

AGENDA
511 PARK BOARD MARCH 15, 2019

- I PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- II Call to Order
- III Read/Approve Minutes of February 27th Meeting
- IV Website
- V Budget
- VI Additional Marketing Efforts
- VII Public Comment
- VIII Adjournment

NEXT MEETING:

**Amended Minutes of: 511 Citizen's Park Board
of Russell Township**

Meeting: Regular

Held: Geauga West Public Library

Date: February 27, 2019

Chairman Roy Podojil requested all to stand for the **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Podojil at 1:59 PM. Present were Board Commissioners Mr. Roy Podojil, Mr. Ron Skrbin, Mr. Perry Howland, and Secretary Maria Livers.

MINUTES: Minutes for the January 16th, 2019 meeting were read.

Mr. Howland made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Mr. Skrbin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

ATTORNEY'S BILL: Mr. Podojil received a call today (February 27, 2019) before the meeting from Russell Township administration that the attorney's updated invoice with clarifications as requested had been received by the Township and that bill has been paid in full.

LEVY: A levy committee chaired by Shelley Chernin is now in place. The Board will divest itself of that direct responsibility as a result. Ms. Chernin will implement steps to get this onto the November ballot.

ESTIMATED BUDGET: There was discussion by the Board, with input from attendees, around the millage that should be requested on the upcoming levy. The history of levy requests (1 mill) and costs of future projects, as well as the cost of managing all existing Russell Township parks if returned to the management of this 511 Board, were all taken into consideration regarding a $\frac{3}{4}$ vs. a 1 mill request. It was decided that a 1 mill request, anticipated to generate approximately \$ $\frac{1}{4}$ Million would be an appropriate amount to put on the ballot. Mr. Howland and Mr. Skrbin will work together to create a wholistic budget including administrative needs, website and marketing considerations, park land acquisition and maintenance costs.

Mr. Howland moved to set the millage of the levy for the Russell Township Citizens Park District at 1 mill on the upcoming November ballot, Mr. Podojil seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

MARKETING/CLARIFICATION 511 VS. 1545 BOARDS & WEBSITE: Discussion was held about the need for continuing to distinguish the Russell Township Citizens Park District from the Russell Township Park District. Mr. Podojil emphasized that this Park District intends to continue with transparency and inclusion of citizens in its meetings and transactions. A website could help with this and other communications including volunteer opportunities, posting of meeting minutes and more. Maria Livers said she could build a website on the Wix platform for a fee of \$11/month for the first year plus the cost of the domain name. To avoid confusion with the Russell Township Park District's website domain, which is www.russelltownshipparkdistrict.com, the name Your Russell Parks, www.yourrussellparks.com, was chosen, with

www.russellcitizensparks.com as a backup. Ms. Livers is willing to secure a domain name and can build a website next week.

Mr. Podojil moved to establish a website for the Russell Township Citizens Park District, Mr. Howland seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Howland moved to adopt www.yourrussellparks.com as the name for the Russell Township Citizens Park District website, with www.russellcitizensparks.com as the second choice. Mr. Skrbn seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

OTHER: No additional topics were suggested by the Board members.

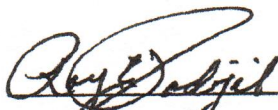
PUBLIC COMMENT: It was suggested that the Board create a wish list of properties that are important and considered exceptional properties to Russell Township citizens and Russell's future. Investigating and acting now on the steps that would need to be taken to qualify this Park District for consideration of management of existing Russell parks - if that opportunity presents itself - is important.

Discussion was held around being specific on what citizens can expect their tax dollars to be used for, which would encourage support of the levy. A question of whether tax credits are available to land owners who donate their land for parks came up also. Additionally, it was suggested that this Board get younger generations of Russell citizens involved with this Park District now to encourage future leadership and stewardship.

Grant writing and donations were suggested as possible additional sources of financial support. Library monies are also possibly available to this organization, but this Board is waiting to hear more about that.

ADJOURNMENT: *Mr. Howland made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Skrbn seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 PM.



Roy Podojil, Chairman

Recorded by Maria Livers, Clerk pro tem

511 CITIZEN'S PARK BOARD SIGN-IN

March 15, 2019

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