

South Russell Parks meeting @ Burntwood Tavern December 20, 2017

Members Present: Bill Koons, Jerry Canton, Martha Bistriz, WRLC representative Pete Macdonald

The purpose of the meeting was to have Pete comment on the proposed playground location on the Bell Street side and advise us as to the possibility of re figuring the multi use 10 acre area on the E. Washington Street side.

Jerry opened the discussion giving some background on the \$50k donation a South Russell couple is making to install a playground near the pavilion.

The proposed location of putting the playground outside of the designated 3 acre public use area, Pete explained would not be permitted. To request an amendment to change the easement is very difficult and expensive and would require some very good reason to do so which does not exist in this scenario.

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The playground should be built behind the parking lot, well within the 3 acre area designated for such use. The playground may not be built on concrete but should have an permeable surface. Presently, there is already 3100 feet of impervious surface area (the maximum allowed by the easement restrictions on the three acres) between the parking lot and the concrete pavilion floor. If we expanded the parking lot, it too, would need to be of a permeable material, something such as SureGreen PP40.

**E. Washington St. side:** Bill wanted to clarify with Pete, how or if the 10 acre multiple community use area could be reconfigured to have the area run parallel to the street rather than perpendicular, which is the way it is currently designated under the conservation easement. Pete explained that to “swap” the 10 acre parcel would require 2 amendments and cost between \$10-15k. Ohio Public Works would have to agree to the change. The community relies on the WRLC to enforce the protection granted by the conservation easements and it would not be an easy thing to do. It would also be very expensive.

If the 10 acres was reconfigured to run parallel to E. Washington St., there would need to be a green corridor on the frontage connecting back to the rest of the conserved area. Part of the easement includes the necessity of preserving “scenic views”. The reason for the possible request for a change is coming from CSA, who would like a couple of soccer fields installed on the area with less elevation change. Further, if an amendment was going to be pursued, the WRLC would want to see that the community is behind the change.

There was a brief discussion of Bill Timmons and the amount and timing of the mowing of the field. Pete said, ideally only half of the field would be cut each year to preserve habitat. Bill however, is one of the only farmers around who has the equipment to cut the field and especially since he cannot cut it before August 1, the hay is less desirable.