



MINUTES

RUSSELL TOWNSHIP CITIZENS' PARK DISTRICT (511)

Special Meeting – JULY 1, 2020

The West Woods – Turkey Ridge Shelter

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Podojil at 11:07 AM. Present were Commissioners Mr. Roy Podojil, Mr. Perry Howland, and Ms. Stephanie Snelvel and Secretary, Ms. Maria Livers.

FINAL REVIEW ASSIGNMENT OF GRANT AGREEMENT

Mr. Podojil explained that the purpose of the meeting is the signing of the Assignment of Grant Agreement between the 511 Park Board and the Geauga Park District as approved by the 511 Board at its June 28th special meeting. The Agreement assigns to the Geauga Park District the Clean Ohio award for purchase and preservation of the Gallo property for new park land in Russell Township.

***RESOLUTION 2020-5** – Authorizing the Chairman Of Russell Township Citizens' Park District (511) to Assign Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Grant Funding to the Geauga Park District for the Purchase And Protection of the Russell Township Citizens' Preserve.*

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mr. Rodstrom of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC)

Mr. Rodstrom thanked the Board for considering this partnership and for their work toward the goal of preserving the Gallo property. These things are always contingent on Levy passage, and priority is always preservation of land. When levy did not pass, Mr. Rodstrom to look for funders, private donors and others, and finally approached the Geauga Park District. The Executive Director of WRLC got a call that the Park Board was interested in putting up the money.

Mr. Rodstrom spoke with Ohio Public Works Commission Executive Director Linda Bailiff, who confirmed that this transfer was possible – allowances were made to develop the Assignment agreement in order to preserve the land. Restrictions are built in for passive park – all will be locked down legally.

Mr. Podojil clarified to the attendees that RTCPD either had to send the money back or give it to another entity who could match the funding and protect the land.

Mr. Rodstrom continued that the contract on this land is running out. Two extensions were in put in place, but the closing has to happen now, and seller has extended the deadline for the last time, according to Ed Myers (Gallo representative) and Jeff English (realtor). This is state money in a grant that was awarded on the contingency that RTCPD could put up its portion of the money and the money would return to the State.

Mr. Rodstrom thanks RTCPD for its partnership in making this happen, and for taking the high road on this project to preserve the land. WRLC tried many other avenues to get the \$700,000 to purchase the land and did not find anyone willing or able, s many thanks to RTCPD.



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As part of the grant process, we had to have the price approved by an ODOT certified appraiser, then reviewed by OPWC. It is in line with the other two tracts that have already sold that are adjacent to this and have been sold and developed.

RESOLUTION 2020-5

Mr. Howland made a motion to adopt

RESOLUTION 2020-5 – *Authorizing the Chairman Of Russell Township Citizens' Park District (511) to Assign Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Grant Funding to the Geauga Park District for the Purchase And Protection of the Russell Township Citizens' Preserve.*

Mr. Podojil seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Podojil thanked Mr. Rodstrom for his work and all attendees for their interest and support. meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Snevel moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Howland seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 AM.

NEXT MEETING:

Special Meeting: **Budget Hearing July 15, 2020 – 11:00 AM** The West Woods, Russell Township

Regular Meeting: _____ 2020, ____ Time, _____ Location

Roger Podojil Chair.