



Johnstown Joint Recreation District
Thursday, August 12, 2021 - 5:00 PM
MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions

Present at the meeting:

Carol Van Deest,-
Jim Lenner
Dale Dickson
Alan Benton
Ed Baldwin
Jeff Barr
Keith Ryan
Susan Suriano

a. JJRD Intro

Chair of the Johnstown Village Council Park and Rec Committee Carol Van Deest welcomed all in attendance and briefly summarized the purpose of the new Johnstown Joint Recreation District.

Board member introductions:

Ed Baldwin, Jeff Barr, Keith Ryan, Susan Suriano

2. Background and Creation of the Johnstown Joint Recreation District (JJRD)

- a. Governing Ohio Revised Codes - 755.14
- b. Resolutions 2021-08; 21-028 and Joint Agreement

Ms. Van Deest highlighted organizational information provided in the packet.

3. Draft Constitution and Bylaws

a. DRAFT Constitution and Bylaws

Ms. Van Deest said the Board needs a Constitution and Bylaws; the draft provided was a guide, but that they can change things. Suggested they also come up with a Mission Statement.

Johnstown Clerk of Council will be providing meeting minutes until officers get in place.

4. Sunshine Laws and Open Meetings Act

a. 2021 Ohio Laws

Ms. Van Deest noted the link provided and said board members should familiarize themselves with meeting laws as they are a public entity.

5. Resources

- a. Map of Johnstown Area Parks; guide provided in packet, created to show where all our parks are located currently.
- b. Joint Recreation Districts in Ohio; Ms. Van Deest provided a document that pointed Jeff members to other red districts in Ohio. Mr. Lenner noted Granville and New Albany had Barr Joint Rec Districts also.

Carol Van Deest said because the new district has no funding yet, the Village of Johnstown Council hopes to give some money to get them started; said they will need some legal advice, insurance etc.; added that although not in the contract, she hopes the School District would do the same.

Mr. Lenner added that the village has provided emails and hosting for the new members and highly recommended discussion and coordination of district business through it, not with personal emails in case of public record requests. Mr. Lenner encouraged the new members to reach out to himself or Mr. Dickson if further information is needed on how public bodies work.

Ms. Van Deest said she would love to have any of the members attend the monthly Park and Rec Committee meetings so information can be shared and everyone can be on the same page.

Jim Lenner elaborated on Open Meetings Laws on quorum, what is considered a meeting, publicizing meetings (Clerk of Council to help coordinate).

Jeff Barr prompted discussion with questions on the vision for the Joint Recreation District and questions surrounding tax levies, land purchases, cooperation with JYAA, school and the village. Said the "Recreation District" conjures up one thing versus a "Park District or Park and Recreation District" and listed some differences; said one of the questions he has is would the School Board and the Council be willing to revisit what the name is. Mr. Dickson said he does not know funding sources for entities such as this, he knows schools, does know that having that vision created by a board is extremely important. Mr. Lenner provided some further background on the events in 2016 that prompted conversations and action to create this district and got the conversation started in response to the need for sports fields and courts etc. Mr. Dickson said the interest on the part of the schools was the pressure they felt on the current facilities, not only the schools, but Belt Park, said there is a need. Mr. Lenner highlighted some potential funding sources that could help get a consultant for the organization to help craft the idea and sell it. Alan Benton said the school cannot really fund this, it is outside of their scope; the challenge will be seeking funding, the district will need to become an entity that is tax exempt so that people can make donations,

will need to seek some seed money to run a campaign for a tax levy. Mr. Barr went back to his original question on the name change; Mr. Lenner said the district has been formed under the O.R.C. and they can call themselves whatever they want. Mr. Dickson noted the only legal connection the school or the village have to this body are the original appointment of two members each. Discussion on Board terms.

All four newly appointed board members took time to share their thoughts on why they wanted to be on this board and what they hoped to accomplish.

Jeff Barr asked what is in the next thirty-six months that either the village or the school might be going to their constituents to ask for, whether it's operational, capital, roads, additional income tax...etc.; Mr. Dickson said the goal of the School Board is to not go back to the taxpayers for additional dollars for twenty years or more, they want to get the buildings paid for which is a thirty-eight year loan before going back for additional dollars; added that this is tricky in a growing district, if they grow quicker than they like that could change. Mr. Benton suggested speaking to the Township Trustees on their plans as well. Mr. Lenner said he did not think the village would plan on an income tax levy any time soon; levy in 2014 failed, then the village had no choice but to take the credit away.

6. Discussion; appointment of fifth member

Board member review of other applicants that submitted interest, discussion on seeking applicants not on the list and some desired skills. Appointment of fifth member to take place next meeting.

Next meeting scheduled for August 25, 2021 at 6:30 pm in Council Chambers.

7. Adjourn

Ms. Van Deest thanked the new members and said that it will take time for them to feel good as a group and what they want to do. Keith Ryan said it will take a while to get organized then get perspective and figure out what they want to do, figure out what is the need, what is the cost etc.

No further business.

Meeting adjourned approximately 6:30 pm