



MINUTES
RUSSELL TOWNSHIP CITIZENS' PARK DISTRICT (511)
Regular Meeting – JUNE 19, 2020
The West Woods – Deer Run 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 2:05 PM. Present were Commissioners Mr. Roy Podojil, Mr. Perry Howland, and Ms. Stephanie Snelvel and Secretary, Ms. Maria Livers.

MINUTES OF MARCH 4, 2020 MEETING

Ms. Livers read the minutes of the March 4th 2020 meeting into the record.

Mr. Podojil made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 4, 2020 meeting. Mr. Howland seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

LEVY & GRANT UPDATES – Shelley Chernin, chair of the RTCPD Levy Committee gave a brief update regarding the levy on the Russell Township ballot for the election originally scheduled for March 17 and ultimately held on April 28, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The RTCPD Levy (Issue 3 on the Russell Township ballot) did not pass. Ms. Chernin thanked those who helped with efforts around the promotion of the levy to the community. Mr. Podojil expressed the board's thanks to Shelley and all who helped. He has spoken with many people stated that they are disappointed.

Mr. Podojil also stated that in light of the loss of levy funding, and because of the time limit imposed by the owners of the Gallo property, and the fact that they would not extend their deadline, the RTCPD will not be able to acquire the Gallo property. Specifically, the RTCPD will not be able to meet its financial obligation as outlined in this Board's agreement with the Western Reserve Land Conservancy and in the Clean Water grant awarded to Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC) in partnership with this Board and specifically for the purchase of the Gallo property. WRLC will now look to partner with the Geauga Park District for the remaining portion of the funding and to purchase the Gallo property for park land.

Public comments followed. Howard Shenk commented that if a board is in the chain of title, RTCPD may have additional enforcement and say on easements. Suggested considering getting a grant writer in the future in order to control its own agreements in the future.

Anastasia Brown, who grew up on the street where the Gallo property is located, suggested that the property may still not sell for development as it is fairly rough terrain and thought people in the area may still consider contributing toward preserving it.



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STATE AUDIT – The RTCPD basic audit (biennial) by the State of Ohio Auditor’s Office is underway. Ms. Livers has submitted all requested information and the Board will receive feedback as soon as the audit is complete.

FINANCIAL UPDATES

- Budget – Mr. Howland reviewed the proposed 2021 budget.
- **RESOLUTION 2020-4 - RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT PROPOSED 2021 BUDGET**

Mr. Podojil made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION 2020-4 - RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT PROPOSED 2021 BUDGET submitted. Ms. Snevel seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

- Current bank account balance - \$8925.63
- UAN Training – Ms. Snevel has been told this Board is on list for online UAN trainings in place of in-person trainings held before COVID-19. RTCPD will be alerted when there is an opening.
- PO/Warrants:

| Date | Payee | PO# | Approp. | Amount | Warrant # |
|------------|----------------------------------|-------|---------|----------|-----------|
| 06/19/2020 | Roy Podojil | 02-20 | P10 | \$156.00 | 1013 |
| 06/19/2020 | Edward H.Sutton Insurance Agency | 03-20 | P10 | \$300.00 | 1014 |
| 06/19/2020 | Stephanie Snevel | 04-20 | P10 | \$339.00 | 1015 |
| 06/19/2020 | Maria Livers | 01-20 | P10 | \$300.00 | 1016 |

Mr. Howland made a motion to accept the POs and warrants as presented. Ms. Snevel seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

OTHER – By-laws should be updated, Mr. Podojil stated, and review of by-laws is appropriate at this point. He specifically addressed need to update records retention by-laws. The board will review.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mr. Sherk expressed that the RTCPD should have announced the grant deadline to the people of Russell. Mr. Howland mentioned that the March 17 election and RTCPD levy literature addressed the grant funding opportunity and RTCPD’s need to provide their match through levy monies in order to be able to take advantage of the grant for the purchase of the Gallo property.



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Linda O'Brien asked how the RTCPD will proceed now. Mr. Podojil responded that he had contacted the Russell Trustees (who appoint the members of the RTCPD Board). His

understanding is that as far as they are concerned, as long as they want the RTCPD Commissioners to serve, this board will continue. Will not be just levy-dependent, but additional other projects as assigned. Currently looking at other avenues and possible donations of property in the future.

Ms. O'Brien asked if future properties will be passive green space or access for the residents? Mr. Podojil replied "Yes" to both.

Additional discussion ensued regarding green space in Russell and a comment was made by an attendee that the other Russell Park District (the Board organized under ORC 1545) possibly did not have their budget approved. Mr. Podojil gave a brief clarification of the history of having 2 Park Districts (the 1545 and 511) in Russell Township.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – to discuss appointment/employment of Fiscal Officer per ORC121.22(G)(1).

Ms. Snevel made a motion to move into Executive Session. Mr. Howland seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board moved into Executive Session at 03:10 PM.

Mr. Howland moved to adjourn from Executive. Mr. Podojil seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board adjourned from Executive Session at 3:35 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:36pm.

Minutes Approved:

Respectfully submitted by
Maria Livers, Sec'y.



Roy E. Podojil, Chairman