



## **RICHFIELD VILLAGE COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2019**

**ROLL CALL:** Domanick, Healey, Hudak, Lanford, Lyons and Wheeler.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mayor Beshara, Recreation Director Jocek, Police Chief Morgan, Service Director Papp.

**MOTION:** TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER THE APPOINTMENT OF A PUBLIC OFFICIAL.

Moved by Wheeler, seconded by Domanick. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

Executive session lasted from 5:05 p.m to 7:30 p.m.

### **WORK SESSION**

**MOTION:** TO APPOINT CAROLYN SULLIVAN TO A THREE-YEAR TERM ON THE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD.

Moved by Wheeler, seconded by Healey. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

### **Community Center discussion with Park Board**

Jason Keppler, chairman of the Park Board, thanked Council for meeting with them to discuss funding a feasibility study for a community center. In the past, the community was not large enough or lacked the funds. A study would give us an idea of the costs. The village's strategic plan included a community center.

A completed feasibility study would allow the park board members to give residents accurate answers to their about whether a community center is possible.

Park board member Brian Stulak said the cost of the study would be \$25,000 to \$50,000, depending on its scope. It would determine the cost of the building and its operation.

Jocek said a mini-survey determined that 63 percent of respondents were in favor of a community center. Healey said we can first determine what the people want. Stulak said not much has changed from past studies, as far as the people's preferences.

Lyons asked what these items are. Stulak said a fitness center, a gymnasium, a jogging track, a community room, restrooms, locker rooms. The biggest question is whether to include a pool. It is the most expensive item, but it is what people want.

Ellen Daniels said we know the people want a community center, and we know where it can be. We just need to know if it can be.



Lanford asked for a copy of a sample feasibility study. Stulak said he could supply one.

Hudak said there are various ideas for types of swimming pools. He also said communities with larger populations like Brecksville and Broadview Heights have had difficulty funding a community center.

Stulak said when the study is finished, this dialogue will be completely different. Jocek said the center would need to be size appropriate. Lyons said he wanted to know what Council would be funding for \$25,000 to \$50,000.

Lyons said some have decided we cannot afford a community center and would call the study a waste of money. Papp said he would be happy to help with what the community needs. Hudak said he would like to see a more specific range of what the study will cost.

Domanick said a community center would bring Richfield residents together with tennis and basketball courts, speakers and movie nights. The money for a study would come from the park department budget and a grant.

Wheeler said he couldn't spend \$40,000 without a list of what he would get. Stulak said a 30-40 page document would tell what the feasibility study would say, and looking at past reports could lower the cost.

Bob Glover of Mill Street said we need to know the square footage to get the answer. Lyons replied that the issue has already been addressed in past surveys.

Children's librarian Diane Nagy consistently hears that people love the trails but we need a place to meet when the weather is bad.

### **Assistant Police Chief position**

Morgan and Beshara talked about a memorandum of understanding that would protect the new assistant police chief and would allow him the option of returning to his previous position.

Morgan also said the lieutenant position is gone with the retirement of Joe Davis. The assistant police chief position is in the negotiated contract.

Lanford said there should be a process to select a new police chief, and she asked if we are selecting the next chief by appointing the assistant chief. Beshara said she wasn't sure, and Morgan said it could go either way.

He could hate the job and return to his old position, with the administration going in a different direction; or he could eventually become the acting police chief. Another option is the hiring of a new police chief from the outside, with the assistant police chief staying in his position.

### **Other business**

Council will have a special meeting on Jan. 19 at 12:30 p.m. to consider the candidates for the vacant Council seat. Council is accepting letters of interest for the vacancy until Jan. 17 at 5 p.m.



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Hudak adjourned the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jeff Gorman  
Clerk of Council

Rick Hudak  
Council President

