



MINUTES
RUSSELL TOWNSHIP CITIZENS' PARK DISTRICT (511)
Special Meeting - MARCH 17, 2021 6:30 PM
Russell Historic Town Hall, Russell Township, Ohio

The purpose of the meeting was to attend the Russell Township Trustees meeting at 6:30 PM on March 17, 2021, to discuss the RTCPD's future involvement with Russell park lands.

CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the RTCPD was called to order by Chairman Podojil, during the Russell Township Trustees meeting, at 6:31 PM. Present were Commissioners Mr. Roy Podojil and Mr. Perry Howland, and Sec'y, Ms. Maria Livers. Commissioner Snevel was absent.

Russell Trustees Agenda Item: "Unfinished Business – Citizens Park (511) MOU" (see Russell Township Trustees Agenda and Minutes of March 17, 2021 Meeting)

7:11 PM discussion began regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) submitted to the Trustees by the RTCPD. The MOU was circulated regarding stewardship of The Upper Chagrin Preserve, which includes approximately 151 acres. Ms. Port also referenced the RTCPD proposal to the Trustees, titled "Proposal Letter & Materials for the Russell Township Trustees Regarding the Upper Chagrin Preserve 11/30/2020", regarding initial plans and future possible plans for educational programs, stewardship activities and wildlife, plant and other studies.

After discussion by the Trustees regarding details including parking access, liability, police support, past use by groups including the Geauga Park District, Mr. Podojil's AP Science classes as a former West Geauga High School teacher and others, Mr. Gabram and Ms. Port stated that they favored a 2-year agreement to start, rather than the originally discussed and proposed 5-year period.

Mr. Podojil stated that there has been substantial amount of damage to sensitive areas, including unique vernal pool habitat due to neighbors' use of 4-wheel ATV vehicles, and snowmobiles, etc. Concerns about hunting have been brought up over the years, which is also prohibited on Russell Township park lands. Dumping of garbage is also an issue. Basically, it has been neglected for a while.

Mr. Howland shared that the RTCPD will not be able to make more detailed plans until the RTCPD has an agreement with the Trustees. Then they can offer project and program timelines as the first year unfolds.

Ms. Livers offered that there is an opportunity here to create baseline studies to monitor the health of the area over the long term and multiple generations.

Mr. Mueller shared his concern that the property is just going to sit and continue to be misused or neglected. He stated that the 511 Park Board is willing to provide a service to the Trustees Board to help monitor and steward the property.



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Mr. Mueller made a motion to approved the MOU with the amendment that it will be in effect for 2 years. The motion was passed with Yes votes by Mr. Mueller and Mr. Gabram, and a No vote by Ms. Port.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM.

NEXT MEETING: March 18, 2021, 9992 Kinsman Road, Newbury Township, OH, Geauga County, 6:00 PM.

Minutes Approved:

Respectfully submitted by
Maria Livers, Sec'y.



Roy E. Podojil, Chairman

**RUSSELL TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
MEETING OF MARCH 17, 2021**

- I. 6:30 pm Call to order, roll call, Pledge of Allegiance
- II. **Minutes:**
 - A. Trustees Meeting, February 17, 2021
 - B. Trustees Special Meeting, February 27, 2021
 - C. Trustees Special Meeting, March 1, 2021
 - D. Trustees Meeting, March 3, 2021
 - E. Trustees Special Meeting, March 12, 2021
- III. **Departmental Discussions**
 - A. Police Dept.
 - 1) Vehicle Purchase
 - B. Road Dept.
 - 1) 2020 Township Mileage Certification
- IV. **Fiscal Officer**
 - A. ODOT Salt Contract Participation Resolution
 - B. Bank Rec & Financial Reports: February
- V. **Comments from Public**
- VI. **Unfinished Business**
 - A. Road Dept & Local Communities Mutual Aid Update
 - B. Town Hall Audio/Tech Update
 - C. Scrap Tire Grant
 - D. Citizens Park (511) MOU
- VII. **Liaison Updates/Meeting Reports**
- VIII. **New Business**
 - A. Document Shredding Event
 - B. Strategic Planning
 - C. Old Fire Station
- IX. **Announcements**
 - A. The next Trustees' meeting will be held at 2:30 pm, Wednesday, April 7 in the Town Hall.
 - B. April 17: Document Shredding: Geauga Co Fairgrounds, 4 boxes/bags per person. 9 am-noon
 - C. May 15: Electronic & Appliance Collection: Geauga Co Fairgrounds, Pre-registration required. Link available on twp website. 9 am – 1 pm
 - D. June 19: Household Hazardous Waste Collection: Geauga Co Fairgrounds, Pre-registration required. Link available on twp website. 9 am - noon
 - E. August 14: Scrap Tire Collection: Russell Township Road Garage, 9 am – noon
 - F. August 14: Document Shredding: Russell Township Road Garage, 9 am - noon
- X. **Executive Session** per ORC 121.22 (G)(1) AND ORC 121.22 (G)(4)
- XI. **Adjournment**

Subject to change: This agenda is subject to change up to and during the meeting at the discretion of Chairperson. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Melissa at 440-338-5798 or email boardoftrustees@russelltownship.us