

SOUTH RUSSELL VILLAGE PARK COMMITTEE MEETING DECEMBER 8 9:00A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Martha Bistriz, Dennis Galicki, Ted Kruse, Greg Studen. Absent: Greg Pike

GUESTS: Bill Koons, Tim Alder, Ruth Cavanagh, Jerry Canton, Matt Valencic from the Audubon Society, Pete McDonald from WRLC, Cindy Nairn, Rich Washington and Eric Haibach from CT Consultants

Dennis asked that everyone present introduce themselves.

FALL FESTIVAL 2022: Dennis informed the group that the pavilion/park has been reserved for all the Sundays in September 2022 and the first two Sundays in October. Once the Brown's schedule is available, a date for the Fall Festival will be secured. It was suggested that perhaps a rain date be reserved as well. Further discussion included the idea that with vendors we contract with, there be wording included in the contract that would allow for the village to recoup at least 50 % of their investment in case the festival is canceled due to weather. The village lost about \$1000 due to the cancellation of this past year's festival due to poor weather.

PARK BENCHES: Dennis asked Ted to bring to the next meeting, information about benches made from recycled materials.

PARK STRATEGIC PLAN: Bill Koons led off the discussion suggesting that at the February 28 council meeting, a strategic park plan be presented for consideration. Rich Washington of CT consultants began the discussion by asking that as the plan is being formulated, think beyond the funds that are available today as different parts of the plan could be phased in over several years and grants or other sources of funding may become available. In addition, remember to consider maintenance costs.

A question about increasing the size of the **parking lot** was raised. Pete McDonald reminded the committee that on the three acre area which allows community activities on the Bell Street side of the park, the 30% allowable impermeable surface has been used. For more parking, pavers that allow grass to grow through would have to be used rather than asphalt. They are expensive. When asked, Pete said modifying the **grass trails** here at South Russell park to be similar to the trails at Frohring Meadows (five feet wide, one foot berm) would be in accordance with the easement here.

A **restroom facility** was discussed at length. If running water was to be used, a sewer hook up would be available on the north side of Bell Road. Plumbing and running water would add significant expense. Frohring Meadows installed two separate pre-cast one room bathrooms that use a tank system. They use solar power. Installing a drinking fountain was suggested. It would require water testing and winterizing. Hostetler Company installed the restroom facility at Frohring (?). At South Russell park, the veneer of the restroom building could be made to match the pavilion. The idea to have a unisex two room facility that is aesthetically in line with the quality of the pavilion is important.

Planning a partial **grassland burn** was discussed to improve the quality of the grassland habitat and control invasive species. Frohring Meadows burns 10 to 20 acres in March-April every two to three years. A permit is required. The fire department does not oversee the burn. Matt Valencic of the Audubon Society commented on how beneficial this is for bird habitat, etc.

Greg Studen suggested to CT consultants that they put together a list of questions with the idea of compiling a set of long-term goals for the park land which would include best uses for the community, wildlife, grassland, forest and wetland areas. Pete McDonald reminded everyone of the opportunity to

apply for grant money from Chagrin River Watershed and other similar entities. He added that the Acacia Country Club has been reseeded and successfully turned into beautiful parkland as well as Orchard Hills which has been reforested. He added that we should consult with Paul Piro and OSU land management experts as we move forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Bistriz