

SOUTH RUSSELL VILLAGE PARK COMMITTEE MINUTES JUNE 10, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Martha Bistriz, Ruth Cavanagh, Greg Gamm, Ted Kruse, Libby Sharkey, Greg Studen. Guests: Jerry Canton, Ruth Cavanagh, Dennis Galicky, Bill Koons.

Dennis Galicky, filling in for Chris Berger, brought the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

FALL FESTIVAL: The committee agreed not to schedule a rain date for the fall festival. The date of Sunday, October 5 was agreed to be the best date for the event.

Jerry Canton will look into the bounce house vendor that supplied entertainment at Field Day. Libby will check the availability of the bubble lady, face painters, petting zoo, and bounce house vendor.

Hayride safety was discussed. Bill Koons said the Geauga County Fair organizers have trailers with seats and railings that we may be able to borrow. South Russell employees may be asked to be the hay wagon drivers and council members will face the riders on the wagons and narrate the ride route.

It was suggested that maybe corn hole be added as a game for festival participants. Tim Young may be able to secure the equipment necessary for this.

Ted agreed to bring the apple cider press and apples. South Russell will pay Ted \$350 for the cider, apples etc.

Greg Studen will ask Linda Gilbert of the Geauga Parks District to participate again this year.

Jerry will see if the Chagrin Falls High School marching band will be able to perform at the festival.

Bill K has found a musician, "Hank Be Free" and another possible musical group, "Hip to That". He will check with them on availability and cost. Bill will also check with Gurney Elementary school for parking availability on October 5.

This year instead of providing free hot dogs, etc. The committee agreed to invite food trucks including Hawaiian Guy Barbeque, Tavern Six?, the ice cream truck and coffee truck. People attending the festival will purchase their refreshments. Bottled water will be provided by the village. Martha will contact Hawaiian Guy Barbeque. Bill will contact the ice cream vendor.

Bill will check with Life Flight.

250th ANNIVERSARY OF USA: Bill reported that the plan at this time is to have s'mores and cider on January 1, 2026 at the park to kick off the 250th anniversary of our country. Ruth suggested at a celebration sometime in the summer some events could be: a tug of war, axe throwing, two man saw competition. She also will contact the city of Burton for reenactments.

BOCCE BALL: the people who would like to see a bocce ball court installed at the park have been asked to explore funding for the project. Chagrin Falls and Bentleyville villages have bocce ball courts.

LIGHTING: The American flag on the E. Washington street side of the park should be lit by a solar panel, with battery back up. It currently is not working so the flag has been temporarily removed.

RESTROOM: After some discussion the committee recommended that the bathroom be kept unlocked. It is cleaned every three days. Also, it was agreed that the gender marker signage (male/female) be removed.

PARTIAL FIELD BURN: This is on hold until the Fall.

MISC.:

- The Chagrin Falls Chamber of Commerce would like to have concerts in the park next summer.
- Steel plates need to be installed on some of the beams on the roof of the pavilion. This should be done this summer.
- Bill will talk with Jake Evans about correcting the Eagle Scout signs he installed in the park.
- Bill discussed putting up a display in the village hall that would include the names of all scouts who have contributed their Eagle scout project to the village.
- Master Plan for trails in the village was discussed
- Pete Macdonald will meet whoever is available and interested to take the annual walk through the park on Friday, June 13 at 10:30 a.m.
- Ted suggested asking a Lobster roll food truck to sell their food at the festival

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Bistriz