

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NATURAL AREAS LAND CONSERVANCY'S CLEAN OHIO GREEN SPACE CONSERVATION PROGRAM APPLICATION FOR THE O'BRIEN PRESERVE PROJECT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio, through the Ohio Public Works Commission, administers financial assistance for conservation purposes through the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program; and

WHEREAS, The Natural Areas Land Conservancy, a fully-owned subsidiary of Western Reserve Land Conservancy, desires financial assistance under the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program to acquire and protect (with a conservation easement held by Western Reserve Land Conservancy) the approximately 55-acre O'Brien Preserve property, located in the City of Hudson, Summit County; and

WHEREAS, per RC Section 164.23, an application for a grant for open space acquisition requires a resolution supporting the project from the City, and the deadline for said application is April 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the O'Brien Preserve property is comprised of natural areas, including marsh wetlands, stream tributary to Mud Brook, and maple hardwood forest, providing habitat for native Ohio species including over 25 species of birds; and

WHEREAS, protection of the O'Brien Preserve property is in line with the current 2015 Land Use Development Plan for the City of Hudson, as approximately half of the Property is coded for open space use in the Land Use Plan, and acquisition of the Property for purposes of a public preserve and subsequent protection with a conservation easement directly supports multiple Goals and Recommendations in the 2015 Plan, including to "support the mission of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy and the usage of conservation easements to prevent development of environmentally sensitive...areas" (page 23); and

WHEREAS, upon acquisition, the O'Brien Preserve property will be open to the public as a preserve for passive recreation opportunities, such as walking, nature study, and wildlife watching.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Hudson, County of Summit and State of Ohio, that:

Section 1. Council hereby supports The Natural Areas Land Conservancy's application to the Ohio Public Works Commission for the O'Brien Preserve project in Summit County, Ohio.

Section 2. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and 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.

Section 3. This Resolution is declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City, and for the further reason that this Council's formal support of the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program grant application for open space acquisition for the O'Brien Preserve Project is required, so that The Natural Areas Land Conservancy can timely submit the application by the deadline of April 1, 2021; wherefore, this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage provided it receives the affirmative vote of five (5) members of Council, except that six (6) affirmative votes shall be required if all members are present at the meeting at which it is passed; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED:

Craig A. Shubert, Mayor

ATTEST:

Elizabeth Slagle, Clerk of Council

I certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 21-26 was duly passed by the Council of said Municipality on _____, 2021.

Elizabeth Slagle, Clerk of Council