

December 15, 2016

Attendees:

Mr. Butters
Mr. Genske Absent
Mrs. O'Brien

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

Judge Grendell congratulated the Park Board on the closing of the Modroo property. Judge Grendell mentioned that the purchase amount was specified and appraised, had a contract as business should be done when handling taxpayers money, had well regarded legal representation, and saved the taxpayers \$350K that can be used in future interests for the community. Judge Grendell mentioned that with the closing of the Modroo property, the taxpayers don't need to waste the money to have two boards to do one job which is to maintain the parks of Russell Township. Judge Grendell went on to swear in Charlie Butters for the three year term commencing January 1, 2017 with the Russell Township Park Commission.

Linda O'Brien opened the meeting with her comments about the pleasure of closing on the Modroo property tomorrow, December 15th. The signing of the documents was prepared and signed by Linda O'Brien and Charlie Butters and a courier exited the meeting with the final documentation.

2016-81 Move to approve and sign the minutes from 11/15/16 as presented was moved by Charlie Butters and seconded by Linda O'Brien.

Vote: Charlie Butters Y, Linda O'Brien Y. Motion passes.

Charlie Butters opened discussion about the ideas for the Modroo park going forward. Charlie read an email from Deborah and Greg Gillstrom who were in favor of leaving the property as a rural, undeveloped area and opposed any trails or a dog park that would allow defecating animals, and suggested saving taxpayers from additional tax burdens.

The goals of the Russell Township Park District were formed in 1984 and Charlie mentioned he would like to follow these guidelines that were originally developed by the founders of the park. Charlie believes there is interest from the community for recreational opportunities and access. Linda O'Brien mentioned the discussions from the WRLC of a \$50K gift intended for a parking lot at the entrance. Linda mentioned that she did not believe the Modroo property to be an adequate place for horses due to the size and would not envision horse trailers utilizing the parking area.

The interest seems to be there for a dog park and an area could be fenced in to allow for the dogs to go off leash. Charlie mentioned there are potential issues with dog parks and this would have to be addressed. Linda O'Brien mentioned that as of this point there are no final plans for the property.

Public comments were opened up at this time.

- Evelyn McCarthy asked if the parking lot location has been identified? Linda O'Brien mentioned that no final plans have been formulated and the Police will dictate where the safest place is for the driveway.

- Barbara Berkeley mentioned there are two homes currently for sale and it might be an idea to put the driveway near that location so the new homeowners would be aware of the parking lot ahead of the purchase of the homes. She mentioned that the general want of the public is for a simple, beautiful place to walk and enjoy the property with trails.
- Pat McCarthy asked if there were going to be ongoing meetings and discussions about the visions for the Modroo property? Charlie Butters explained that none of this would be done in executive session and public input is welcomed.
- Heidi O'Neill, a landscape architect who previously owned the property next to the Modroo property, stated that she previously approached the Russell Township Trustees about making a park out of her 50 acres. She stated that at the time the Township trustees were only looking for property that had a river running through it, or a body of water to protect the watershed and were not interested. Ms. O'Neill commended the Park Commissioners and the public for recognizing the value of the property for a park and stated that the property is relatively high and you can see for miles and will be able to enjoy amazing sunsets. She suggested the potential of having an observation deck to possibly look down and enjoy the views. Linda O'Brien mentioned the perspective from different heights is amazing.
- Evelyn McCarthy asked about a potential cell tower going on the Modroo property and her concerns with all of the lights in the skyline. Linda O'Brien and Charlie Butters mentioned that is not a possibility and that part of the property will be re-forested and will give the animals a place to travel securely. There will also be a meadow that is not marked yet for the bobbieinks.

2016-82 Move to approve the 2017 Russell Park Board temporary appropriations in the amount of \$1,414,609.14 was moved by Charlie Butters and seconded by Linda O'Brien.
 Roll Call Vote: Charlie Butters Y, Linda O'Brien Y. Motion passes.

The 2017 meeting dates will continue to be on the second Monday of the month and will be posted on the website.

2016-83 Move to approve and sign check # 133 – #136 dated 12/14/16 was moved by Charlie Butters and seconded by Linda O'Brien.
 Vote: Charlie Butters Y, Linda O'Brien Y. Motion passes.

The meeting was closed at 7:31 p.m.

Commissioner Charlie Butters

Commissioner Linda J. O'Brien

1/09/17 Next Regular Meeting

Warrant Listing

| | | | |
|------------|----------------------------|------------|-----|
| 12/14/2016 | Dave Genske | \$21.54 | 133 |
| 12/14/2016 | Blades Lawn Care | \$1,965.00 | 134 |
| 12/14/2016 | Joan Heppert | \$420.00 | 135 |
| 12/14/2016 | Thrasher, Dinsmore & Dolan | \$6,519.46 | 136 |