

SOUTH RUSSELL VILLAGE PARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES JULY 21, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Berger, Martha Bistriz, Greg Gamm, Ted Kruse, Libby Sharkey, Greg Studen.

GUESTS: Ruth Cavanagh, Bill Koons, Tim Young

Chris Berger called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

FALL FESTIVAL: The Fall Festival is scheduled for Sunday, October 5. No rain date is set. The committee discussed the possibility of getting refunds on equipment/vendor's deposits if the festival is canceled due to weather. The mayor would need to cancel the festival 24 hours before the event or by noon on Saturday, October 4.

Regarding hay wagons, Tim contacted Craig Sirna who will provide at least one, possibly two wagons that are steel enclosed and have a canvas top. About 30 people may ride the wagon at one time. Jim McClosky, who is associated with the Burton Fair will be able to contribute a trailer bed. Ted is able to provide a tractor so that there will be at least two, possibly three hay wagons.

Music will be provided by "Hank be Free". In addition, a singer/guitar player named Ed will play music while Hank is taking breaks.

Libby has contacted the Bubble Lady, Face Painters and Petting Zoo vendor. Tim is able to get/bring three corn hole game sets. Tim will mow an area for this event. Ted will bring apples and his cider press and a large tent. The village will pay Ted \$350 for his supplies, etc.

Food trucks will participate this year including: Hawaiian Guy Barbeque, Augie's Pizza, the ice cream truck, a coffee truck and Ted will contact the lobster truck vendor to see if they would be available. The village will provide bottled water, chips and packaged cookies.

Bill Koons will check with the Chagrin Falls fire department to see if they will participate. South Russell will provide a plow truck, loader and police car (?). Bill will check on Life Flight.

Libby explained that there are some options for transportation. Little Miss Trolley, with a capacity of 20 people is \$580 and Mrs Trolley, which can hold 32 people is \$928. Bill will contact Chagrin Falls schools to see if we may rent a school bus for the afternoon.

PLAYGROUND: The committee approved the recommendation by Tim, to blow in adequate mulch to bring the playground floor up to compliance level with the 12 inches required to meet the insurance regulations, approximately 100 yards of mulch, the cost not to exceed \$5k. The quote is from Elite Materials Blowing. Ted will look into another vendor for a better price.

250th CELEBRATION: Plans for the country's 250th anniversary include providing s'mores and cider at the pavilion on January 1, 2026 and a summer event to be determined (possibly in place of the Fall Festival) Ruth suggested that the village participate in "Hometown Heroes" displays. On November 10, there will be a veterans breakfast where Bill suggested this idea be discussed with veterans.

BOCCE BALL: No new information. Interested village members need to find funding for about \$13k in order for bocce courts to be installed.

RESTROOMS: Council reversed the committee's recommendation to have the restrooms open 24 hours a day citing security reasons. The service department is addressing odor issues using REDX and washing every other day. The tanks will be pumped twice a year.

FIELD BURN: Bill said that Pete Macdonald of the Geauga Parks District said not to count on the GPD to do a free field burn anytime soon. Davy Tree will do a partial field burn for 10k.

FLAG: A flag to replace the tattered flag in front of the pavilion is on order. The solar panel which is intended to light the flag on the E. Washington Street side of the park does not have sufficient power to do this. Ruth will contact Bill Miller of the Masons to see if they would contribute \$350 for a device that has a rechargeable battery that would fix this issue.

MISC.: Tim explained that black steel reinforcement plates will be installed on the ceiling beams in the pavilion. Ruth asked Tim to convey many thanks to Rick Pausch for painting the playground equipment and staining the pavilion. Bill would like a plaque with the names of the scouts who have contributed their eagle scout projects to the park, be installed at village hall. No Chamber of Commerce concerts are planned for this summer or next. The mayor summarized the plan for a five foot asphalt path to be installed along the north side of Bell Road to enable people to travel safely on Bell Road without having to share the road. Bill suggested that South Russell may want to do something similar to what Moreland Hills does, which is give away seedlings/saplings (at the Fall Festival?). Apparently, cities who are known as "Tree city USA" offer this.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Bistriz