

July 9, 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.

The regular meeting opened with a public hearing for the 2019 budget. Ms. Weiss Carson went over the estimated expenses for capital improvements of \$12K and projected administrative expenses to be \$16K for a total of \$28,000 for the general fund. The land purchase fund will continue the carry over with no projected purchases leaving an estimated balance of \$235,812.21 for the 2019 budget. Ms. Weiss Carson asked for any questions or comments from the audience and the other trustees. There were none.

2018-44 Mr. Wayt moved to approve and adopt the 2019 budget as presented and was seconded by Mr. Suhay.
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Wayt Y, Mr. Suhay Y, Ms. Weiss Carson Y. Motion passes.'

The public hearing for the 2019 budget was closed at 7:04 p.m. and the regular meeting continued.

2018-45 Mr. Wayt moved to approve and sign the minutes from 6/11/18 as presented and was seconded by Mr. Suhay.
Vote: Mr. Wayt Y, Mr. Suhay Y, Ms. Weiss Carson Y. Motion passes.

2018-46 Mr. Wayt moved to approve and sign the minutes from 6/18/18 as presented and was seconded by Mr. Suhay.
Vote: Mr. Suhay Y, Ms. Weiss Carson Y. Motion passes.

2018-47 Mr. Wayt moved to approve and sign the minutes from 7/1/18 as presented and was seconded by Mr. Suhay.
Vote: Mr. Wayt Y, Mr. Suhay Y, Ms. Weiss Carson Y. Motion passes.

Mr. Wayt moved the discussions to continuing business and noted that many documents were added to the website including the documents regarding the levy. There is a new section called "Government Communications" which is under the documents tab and has a lot of information.

Mr. Suhay gave an update on the walk at the Upper Chagrin Preserve with Pete McDonald from WRLC regarding encroachments. He noted tires, manure and an old dump truck that needs to be removed. There will be two letters going out to address these issues.

Mr. Wayt gave an update on the Modroo property and noted that the property is now listed with a realtor and does not specify acreage. The price is \$849,000 and the plan is to sell the property under the four acres and work with the park district to buy or work out something with the government funding. The barn is not under discussion at this time. Mr. Wayt mentioned in a conversation with Joe Leslie that if there were a buyer that wanted the entire property and take on a conservation easement on the additional 10 acres that they would consider that. Mr. Wayt mentioned a future meeting with Joe Leslie to discuss the \$50K and start putting together a plan for some minor work at Modroo.

Mr. Suhay gave an update on the 511 park board meeting and recognized Perry Howland in attendance from the board and welcomed him. Their meeting was held on July 5th. One of the main points was they are trying for a 1/4 mill levy for four years with an estimate of \$65K/yr to get them up and running. Currently the 511 has no money and the Russell Township trustees are working on \$3600 for start up costs. Mr. Suhay mentioned they would be putting in a request to the auditor to reallocate funds from the Library levy. Mr. Suhay said the Mr. Podojil stated that the trustees have an agenda.

Mr. Wayt stated concerns about the misinformation regarding the 1545 park board as not being Russell residents, which all board members are. He mentioned that currently the 1545 has 93.5% of the park properties already have conservation easements on them. If the 1545 levy passes the number will be increased to 100% very quickly, but will need to be voted on.

Mr. Wayt gave an update on the three attempts to submit the levies to the auditor's office. The levy language at this point must refer to parks and recreation as opposed to conservation. Mr. Wayt stated he thought the levy would not pass at the one mill. He proposed dropping the request to ½ millage. Ms. Weiss Carson commented that we might be giving the 511 the opportunity to win their ¼ mill by reducing our desires she stated. Mr. Suhay expressed concerns about sustaining going forward in regards to the budget. Ms. Weiss Carson stated ½ mill would be around \$132K. The message needs to be expressed to the voters that the properties need to be maintained and it is dangerous if they aren't she added.

2018-48 Mr. Wayt moved to rescind motion 2018-43 was moved by Mr. Wayt and seconded by Ms. Weiss Carson.
Vote: Mr. Wayt Y, Mr. Suhay Y, Ms. Weiss Carson Y. Motion passes.

2018-49 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.

2018-50 Mr. Wayt moved to approve and sign checks # 1057 – 1060 dated 7/9/18 and was seconded by Mr. Suhay.
Vote: Mr. Wayt Y, Mr. Suhay Y, Ms. Weiss Carson Y. Motion passes.

Ms. Weiss Carson mentioned the audit and the additional work that has been conducted due to the Modroo purchase pushing up the expenditure totals. Accounting practices and procedures are being requested according to generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) by the auditors. Ms. Weiss Carson requested that the current procedures be authorized and reviewed by an accountant and has spoken with Libby Dittrick. A quote was obtained and the range is \$400 – \$600.

2018-51 Ms. Weiss Carson moved to authorize the spending of up to \$600 for accounting assistance and advice and was seconded by Mr. Wayt.
Vote: Mr. Wayt Y, Mr. Suhay Y, Ms. Weiss Carson Y. Motion passes.

Ms. Weiss Carson requested some work product from legal representation to pass onto future trustees of the park district. Mr. Wayt agreed and hoped to find creative ways to save in this area in the future.

Mr. Suhay personally thanked Ms. Weiss Carson and Joan Heppert for their work with the ongoing audit and Mr. Wayt certainly agreed.

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

The meeting was closed at 8:10 p.m.

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Warrant Listing:

7/9/18	Blades Lawn Care	\$7,355.00	#1057
7/9/18	Joan Heppert	\$647.50	#1058
7/9/18	21 st Century Media	\$40.80	#1059
7/9/18	Treasurer of State	\$471.50	#1060

