

March 12, 2018

Attendees:

Ms. Weiss Carson

Mr. Suhay

Mr. Wayt

Joan Heppert, Recording

Russell Township Park Board
Special Meeting
West Woods Visitors Center

Call to Order:

The special meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pete McDonald from WRLC is invited for discussion.

The following are bullet points of his discussion.

- Park District bought the Meyer property in 2015, which is 5 acres on top of a slope and is land locked.
- It is directly east of the Weiss property, which is approximately 12 or 13 acres and has a conservation easement with WRLC.
- The park district approached the WRLC shortly after purchase to see if they were interested in amending the Weiss conservation easement and adding the additional 5 acre Meyer property.
- This initiative was dropped for a time. Greg Studen reinitiated the board's interest in the easement during his time as a park commissioner.
- This agreement would have the same terms, rights and restrictions as the Weiss Easement.
- The fee is \$5,000 for this amendment and is for the long term stewardship of the property. An in house calculator is used to determine the fee, which started in 2017 and cannot be waived.
- The benefit of the easement is that a third party has the responsibility to walk yearly and observe any encroachments. The property rights enforcement is that of the Park District, but the WRLC acts as a partner to work through any disputes.
- The total cost is \$7,500 for the Dines Road property and \$5,000 for the Meyer property.
- This easement is a legal document that must be held by an organization that accepts conservation easements, and is authorized by the state and federal authorities. WRLC has 51,000 acres in 22 counties in NE Ohio that it manages.
 - Donna Mintz inquired about a payment plan possibility.
- The WRLC has had to file suit in the past against a property owner and has won and recovered the legal fees involved.
 - Linda O'Brien mentioned her experience with the WRLC and walking of the properties. She pointed out that in the past the commissioners were the first to address issues with homeowners. She asked for the WRLC to cut their fees by 50%, realizing that this is a small piece of property.
 - Charlie Butters commented that there isn't a threat to the property currently with no direct access except through a neighbor.
- Mr. Wayt wrapped up the meeting by asking Pete McDonald to follow up on the reduction of fees and the payment plan options. He further stated that WRLC has been a good partner and noted that all but two of the park properties have conservation easements.

Ms. Weiss Carson moved to table the amendment at the time for further research and discussion and was seconded by Mr. Wayt.

Vote: Mr. Suhay Y, Mr. Wayt Y, Ms. Weiss Carson Y. Motion passes.

The meeting was closed at 6:57 p.m.

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

