

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Resolution No. R2021-0201

Sponsored by: **Councilmember Simon on behalf of Cuyahoga County Planning Commission**

Co-sponsored by: **Councilmember Stephens**

A Resolution supporting an application for funding under the Clean Ohio Fund Green Space Conservation Program available through the Ohio Public Works Commission on behalf of Natural Areas Land Conservancy for the conservation of ecologically significant areas in the Hough Community Green Space in the City of Cleveland; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County has received a request from Natural Areas Land Conservancy for a Resolution supporting an application for funding under the Clean Ohio Fund Green Space Conservation Program available through the Ohio Public Works Commission on behalf of Natural Areas Land Conservancy for the conservation of ecologically significant areas in the Hough Community Green Space in the City of Cleveland; pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 164.23; and

WHEREAS, Natural Areas Land Conservancy seeks to conserve The Hough Community Green Space project is an effort by Natural Areas Land Conservancy to bring much needed, high-quality passive park space to the east side Cleveland neighborhood of Hough, through the re-purposing of the 2.6-acre former John W. Raper school site (now vacant land) into a vibrant, naturalized park area. In March of 2021, the Cleveland Metropolitan School District released a Request for Qualifications for the adaptive reuse and redevelopment of surplus school sites throughout the city of Cleveland. While the main focus of the RFQ was on real estate development, Natural Areas Land Conservancy identified this site as an opportunity for the development of a high-quality park space to support and enhance surrounding redevelopment efforts in the neighborhood. Working with the local community development corporation serving the Hough neighborhood, the Famicos Foundation, and with the support of Environmental Design Group, Natural Areas Land Conservancy developed a plan for the conversion of this vacant space into a passive park and natural area. The proposal was viewed favorably by the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and the City of Cleveland, as it will complement efforts to stabilize the housing market in this predominately Black and historically underserved neighborhood. There is an identified lack of high-quality and accessible park spaces in

the Hough community, and the proposed Hough Community Green Space will simultaneously help to fill this void while also encouraging future investment in this neighborhood. With adjacency to the Thurgood Marshall Recreation Center and the nearby Village Family Farms, the Hough Community Green Space is the missing piece to establish a robust campus of outdoor and recreational amenities that will greatly benefit residents, increasing access to the outdoors, improving health outcomes and quality of life.; and

WHEREAS, the project is known as “Hough Community Green Space” and is located in County Council District No. 7; and

WHEREAS, the total estimated project cost is \$877,705.00, of which \$658,278.75 is estimated for the Clean Ohio application; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code Section 164.23 provides that “an entity seeking a grant for a project that is eligible for funding shall submit an application to the natural resources assistance council with geographical jurisdiction over the proposed project area;” and, Ohio Revised Code Section 164.23(B) further provides that “in addition to the application, an applicant for a grant for a project shall include a copy of a resolution supporting the project from each county in which the proposed project is to be conducted;” and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Public Works Commission provides financial assistance to Natural Resources Assistance Councils for the purpose of preserving open spaces, sensitive ecological areas, and stream corridors; and

WHEREAS, the applications for the fifteenth-round funding under the Clean Ohio Fund Green Space Conservation Program are due on October 15, 2021 to the Cuyahoga County Natural Resources Assistance Council; and,

WHEREAS, it is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order to meet the application deadline required by the Cuyahoga County Natural Resources Assistance Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the Cuyahoga County Council hereby supports the submission of an application for funding under the Clean Ohio Fund Green Space Conservation Program available through the Ohio Public Works Commission on behalf of Natural Areas Land Conservancy for the conservation of ecologically significant areas in Hough Community Green Space; pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 164.23 and known as “Hough Community Green Space” Project.

SECTION 2. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective for the usual daily operation of the County; the preservation of public peace, health,

or safety in the County; and any additional reasons set forth in the preamble. Provided that this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of at least eight members of Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon the earliest occurrence of any of the following: (1) its approval by the County Executive through signature, (2) the expiration of the time during which it may be disapproved by the County Executive under Section 3.10(6) of the Cuyahoga County Charter, or (3) its passage by at least eight members of Council after disapproval pursuant to Section 3.10(7) of the Cuyahoga County Charter. Otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

SECTION 3. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

On a motion by Ms. Simon, seconded by Ms. Stephens, the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted.

Yeas: Stephens, Simon, Baker, Miller, Sweeney, Tuma, Gallagher, Conwell and Jones

Nays: None


County Council President

9/29/21
Date


County Executive

9-30-21
Date


Clerk of Council

9/29/2021
Date

First Reading/Referred to Committee: September 14, 2021

Committee(s) Assigned: Education, Environment & Sustainability

Legislation Substituted in Committee: September 22, 2021

Additional Sponsorship Requested: September 22, 2021

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