



Special Meeting Work Session

Tuesday, August 25, 2015

(Meeting Held at the Village of Richfield Town Hall, Finance Department Conference Room)

WORK SESSION

Call to Order:

The Special Meeting Work Session was Called to Order at 6:00 p.m. by the Chairperson Mr. Floyd Ostrowski. Roll Call was taken by RJRD Administrator, Mrs. Bluso Rogers.

In Attendance:

Mr. Bob Becker
Ms. Kelly Clark
Mr. Rich Fleming
Mr. Ralph McNerney
Mr. Pat Norris
Mr. Floyd Ostrowski
Mr. Bill Taylor

Mrs. Debbie Bluso Rogers, Administrator

Also in Attendance:

Mr. Jeff Kerr, Environmental Design Group
Ms. Terry Fercana, Environmental Design Group
Mayor Bobbie Beshara
Ms. Lucia Hanigosky, Volunteers
Ms. Corey Ringle, President FOCH

Business:

Trustee Mr. Ostrowski introduced Mr. Jeff Kerr and Ms. Terry Fercana from the Environmental Design Group. The work session was an administrative strategy session led by the representatives from EDG. The purpose of the two day work sessions was to lead the Board through various exercises to identify, evaluate and prioritize program elements to include in the future development of the RJRD master plan. In preparation for these work sessions, EDG reviewed past reports, board minutes, surveys and historical information.

Members of the public in attendance were permitted to make a statement prior to the exercises for the session.

Chairperson Mr. Ostrowski opened the meeting with an African Proverb, *"If you want to go fast, go alone.....if you want to go far, go together."*

Then each Trustee was asked to share their reasons for serving on the RJRD Board. The majority of the Trustees reflected their connection to the property and their commitment to preserving it for future generations in the Richfields.

Mayor Beshara was able to attend part of the session [introductions and open public comments] and indicated that there are still people in Richfield that RJRD needs to "sell." The Mayor expressed her hope that the work sessions will help accomplish this.

The first exercise was a visioning exercise in order to develop a common goal that would guide the strategy and decision session. The purpose of the exercise was:

- To engage participants in indentifying primary goals/objectives for the property
- To build consensus among the participants
- To lay the groundwork to guide the Board in the master plan process.

A red dot and green dot exercise was led by Jeff Kerr, Environmental Design Group. The board voted using the dots and the green dots indicated items of importance and the red dots indicated items not of great importance.

Goals & Objectives Identified were:

- To uphold the Mission/Vision/Values of RJRD
- To honor/preserve the property and its history
- To use the property and its history
- To use the property for educational purposes...past history & STEM
- To make the property a family "place to play", where there are multiple things for each person to do
- To provide ease/safety of access, and construct so that no one/nothing is endangered

- To promote health & wellness
- To be unique and distinctive...drawing visitors by providing something that's different and unique from other places...not another park
- To promote preservation, conservation and recreation
- To respond to voters needs/wants...ADA/handicap accessible
- To be self-sufficient, with low operating costs
- To show value
- To be a bridal destination place
- To be visible and communicate the successes that is being created

Several of these goals and objectives were grouped together because of common themes.
[The complete summary of this exercise and the voting results are entered in the "Record of Proceedings" as an attachment to the minutes]

Next, the Board was asked to identify "what the park shouldn't be."

- Not a thruway from Route 303... no access through the park
- Not a hangout for inappropriate activity or vandalism
- Not too big so it is overly commercial

Additional Items of Consideration Included:

- How to keep the park organic in support of sustainability, using natural processes and materials.
- How to balance with voter/taxpayer needs...remember who is paying for the property. Voters want them to be unique...not competing with other parks
- Do they want to draw from outside of Richfield? Difficult to balance local with non-local...explore balance with cost(s). If self-sufficient, it reduces need for the community (is this a positive or a negative?)
- Gund Hall is a competitive advantage.

At the Core of RJRD:

- **Preservation, conservation, recreation and education**
- **Offering unique & distinctive/different types of recreation**
- **Accessibility**

Program Opportunity Exercise:

This exercise was implemented to engage the Board in identifying **all** potential elements/uses-both physical and programming-that could be incorporated into the property. A "red dot/green dot" exercise was led by Jeff Kerr from EDG. Green dots indicated items of important and the red dots indicated items not of great importance.

Elements/Uses Identified Were:

- Adventure Programs
- Aerial Bicycling
- Art/Music
- Art/Painting
- Arts in the Park/Art Shows
- Astronomy
- ATV
- Band Nights/Concerts
- Basketball
- Bio-mimicry
- Bird Watching
- BMX
- Camping (Summer/Day/Overnight)
- Canoeing/Kayaking (Paddle Boats)
- Community Gardening/Gardening Programs
- Composting
- Conservation Programs
- Cooking
- Crafts
- Cross-Country Skiing
- Cycling
- Dancing
- Disc Golfing
- Dog Park
- Dog Beach
- Environmental/Outdoor Education
- Equestrian
- Facility Rental
- Fishing
- Gazebo for Photo Opportunities
- Geocaching
- Health Education Programs
- Ice Hockey
- Ice Skating
- Inventors Museum
- Knitting
- Lawn Bowling/Bocce Ball/Horseshoes

- Martial Arts/Self-Defense
- Movie Nights (Indoor/Outdoor)
- Natural Science/STEM
- Nature Playground
- Nature Therapy Programs
- Par Courses
- Pet Training Programs
- Picnicking
- Playground
- Public Programs
- Range Shooting (Pistol/Rifle/Archery/Trap/Skeet)
- Rock Climbing
- Rope Course
- RV Park
- Scouting
- Sledding
- Snowmobiling
- Sports Fields/Courts
- Swimming (Lake)
- Swimming (Pool)
- Team Challenge Courses
- Tennis Courts
- Trails (Nature/Paved/Aggregate)
- Tree houses/Tree Camps
- University Science Collaboration (i.e. Field Stations)
- Weddings
- Yoga/Pilates
- Youth Group Programs
- Zip Lines

Several elements and uses were grouped together based upon common themes. Voting results from the “red dot/green dot” exercises were:

What It Is	Green Dots = Important Red Dots = Not Important
To Preservethe Property	Green Dots = 2

What It Is	Green Dots = Important Red Dots = Not Important
To Use the Property for Education	Green Dots = 3
For Safety & Access (Construct So That All is Safe (Water, Trails, Horses, etc.))	Green Dots = 1
To Be Someplace Different (Not "Another Park")	Red Dots = 1
To Promote Preservation, Conservation & Recreation	Green Dots = 5
To Provide What Voters Want (& Be ADA Accessible)	Green Dots = 2
To Be Self-Sufficient	Red Dots = 4
To Show Value	Green Dots = 3
To Be a Selected Site for All Brides to Use in Some Capacity	Red Dots = 5
To Offer Unique & Different Types of Recreation/Be Distinctive	Green Dots = 4 Red Dots = 1

Evaluation Criteria Exercise:

An evaluation criteria was presented to the Board so they could identify and evaluate opportunities based upon impact, costs and ease of implementation. Minor additions and revisions were recommended by the Board that included the enforcement of security, safety and season versus year round activities.

Each program element would be evaluated on the following:

Environmental Influences	Short- or long-term effects on the preservation of natural systems (water; land; vegetation; food-web).
Competition & Ability to Draw/Sustain Business	Program/use will be supported and/or unique to draw necessary users from local and/or surrounding communities.
Sensory Perception/ Experience of Visitors/Users	Sights, sounds, smells, etc. are compatible with other activities and multiple users.
Spatial Influence/ Flexible/Multi- Functional Spaces	Minimal spatial impact. Can adapt to multiple uses without investing additional funding.
Supports Voter Demands/ Desires	Meets objectives and needs of the residents.
Partnerships / Collaborations	Requires support from other entities to fund/finance, build, implement, or operate
Educational, Historical & Cultural Context for Users	Fosters educational/ cultural opportunities. Maintains historical integrity.
Year-Round vs. Seasonal Activity	Provides opportunity to generate use/revenue throughout the year
Risks to Organizational Sustainability & Enforcement of Safety & Security	Does not require significant investment/ resources/ management.
Cost to Build (Capital)	Low cost with regard to construction, permitting, infrastructure, time and/or engineering.
Cost to Maintain (O&M)	Staff; utilities; insurance; equipment.
Return on Investment	Provides reasonable net income for the investment.
Implementation	Activity or use does not require significant time, finances, resources, man-power, or permitting.

The matrix would be used at the next session by the Board to evaluate program elements as positive (+), negative (-) or neutral (O).

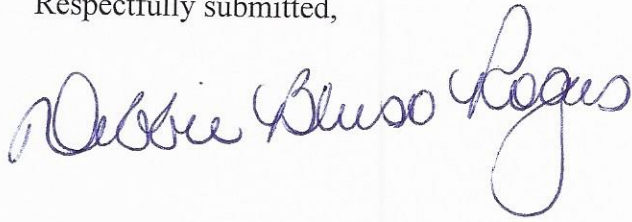
Adjournment:

MOTION made by Mr. Becker and seconded by Ms. Clark to adjourn at 9:03 p.m.


DISCUSSION: NONE

MOTION PASSED: Mr. Becker (Yea) Ms. Clark (Yea), Mr. Fleming (Yea), Mr. McNerney (Yea), Mr. Norris (Yes), Mr. Ostrowski (Yea), and Mr. Taylor (Yea)

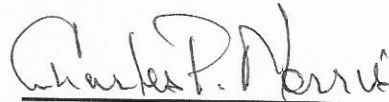
Respectfully submitted,



Debbie Bluso Rogers, Administrator to RJRD Board



Richfield Joint Recreation District,
Chairperson



Richfield Joint Recreation District,
Secretary *treasurer*