

## **SOUTH RUSSELL VILLAGE PARK COMMITTEE MINUTES JUNE 18, 2024**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Martha Bistriz, Jerry Canton, Ruth Cavanagh, Gregg Gamm, Ted Kruse, Libby Sharkey. **Absent:** Greg Studen. **Guests:** Mayor Bill Koons, Tim Alder

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Ruth asked the mayor to speak first as he had another engagement.

**FALL FESTIVAL IDEA:** Bill proposed that Axe-Masters, a vendor that provides entertainment involving axe throwing for individuals 10 years and older, be investigated to add to the events at the Fall Festival. Libby had researched the company, and the cost is \$300/hour which prices them out of our budget.

The pavilion is 10 years old. It will have some routine work done on the interior ceiling beams as they are starting to sag.

**FIELD BURN:** Davey Tree provided an estimate of \$11k to facilitate a burn of part of the park land.

Geauga Park District will not charge to facilitate a burn at the park but would expect a monetary donation to be made to them. Bill would like the burn to be done before the Fall Festival.

**BUTTERFLY GARDEN:** Judy Harvey, who had the butterfly garden installed in memory of her husband and former South Russell mayor, has requested that the interior grass areas between the flower beds be paved in brick. Mrs. Harvey has offered to hire a company to do the brick work. The committee approved a brick interior. Additionally, she would like a brick path installed between the pavilion and the butterfly garden. The committee did not approve of installing a brick path. It was suggested that the South Russell Street crew that maintains the grass paths throughout the park, use the same very low setting on the mower to provide an almost putting -green-like pathway from the pavilion to the butterfly garden. Judy is interested in setting up an endowment, to pay for the maintenance of the garden area.

**HAYRIDES-** The state of Ohio now requires safety protocols for public hayrides. The drivers of the hay wagons must have some training and the riders will need to be advised of safety rules while riding. Ted asked if side rails will be necessary to have on the wagons. Bill will investigate the specifics.

The crosswalk with a pedestrian crossing signal which will run from just east of Alderwood road to the park parking lot on Bell Road, may be installed before the Fall Festival.

The minutes of the April 23 meeting were approved.

**RESTROOM:** South Russell council has decided to install the “Double Rocky Mountain” restroom facility design. It will cost \$111k to be installed. A well to provide water to clean the restroom as well as water the plants and flowers at the pavilion and surrounding area will be created.

**FALL FESTIVAL:** A request for volunteers from the community will be published in the village newsletters. Ruth will ask HOAs to ask their members to volunteer.

The committee approved the Haney Band to be part of the festival again this year. The cost is \$750 for three hours. Martha will ask if their repertoire could be expanded.

Libby will reserve the bounce houses, face painters, trolley (\$700) the same vendor as last year. She suggested replacing the magician with the bubble lady. There was discussion about having “Zoo to Go” or the same vendor that provided petting zoo animals last year. Pony rides will be part of the event.

Ted will oversee the hay wagons and apple cider again.

Danielle will order hot dogs, etc.

The ice cream vendor and kettle corn vendor will be asked to be there.

The committee approved the idea of asking That Hawaiian Guy barbeque to have their food truck at the festival. Martha will contact them. The committee approved Libby’s suggestion of adding the cotton candy vendor who participates in the Chagrin farmer’s market.

Bill oversees securing the Life Flight helicopter. Jerry oversees contacting the fire department and confirming their participation.

Ruth advised the committee that as of January 1, 2025, the pavilion and entire park(?) will prohibit alcohol on the premises.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Bistriz