

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2023 – 11:30 A.M.
MAYOR WILLIAM G. KOONS PRESIDING**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Berger, Canton, Cavanagh, Galicki

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bell, Porter

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Fiscal Officer Romanowski, Street Commissioner Alder

VISITORS: Jeff Pausch, Rick Pausch, Ruth Griswold, and Leslie Galicki, (SRV); Mary Ann Boysen, Anne and Ike Tripp, Courtney McIvor, Pete McDonald, WRLC; Margaret Tomaro, Bill Howell, Judy Harvey, Phyllis Ference, Mary Jo Minello, Maria Babula, Carrie Ricker, (CT Consultants); Michael Miller, Greg Gamm, Michael Tomaro and Jeff Poprick, (CF Jaycees); Heather Elmer and Kaylee Acres, (CRWP), Fran Bayless, Bob and Jo Royer, Cindy Nairn

The Mayor called the Special Council meeting to order at 11:49 at Augie’s Pizza and Ribs, 5210 Chillicothe Rd., South Russell, Ohio, and provided a welcome statement.

The guest speaker, Susan Brownstein, Garden Editor of the Cleveland Plain Dealer and Cleveland.com, acknowledged the butterfly garden planted in the South Russell Village Park by Judy Harvey. Brownstein posed the question, “What is a garden?” and illustrated how it cultivated connection between the environment, people, and the park. She concluded that work is never done in a garden or life, and that all that was put into the butterfly garden should be celebrated.

Former Mayor Matt Brett and Pete McDonald, Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC), described how the Village came to have the park. Brett said that the Village had no idea what to do with the property once it was purchased, but that experts provided guidance. McDonald advised that the park is not part of a park system and is being well managed nevertheless.

The Mayor recognized different groups that had been involved with the park.


Anne and Ike Tripp described the creation and development of the park playground, for which they provided a large financial contribution. The emphasis was on keeping the design and materials natural to blend with the park environment. The playground is Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant and designed for use by children ages two to twelve. The Village received an Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) grant of \$23,000. Other donors provided trees and benches to the playground area.

The Mayor discussed storm water projects in the Village.

Kaylee Acres, Chagrin River Watershed Partners (CRWP) provided a presentation that included an overview of the mission of CRWP as well as the work they have done in the park. They were involved with the park wetland restoration, which was an Environmental Protection Agency 319 grant. They also helped obtain the ODNR Natureworks grant for the playground and were

involved in establishing a rain garden in the park in conjunction with the Master Rain Gardener Program, which is Ohio EPA funded.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m.


William G. Koons, Mayor


Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer

Prepared by Leslie Galicki