

SOUTH RUSSELL VILLAGE PARK COMMITTEE MINUTES APRIL 2, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT: Martha Bistriz, Ruth Cavanagh, Ted Kruse, Libby Sharkey, Greg Studen. Guests: Jerry Canton, Mary Rensel, Tim Young

Ruth brought the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

EVENTS: Ruth distributed several handouts. The first set included 6 Event Statements proposed by Mayor Koons in celebration of our country's 250th anniversary. Four of these proposals were approved by the parks committee. They include: June 16, Pizza at the Pavilion with President George Washington and the Crooked River Fifes and Drums, budget estimate \$500, the July 14 Hillcrest Concert Band, budget \$650, a community dinner, campout and movie on August 14, budget of \$800 and an ice cream/bike ride on August 16, budget \$500. Mary asked about the budgetary allowance for these events.

DRONE SHOW: Some council members proposed a drone show to share with the residents the drones owned and used by the South Russell police department. A date was not set for this event. The South Russell police department owns several (?) drones. They are housed in a large garage behind the police department building.

DISCLOSURE FORM: Members of the parks committee were asked to fill out and submit the "Village of South Russell Employment, Board and Organization Affiliation Questionnaire" to Danielle Romanowski.

CHAGRIN RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERS: Ruth, Jerry and Greg discussed the Chagrin River Watershed Partners. This group manages the Chagrin River watershed and is working on a plan to minimize the amount of salt used in watershed communities to minimize salt in the river in order to maintain the quality of life in the Chagrin river. Ruth will be the South Russell representative to this organization.

TRAIL LEVY CERTIFICATION: A copy of the "Certificate of Estimated Property Tax Millage Rate" was distributed. This certificate estimates the amount of tax per \$100k of property market value, would be assessed to residents. The Geauga County auditor certified the estimate. In summary the tax would be \$28 per \$100k. This would be levy for one million dollars over five years.

BOCCE : The parks committee is in favor of having bocce courts installed at the park. Tim will work on a budget for creating and maintaining the courts. An estimate of \$15k was proposed by interested residents. Tim has had conversations with the Chagrin Falls service department and believes the courts and maintenance can be installed, etc. for less.

CF BANNERS: The committee approved Chagrin Falls event signs/banners being placed in the park to inform South Russell residents of village events such as the bike to school days.

FIELD BURN UPDATE: No burn will take place this Spring. There is not enough material to burn. Fall may be another opportunity to try.

FALL FESTIVAL: The Cleveland Brown's football schedule has not been posted yet so a date was not considered for the 2026 Fall Festival. It was the consensus of the parks committee that a Sunday in September may be preferable for weather conditions.

TRAILS: Tim suggested that the trails that are in place be improved and that more trails be added. Signage with a color key map would be helpful to identify trails!

MISC.: A question about whether or not Mason's flag had been installed was asked. Bathrooms are being cleaned regularly. Trash cans at both sides of the park are emptied every other day. Tim suggested the kiosks be better used with updated information displayed. He suggested that two picnic tables and a simple pavilion roof near the parking lot on the south side of the park be installed since several cars are frequently parked in the parking lot with people enjoying the view of the park, eating, etc.

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Bistriz