

SOUTH RUSSELL VILLAGE PARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES SEPT. 29, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Berger, council committee chair, Martha Bistriz, Ruth Cavanagh, Greg Gamm, Ted Kruse, Libby Sharkey, Greg Studen

GUESTS: Tim Young, streets commissioner

FALL FESTIVAL: Chris summarized the details of the fall festival entertainment. Items to be included are similar to years past. Libby has confirmed two bounce houses and a football throwing bounce house, the bubble lady, face painters and petting zoo. Hank Be Free will provide music. Hay rides will take place on Greg Sirna's hay wagons, council members will drive the wagons and provide an oral history of the park. Ted will bring apples and his cider press. The Kruse family will make apple cider. Life Flight will land its helicopter at some point. The Chagrin Valley Fire Department will probably be there. Jerry Canton is checking on that. Food trucks including That Hawaiian Guy Barbeque, a sandwich food truck, coffee and drinks food truck, ice cream truck and Augie's will have pizza for sale. The village will provide bottled water, chips and cookies.

Tim ordered tables and chairs. Ted will set up the tent on Saturday.

BELL ROAD TRAIL PROPOSAL: Ongoing discussions are taking place with ideas about having the trail on the north side of Bell Road and crossing Bell a minimum number of times for safety. The village has \$800k in funds from NOACA. The village would need to supply 20% of the total including paying for any planning costs incurred by third parties. No snow clearing of the path is being planned. The target date for installing the path would be sometime in 2027.

250th CELEBRATION: An idea to have s'mores and cider on January 1 has been proposed. Chris offered that it would be a very expensive event since village employees who would have to work that day to facilitate, would be paid triple time. That along with the questionable weather led the consensus of the committee to not be in favor of the event.

BOCCE BALL: no new information or interest from residents.

MASON FLAG POLE: The lighting upgrade has been completed per Tim Young.

RESTROOMS: An idea was discussed about converting from electric to solar power. It was decided to table this discussion until the Spring. The restrooms are open dawn to dusk and will remain open as much as possible through the winter.

FIELD BURN PROPOSAL: On hold. The mayor will update when there is new information or a date is set.

SCOUT PROJECTS: It was proposed that eagle scout project proposals incorporate some guidelines and perhaps a council member mentor to be available to the scout and review the project before it is actually installed in the park. Some guidelines including a time frame for approval of projects, etc should be drafted.

PARK MASTER PLAN: There was a brief discussion of trail path maintenance. Greg Studen advocated for establishing a plan for the park and the various scout projects that have been installed and will be proposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Bistriz