

## **SOUTH RUSSELL VILLAGE PARK MINUTES APRIL 22, 2025 6:30 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Martha Bistriz, Jerry Canton, Ruth Cavanagh, Greg Gamm, Ted Kruse, Libby Sharkey, Greg Studen. **GUESTS:** Chris Berger, Dennis Galicky, Bill Koons, Mark Porter, Tim Young. **RESIDENTS:** Allyson Dean, Sarah Kaseler, Muffi Sherwin-Bocce Ball committee.

Ruth called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. The minutes from the previous meeting were not available for review so their approval was deferred by a motion and seconded.

**BOCCE BALL COURT:** Mss. Dean, Kessler and Sherwin approached the committee to discuss the possibility of installing a Bocce ball court near the pavilion. They shared the benefits of having a court in the park including the opportunity for all ages to participate, community building and providing an activity for adults besides walking through the park. They explained that there is a league of Bocce ball players in Chagrin that use the courts at River Run Park and Bentleyville Park. There are about 16 teams in the league. The village of Chagrin Falls maintains the River Run Park court.

This is a fair weather activity with minimal impact on the land. It was explained that courts can be made of different materials and vary in cost to install.

A few questions about how scheduling the use of the court would work, and how costly the maintenance would be. It was clarified that alcohol is not permitted anywhere at any time in the park.

Possible location of the court was discussed. The next step in the process is to check with Pete MacDonald of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy to see if a Bocce Ball court is compliant with the easement restrictions on the park property. Bill Koons has emailed Peter with questions about the installation of the Bocce Ball court. There is a prohibition for sports that would qualify as “active use”.

**BATHROOM INSTALLATION:** The ADA prefabricated restroom was installed last week. Tim explained that it will be locked at night but will be set to open and lock daily by a timer. There is some grading that needs to be finished.

**EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS:** Bill shared that there are three Eagle Scout projects that are proposed???:/scheduled???

1. Bat Houses
2. A platform- at the top of the hill on the Bell Street side of the park. It will be a 6 x 6 foot platform for stargazing, birdwatching, etc. It will have a bench.
3. Bocce Ball court

Martha reminded the committee that the Jake Evans Eagle Scout project which included installing two free standing signs with a map of the trails was made with several errors which were pointed out when the signs were first installed last October and have yet to be corrected. Bill offered that an intern of some sort may be found at some time to correct the signs.

**FALL FESTIVAL:** Ted will let the committee know when the Browns schedule is posted so that a date for the festival may be decided.

**MISC.:** Prompted by Chris Berger, Bill shared that the rain garden, near the pavilion, installed by the Chagrin River Watershed partners which was to help alleviate runoff has been overwhelmed by heavy rain. Some modifications should be made to help the rain garden live up to its purpose.

In addition, the partial field burn that was planned on several acres on the E. Washington Street side of the park will not happen this Spring. The Geauga Parks District was going to facilitate the burn. Frohring Meadows had a partial burn in March. Paul Piro (sp?) would be the person to contact about rescheduling.

The Committee for Safe Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation which helped South Russell obtain an \$800,000 grant to add trails in the village is having Verdantas consultants draft a master plan for \$15k.

Greg Gamm offered that the rain garden is working but there is just too much water.

Chris explained that the flag on the flagpole on the E. Washington Street side of the park is supposed to be illuminated by a solar powered light which is not currently working so the flag has been taken down until the light is fixed.

Once the Browns schedule is posted the parks committee will meet to decide a date and begin planning the fall festival.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Bistriz