



MINUTES  
RUSSELL TOWNSHIP CITIZENS' PARK DISTRICT (511)  
Special Meeting - JUNE 28, 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 11:05 AM. Present were Commissioners Mr. Roy Podojil, Mr. Perry Howland, and Ms. Stephanie Snel and Secretary, Ms. Maria Livers.

**ASSIGNMENT OF GRANT AGREEMENT**

Mr. Podojil explained the reason for the special meeting is to review the Assignment of Grant Agreement between the 511 Park Board and the Geauga Park District. The Agreement assigns to the Geauga Park District the Clean Ohio grant award for purchase and preservation of the Gallo property for new park land in Russell Township, and releases RTCPD from its obligation to provide funding (approximately 25-30% of the cost – around \$193,000 plus closing costs) for the purchase of the Gallo property.

Ms. Snel read the Assignment of Grant Agreement into the record.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Attendee Kristina Port stated that all contracts go through Trustees' process of review by Assistant County Prosecutor legal counsel assigned to the RTCPD.

Mr. Podojil agreed and stated that the RTCPD cannot meet the terms of the agreement as the levy did not pass, so there is no income generated from that to cover RTPD's share of the purchase. \$193,000 was expected to be the approximate match. It is likely that \$230,000-\$240,000 would have been needed from RTCPD to make up the difference between the grant amount and the purchase price of the Gallo property, including closing costs.

Discussion ensued regarding whether other avenues of funding had been pursued to make up for the levy. Mr. Podojil stated that the seller was firm on their deadline and that Western Reserve Land Conservancy, who had originally partnered with the RTCPD to write the grant and preserve the Gallo property, has pursued other avenues for getting the funding to try to maintain the partnership with the RTCPD. The bigger goal remains to keep the property undeveloped.

Ms. Snel stated that ultimately the voters did not support this effort at this time and now the RTCPD Board wants to do what it can to preserve the property. The RTCPD does not know what is to become of it if it doesn't allow the WRLC to act quickly to preserve it with another Park District.

Mr. Podojil stated that he is sorry that it boils down to this and had truly felt that the levy would pass. He stated that he feels that the coronavirus and extended election likely interfered with the possibility of it passing. The Board went ahead with this levy and agreement with WRLC, always with the intention to do the best the Board could with it to preserve the Gallo property as park land.

**ADJOURNMENT**



MINUTES  
RUSSELL TOWNSHIP CITIZENS' PARK DISTRICT (511)  
Special Meeting - JUNE 28, 2020  
The West Woods - Turkey Ridge Shelter

---

Mr. Podojil made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Howland seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 AM.

Minutes Approved:

Respectfully submitted by  
Maria Livers, Sec'y.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roy E. Podojil, Chairman