

## South Russell Village Parks Committee Minutes August 22, 2024 6:30 p.m.

**Members Present:** Martha Bistriz, Jerry Canton, Ruth Cavanagh, Greg Gamm, Ted Kruse, Greg Studen  
**Absent:** Libby Sharkey  
**Guest:** Bill Koons

Ruth called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**FALL FESTIVAL:** Martha reported that the *Haney Band* is confirmed. She will ask them to send an invoice to Danielle. *That Hawaiian Guy barbeque* food truck will be at the festival on September 29. They cannot participate on October 6 if the first date is rained out. There is a great need for volunteers to monitor the bounce houses. Martha will contact the Chagrin Falls High School Interact Club advisor, as in the past, to ask for student volunteers. In addition, Bill Koons agreed to put a request for volunteers in the next South Russell newsletter online. Ruth has contacted some HOA presidents asking for volunteers.

Ted is in charge of hay wagons, the 20x40 tent and apple cider press. There are new protocols for hay wagon safety this year. The village must have insurance, and it appears that Ted also may need to have insurance for the event. Ted explained that the hay wagons do not have side rails. Another possibility would be using a mulch truck which has more of a side on it. This year there are new rules for safety including having all riders sign a waiver before they ride. In addition, the drivers this year are required to have some safety training.

Ruth read Libby's email. The trolley, petting zoo, bubble lady, face painters and two bounce houses are confirmed.

Greg Studen reported that Linda Gilbert from the Geauga Park District will be there.

**MISC.:** Bill shared that on Monday, September 30, Tim Alder will be retiring. To celebrate his service to the village and his retirement, there will be donuts at the village hall from 7:00-10:00 a.m. Lunch will be catered by Hungry Bee at 11:30 a.m. The committee members are invited to attend. A replacement for Tim has been hired. His name is also Tim.

Bill remarked on seeing a drone show at Orange (not sure where?) The event cost 10k. He suggested if the village transitions to a different event from the fall festival, we might consider a less expensive drone show event.

On September 10, from 5:00-6:00 p.m., the boy scouts will have an event with a rock wall for interested / potential scout members at the pavilion.

Next Spring, the acres that were not cut on the E. Washington street side of the park will have a controlled burn. The new wetland area behind the playground will be labeled as such since it is a work in progress and it is unclear as to what is happening there.

The minutes of the July parks committee meeting were approved.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Greg Studen recommended that a plan be agreed upon to commit to caring for the parkland as the "ecological meadow" it was preserved for and intended to be. A study has been done which outlines how to care for the land in this way. Greg suggested Pete McDonald and Paul Pira participate in the discussion. Bill set the date of October 21 at 6:30 for a meeting to discuss this topic. Bill Timmons was paid \$4100 this year to cut and take the hay off.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 12 at 6:30 p.m. At the pavilion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Martha Bistriz