

## **SOUTH RUSSELL VILLAGE PARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES APRIL 23, 2024**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Martha Bistriz, Ruth Cavanagh, Jery Canton, Gregg Gamm, Ted Kruse, Libby Sharkey, Greg Studen

**GUESTS:** Tim Alder, Jake Evans, Jack Oberman, Mayor Bill Koons

Ruth called the meeting to order at 6:30.

**BOY SCOUT EAGLE PROJECTS:** Ruth introduced Jake Evans and Jack Oberman who have planned Eagle Scout projects involving signage at South Russell Park.

Jake proposed installing signs which would illustrate the trails and distances of the trails in the park. He proposed installing three signs: one at the East Washington Street entrance, one at Bell Road near the playground and one at the passage between the two sides of the park. The maps would be made of metal. His proposal described a 3x5 foot display similar in size to the sign by the playground which has information about South Russell's underground railroad participation. It was suggested that a sign with trail distances and names would be better situated nearer a trail head or the kiosk rather than by the playground.

Jack Oberman proposed installing a sign, similar in size to the one describing South Russell's underground railroad participation, near the playground that would have information about the Interurban railroad that passed through what is now South Russell Park. It would indicate there is an Ohio historical marker at the site describing the history of the Interurban railway.

**DRAINAGE:** Tim Alder and his crew have installed better drainage south of the pavilion.

**BURN:** Greg Gamm and Bill Koons witnessed a field burn at the Burton wetland recently. Geauga Park District facilitated the burn. Bill has talked with Davy Tree about doing a burn at South Russell Park, it would cost \$10 k. We are not likely to do one soon. Davy Tree recommended doing a burn on the East Washington Street side of the park where there are fewer houses nearby and it would be easier to control. If a burn is done on the Bell Street side, it would take place in sections; four sections burned one at a time during different years. The purpose of the burn is to kill invasive species, promote the growth of native species, enrich the soil.

The burn would take place in the fall, after the bird population (especially the Bob-o-link) have left the area. Bill would let Matt Valencic (local ornithologist and Audubon member) know about the timing of the burn.

It was suggested feedback about a field burn be requested in the next newsletter.

**BATHROOM:** After much discussion about cost, the committee members agreed that the park needs a bathroom, not running water. The cost of \$125 k was suggested as the working figure for an adequate, appropriate facility. Greg Studen suggested it be “rustic but of good quality”. Tim added that a pump like the one installed at the cemetery be included so that the restroom could be periodically cleaned without having to bring in water. The cost of the well (not potable) will be approximately \$10k.

**FALL FESTIVAL:** The Cleveland Browns schedule has not been posted yet, so no date was chosen for the Fall Festival. Jerry reminded the committee that each one has their area of responsibility. Be prepared to move forward with securing entertainment like last year. Bill said that there have been concerns from the village insurance company regarding the safety of the hayrides and that some training and rules of riding will probably be added to the preparation of the event. Bill would also like to see more animals added to the entertainment options.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Bistriz