11/18	Thrasher, Dinsmore & Dolan	\$4,097.50	#1056