

July 24, 2017

Attendees:

Mr. Abakumov
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 7:13 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

2017-57 Mr. Abakumov nominated Mr. Studen as chairman for the remainder of the 2017 year and was seconded by Mr. Studen.
Vote: Mr. Abakumov Y, Mr. Studen Y. Motion passes.

2017-58 Mr. Studen nominated Mr. Abakumov as vice chairman for the remainder of 2017 and was seconded by Mr. Studen.
Vote: Mr. Abakumov Y, Mr. Studen Y. Motion passes.

2017-59 Mr. Abakumov moved for Mr. Studen to continue the role of fiscal officer and Mr. Studen seconded.
Vote: Mr. Abakumov Y, Mr. Studen Y. Motion passes.

Mr. Studen acknowledged that the minutes from the 6/12 and 6/24 meetings will be approved at the next meeting.

Mr. Studen moved into the continuing business and this was the Modroo mowing. Greg received a call from Bill Timmons who had previously mowed the property for the hay. Greg felt there is no need at this point to continue the mowing and the park board mission was to protect the wildlife and habitat. He stated that there will be long term plans that will include public input and professional opinions for the best interest of the property. Nothing will be done behind the scenes, he stated. There are options of mowing in strips to support the habitat and keep the woody growth down. Mr. Studen mentioned that Frohring Meadows and a number of Cleveland Metroparks use this same method every two years or so. This is not a prairie and will not be burned for consideration to the residents. There is no savings or cost by not mowing. It will not be farmed. Mr. Abakumov agreed with this plan and suggested to follow up in a year or two.

- Barbara Berkeley mentioned there was hope for access to the property soon with mowed paths. Ms. Berkeley mentioned that the habitat has been thriving with the continues mowing and was something to think about.

Mr. Studen stated that a path will be mowed by the Land Conservancy by the end of July and will be accessible to the public. The park is open to the public now for anyone who wants to walk on it, path or no path he stated. Mr. Studen believed this is a matter of aesthetics. This will not be a lawn and has conservation value far in excess of a mowed field. Mr. Abakumov mentioned the bee issue and they thrive on the wildflowers later in the year. Again, naturalists, ecologist will be contacted for profession advice on how to manage the property Mr. Studen stated.

- Janet Hargrave inquired about the meeting on July 27th with the Land Conservancy if this was open to the public. Ms. Berkeley stated that this was an event for the donors.
- Jack Dempsey mentioned letting the boundaries grow out and not mow.

Mr. Abakumov was in agreement to forego the mowing this year until a further time and can be discussed going forward. Mr. Studen agreed.

Mr. Abakumov gave an update on the web and has received a quote for \$625 from Rodney Dawson from Cleveland Web Services. Mr. Dawson has done the Chagrin River Watershed site. This is to develop a professional job to establish a functional site. Ongoing services annually will be \$380/year and will have an additional charge for the back log of data. Mr. Studen acknowledged that this will be further discussed at the August meeting.

Mr. Studen lead into the encroachments and stated that the Fairmount property would benefit from being surveyed and the Land Conservancy suggested to have it flagged as well. There is manure and farm equipment that is right on the line. There is a quote for the survey is \$2,500 and the board will look into another quote. The Clarion Drive has an encroachment on the south end of the property with some picnic chairs. West River is the back end of the Dines Road parcel. There is piled stuff and the board is working with the property owners son to clean it up by the end of July. Mr. Abakumov inquired about an adverse possession and Mr. Studen informed everyone that there is no adverse possession against a political subdivision.

2017-60 Move to approve and sign letter to Middlefield Bank requesting the removal of Linda O'Brien, Charlie Butters and Sandy Siegler, and adding Georg Abakumov and Greg Studen was moved by Mr. Studen and seconded by Mr. Abakumov.
Vote: Mr. Abakumov Y, Mr. Studen Y. Motion passes

2017-61 Move to authorize and approve the spending of up to \$250.00 for Joan Heppert to purchase a printer/scanner/copier for work equipment for the park board was moved by Mr. Studen and seconded by Mr. Abakumov.
Vote: Mr. Abakumov Y, Mr. Studen Y. Motion passes

The 2017 budget has \$161K in the capital improvements and no need for that amount at this time. If the board will lower it to \$21K this will add \$140K to the 2018 carry over in the fund.

2017-62 Mr. Studen moved to amend the 2017 appropriation of capital improvements from \$161K to \$21K and was seconded by Mr. Abakumov.
Vote: Mr. Abakumov Y, Mr. Studen Y. Motion passes

Mr. Studen lead into the 2018 levy discussion. In the land acquisition fund we have a balance of \$263K and is available if a piece of land becomes available and would work with the trustees on this. In the general fund there is a very modest carry over of \$140K. Because there is a levy on the ballot for the 511 park board, Mr. Studen suggested that we not put a levy on because of the confusion. Mr. Abakumov agreed with the reasoning.

- Jim Mueller stated that the reason for the 511 was so that the township trustees could elect their own people. Mr. Studen stated that the park board will wait and see and work through this with a spirit of cooperation for the best for everyone in the township.

The bank reconciliations were presented to the commissioners. They will be available soon in an electronic format.

2017-63 Mr. Studen moved to approve and sign check #'s 1010 to 1013 dated 7/24/17 and void #1009 and Mr. Abakumov seconded.

Vote: Mr. Abakumov Y, Mr. Studen Y. Motion passes

- Howard Shanker was inquiring about the settlement statement from the Modroo property and stated there was a 10% add on. He inquired about a bill for Markowitz in the amount of \$47K and he might have read that in the newspaper. Mr. Shanker asked for an agreement on the 10% for the stewardship. Mr. Studen said we would follow up on the settlement statement for him.

- Shelley Chernin thanked the park commissioners and trustee Mueller for the new cooperation.

- Martha Dempsey said there were many more properties to be reevaluated to see if we needed Michael Blades needs to continue with the cutting.

The meeting was closed at 8:25 p.m.

Commissioner

Commissioner