

SOUTH RUSSELL VILLAGE PARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES MONDAY, MAY 16, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Martha Bistriz, Jerry Canton, Bill Howell, Ted Kruse, Libby Sharkey, Greg Studen, **GUESTS:** Ruth Cavanagh, Bill Koons

Committee chairman, Jerry Canton called the Parks Committee meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., noting that the Property Committee (which includes Ruth Cavanagh and himself) would follow the Parks meeting.

FALL FESTIVAL: A date and rain date for the Fall Festival was agreed upon. In order to avoid a conflict with the attention given to the Cleveland Browns, it was decided that the Fall Festival will take place on **Sunday, September 25, 2022 from 1:00-5:00 p.m.** If weather prohibits the festival from going forward that day, October 7 will be the rain date. It was noted that committee members should do their best to secure the promise of a refund from the entertainment vendors if weather interferes on September 25 and/or October 7, noting that the vendors may be unable to commit to two Sundays and a full refund since they have businesses to run.

Libby Sharkey will contact: Bubble Wanda, Face Painters, Pony Rides and Precious Cargo for transportation between Gurney Elementary school and South Russell Park. Martha Bistriz will contact the bounce house/rock climbing wall vendor, CHFS students who would like to earn community service hours that day and the Haney Band. As in the past, the village will purchase refreshments. Bill Koons will contact Life Flight to see if one of their helicopters will be available for a demonstration. Jerry Canton will contact the Fire Department. Bill Howell reminded the committee that the police department should be advised of the date as soon as possible so that they can prepare for the traffic/parking situation ahead of that day. Greg Studen will contact Geauga Parks and ask if they would participate with perhaps a park ranger, a table with information about Geauga Parks, etc. The Fall Festival banner will be installed over Bell Road a couple of weeks prior to the event.

BENCHES: There was a discussion about the number of benches currently installed in the park and how many more could the park reasonably include. Further, there was a question about benches currently purchased, installed and dedicated to someone, moving forward. When those benches need to be replaced, what happens to the plaques on the bench? A couple of ideas were; to give the plaque back to the purchaser, or relocate the plaque to an appropriate place on the pavilion. It was agreed that the eight benches currently installed around the playground is sufficient. There are about 20 benches placed around the park fields and paths at this time. It was suggested that CT Consultants consider how many benches could be aesthetically installed at the park. The cost for the bench design at the playground includes: \$575 for the bench, a \$125 surcharge, \$165 freight charge, \$155 plaque for a total of \$1020. The South Russell village crew installs the benches, a cost that is not passed on to the purchaser.

MISC.: Ted Kruse asked if the village would again pursue changing the configuration of the 10 acre public use section of the park on the East Washington Street side of the park. The reason being that the elevation rise of the 10 acre rectangle which now runs perpendicular to the street would not be easy to grade for playing fields of any kind. If the 10 acres was redrawn to run parallel to East Washington, it would provide a more level surface. This idea was discussed with the conservancy several years ago. Bill Koons remarked that reconfiguring the acreage would incur expensive legal fees and would not be likely to be done at this time.

Greg Studen suggested that a conservation easement be placed on the most recent addition of 11 acres on the East Washington Street side of the park. It is primarily woodland. Bill Howell suggested that perhaps a negotiation between reconfiguring the 10 acre public use section and putting an easement on the 11 acre wooded parcel be considered going forward with the Geauga park district.

A partial field burn will hopefully take place in the next couple of years. Frohring Meadows may do a partial field burn in the fall.

Bill Koons filled the committee in on the following: The CT Consultant report will be delivered at the council meeting on June 13. The rain garden costs will be covered by Chagrin Valley Watershed Partners, a group founded by Greg Studen in 1996. The Foundation for Geauga Parks will host a hike through the park on Saturday, August 1, They have offered to fund trail markers in the park.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Bistriz