

## South Russell Village Park Minutes

May 14, 2018

**Members present:** Martha Bistriz, Jerry Canton, Bill Howell, Ted Kruse, Greg Pike  
**Guests:** Megan Mulloy, Mike Mulloy, David York, Katherine Malmquist, Chris Selvik (Kompan Representative), Caitlyn and Valerie Mariola, Kristen Hebebrand, Ike and Anne Tripp, Mayor Bill Koons, Eri Jones (Kompan representative)

**PLAYGROUND PROPOSAL:** Jerry Canton welcomed everyone to the parks committee meeting. He asked that the members of the committee introduce themselves. Ike Tripp gave a brief history of what has led up to this public meeting where Eric Jones, representative from Kompan, a playground equipment manufacturer, have come to make a presentation. Ike explained that his wife, Anne suggested they make a donation for a new playground at the South Russell park. After researching different playground equipment vendors, Kompan was the clear favorite for quality, design and aesthetic appeal. Ike introduced, Eric Jones who works for American Athletics which is the parent company of Kompan.

**MATERIALS:** The wood used by Kompan is made out of USA sourced black locust trees. It is a sustainable wood called "Robinia" wood. Specifically, it is harvested in Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula. It is a hard dense wood. Once it is harvested for equipment it is sent to Europe to be manufactured into specific equipment. Eric had slides of all of the different apparatus' that are anticipated to be included in the South Russell playground.

**MAINTENANCE:** There is a one year free service guarantee. It was explained that the materials used do not require much maintenance other than the necessity of replacing the ropes as they are worn, checking for cracks which would need to be filled if they occur. (If cracks occur it does not impact the structural integrity of the equipment but for the safety of a child not getting their hand or fingers caught in a crack they should be filled.) and replacing the engineered wood product (12 inches will be included at installation) that is the ground fill inside the 80 x 85 foot area including the swings. This wood product is specifically processed to keep its shape for cushioning. It provides a surface that a wheelchair can maneuver over. The border will be plastic timbers with wheelchair access. It takes between a year to a year and a half for the wood to be climatized. There is a 10 year warranty on the Robinia wood. On the spinning apparatus' the bearings are stainless steel and are sealed.

**MISC.** The playground will be ADA compliant. It was recommended that the mayor look into the insurance issues that would be required to have a playground on village property. There will be mats installed underneath the wood product at the bottom of the slide and under the swings. These areas may need maintenance from time to time to make sure there is enough fill to be safe.

**DONATION OPPORTUNITIES:** Members of the community may wish to participate in the playground project by donating money or in kind materials for fencing, benches, trash

receptacles, landscaping, gravel walkway or sponsoring a piece of equipment on the playground.

Funds are being sought from a ODNR grant. If the South Russell playground qualifies, funds will be available in the Spring of 2019. Chagrin Watershed Partners are submitting the grant application on South Russell's behalf. The application must be received by June 1, 2018.

Craig Crawse, landscape architect said there would be a great opportunity for the community to donate shade trees for the area. Mayor Koons asked that everyone spread the word about the playground.

**BOBOLINK DISCUSSION:** Some attendees expressed their concern about the playground impacting the protected Bobolink population. It was explained that the proposed playground would be installed within the three acre permissible use area thereby not interfering with the birds.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Bistriz