

**Record of Proceedings
Special Village of Peninsula Council**

Held: Tuesday, June 10, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Schneider called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Daniel Schneider, Jr.	Present	George Haramis	Present
Richard Slocum	Present	John Najeway	Present
Daniel Schneider	Present	Eliud Rosales	Present
Douglas Steidl	Present		

OTHERS PRESENT: CVNP Assistant Superintendent Ivan Kassovic, Conservancy Director Stacey Rusher, CVNP Superintendent Lisa Petit, CVNP Planner Patrick McMahon, Solicitor Brad Bryan, Fiscal Officer Katie Iaconis, Village Planner Rita McMahon

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None.

PRESENTATION: Representatives from the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the Conservancy for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park presented their conceptual plans for the “Oxbow Meadows” project, which was described as a reimagining of a portion of the former golf course property into a “park within a park”. The goal is to create a more intimate Village-connected space centered around the riverfront that blends national park and community park features. A key part of the vision includes realigning Akron-Peninsula Road to open up greater riverfront access and unite divided parcels for ecological restoration and public enjoyment. Due to the complexity and cost of the road realignment, the near-term focus is on activating the west side of the property, which is closest to the Village and less impacted by the road project.

The Conservancy owns 14.4 acres and plans to develop it with community-centric amenities such as a “River Center” (a flexible gathering, educational, and orientation space), nature-based play area for children, open meadows for future programming, and potential lodging or concession spaces to generate revenue and support park operations. Parking, multi-use trails, and safe access for visitors are key infrastructure concerns, especially to support increased interest and connectivity to the Village. Architectural cohesion with the Village will be maintained, and commercial disruption will be minimized.

The National Park Service’s contribution will be more passive and focus on land restoration, river and wetland access, and a riverfront loop trail with boardwalks. A designated kayak access point is planned at the natural sandbar, and potential collaboration with the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad on an additional train stop remains an open topic. Temporary programming on the Conservancy land is already underway to introduce the public to the space while gathering input and building interest.

The need for additional parking emerged as a major issue throughout the discussion. The Conservancy and CVNP recognized the need for expanded parking near the site and committed to building a significant sized parking lot on the old par 3 property. Concerns were raised about balancing visitor access with preserving Village charm and minimizing congestion. The teams are exploring underutilized lots within the park and potential connections between the Village and surrounding parkland, possibly including shuttles or path networks.

Village Council members and residents expressed appreciation for being included in the early-stage planning. Legal distinctions between Conservancy-led and NPS-led developments were clarified. Buildings on the Conservancy land will require Village special use permits and

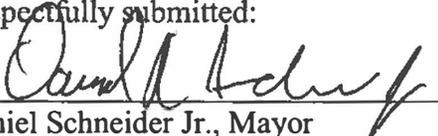
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site plan approval, whereas federal regulations govern the NPS owned property. Community members also encouraged integrating existing structures and preserving historic aesthetics as the project moves forward from concept to design. Input will continue to be gathered, and the full slide deck will be made available via the Village website.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Najeway made a motion that was seconded by Councilperson Schneider to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes; Mr. Steidl, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Najeway, yes. The motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Daniel Schneider Jr., Mayor

Date 7-00-2025



Katie Iaconis, Fiscal Officer

Date 7/08/2025