



MINUTES
RUSSELL TOWNSHIP CITIZENS' PARK DISTRICT (511)
Regular Meeting – September 21, 2022
Russell Township Historic Town Hall, Russell Township, Geauga County, OH

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mr. Roy Podojil at 4:04 PM. Present were Commissioners Mr. Roy Podojil and Ms. LuAnn Judis, and Secretary, Ms. Maria Livers. Commissioner Mr. Perry Howland was absent due to illness.

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 17 2022 REGULAR MEETING

Ms. Livers read the minutes of the August 17, 2022 Regular meeting into the record.

Mr. Podojil made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 17, 2022 Regular meeting as submitted. Ms. Judis seconded and the motion passed.

BUDGET & ACCOUNTING UPDATES

- *Current Bank Balance/Library Funds distribution:*

- RTCPD received \$401.59 for the September distribution of Public Library Funds from Geauga County. The current RTCPD bank balance is \$14,853.26 as of September 21, 2022.

- 2023 Budget Hearing – Mr. Howland attended the County Budget Commission Hearing on behalf of the RTCPD. \$4719.78 estimated receipts from 2023 Library Fund Distribution, \$2000 taken into consideration as a donation from Russell Township Trustees, since money is not currently in hand. Budget Commission would like RTCPD to continue spending on public projects.

- *POs & Warrants:*

- PO 2022-01/Warrant 1068 – Maria Livers \$150.00 - Sec'y. Stipend, September 2022
- PO 2022-10/Warrant 1069 – Treasurer of State of Ohio \$397.70.00 – 2020-21 Audit

Mr. Podojil made a motion to accept the POs and Warrants as submitted. Ms. Judis seconded and the motion passed.

- AUDIT/UAN – Ms. Livers spoke with the Auditor's UAN office regarding the training process for UAN (Uniform Accounting Network – the State of Ohio accounting system). Once the application is submitted, Mr. Howland will receive a call and will schedule an online training time with the UAN staff.



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UPPER CHAGRIN PRESERVE (UCP) UPDATES

Ms. Livers received a call from Mr. Matt Rambo asking, on behalf of the Russell Township Trustees, about the RTCPD's long-term plans for educational and any other activities in the Upper Chagrin Preserve.

Mr. Podojil and Ms. Judis discussed a vision for programs within the UCP park in partnership with local schools and interested organizations, conducting activities including nature studies, like monitoring the health of the Chagrin River, animal studies and other age-appropriate educational activities.

Ms. Judis shared feedback she has received from schools she has contacted about developing programming for spring of 2023 and beyond, as well as information about funding opportunities for park programs and improvements. The teachers she has connected with are interested in not only a science connection, but history and other disciplines as well. Her goal is to hike with them in the UCP and continue to promote and secure their involvement. As some of the funding opportunities she has researched are due in the fall, and teacher curriculum time tables would extend beyond August of 2023 (the end of the current UCP Lease Agreement between the Russell Trustees and the RTCPD), the RTCPD board will consider asking the Russell Township Trustees for an early extension of the UCP Lease Agreement at its next meeting, in order to accommodate longer-term plans by this board and interested teachers in local school districts.

Mr. Podojil shared that one of his long-term goals is for the RTCPD Board to help schools – teachers and students – establish a long-term rapport with the UCP in order to monitor its health over many years, as the health of the river is critical to – and a critical indicator of – the health of the area. The RTCPD Board can serve in stewardship of the UCP as a communications connection, data publisher, research supporter, and can help make that research available to the state of Ohio for conservation and stewardship purposes.

Ms. Livers shared that Mr. John Buda, a volunteer with Foundation for Geauga Parks, would like to hike the UCP as soon as schedules and weather permit, to explore a possible hike to be offered by that organization in spring of 2023. Ms. Livers and Ms. Darci Sanders, Nature-Based Learning Coordinator at Gilmour Academy, will hike the UCP on September 23rd in preparation for Oct. 4th and Oct. 11th field trips by Ms. Sanders's senior Gilmour science classes. Ms. Livers will invite Mr. Buda to join them on September 23rd. Ms. Livers also be accompanying Ms. Darci Sanders and her classes on those field trips in October.

Ms. Judis made a motion that Ms. Livers write a letter on behalf of the RTCPD to the Russell Township Trustees that this Board will review activities in the UCP and will consider asking for an early extension of the UCP lease. Mr. Podojil seconded and the motion passed.



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OTHER – Nothing at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – No public comment at this time.

ADJOURNMENT – *Mr. Podojil made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 PM. Ms. Judis seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes Approved:

Respectfully submitted by
Maria Livers, Sec'y.

Roy E. Podojil, Chairman