

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES
April 10, 2007

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held on April 10, 2007 at the Donald W. Meyer Center, Chardon, Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. President Robert McCullough was in the Chair. Board members Mr. Leech and Dr. Rzeszotarski were present.

Employees present:

Tom Curtin, Executive Director
Les Bednar, Development Officer
Sherry Bosworth, Business Affairs Director
Cindy Ford, Marketing Assistant
Tami Gingrich, Field Naturalist
Kathy Hanes, Executive Secretary
Jerry Holzheimer, Project Manager
Paige Hosier, Marketing Director
Robert Lange, Land Steward
John Oros, Operations Director
Michele Pennell, Accountant
Robin Pilarczyk, Human Resources Manager
Paul Pira, Park Biologist
Tom Salo, Construction Manager
Dru Siley, Project Manager
Bob Urban, Chief Ranger
Aaron Young, Planning Director

Visitors present:

Glenn Miller, *Gauga County Maple Leaf*
Diane Ryder, *News-Herald*
Stan Pekius

Gauga Park District Foundation Representative: Todd Ray

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to accept the revised agenda for the meeting.

Mr. Leech seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Leech	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 13, 2007

Mr. Leech moved to accept the minutes of March 13, 2007 as corrected.

Dr. Rzeszotarski seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Leech	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Curtin acknowledged the presence of Glenn Miller, Diane Ryder, Todd Ray and Stan Pekius.

Geauga Park District
FINANCIAL STATEMENT MONTH ENDED
MARCH 31, 2007

GENERAL FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE MARCH 1, 2007 **1,004,234.16**

EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES **539,787.91**

Personnel	263,395.37
Medicare	3,625.26
Dental /Hospitalization	33,714.88
PERS	36,934.15
Worker's Compensation	65,306.14
Vouchers	136,812.11

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES **3,235,598.07**

General Tax Collections

- Real Estate Tax	3,162,467.63
- State Reimburse Tax	27,915.50

Investment Income

16,898.31

Gifts & Donations

16,148.49

- In Memory of Mary Lou Meyer-Schwindl - (\$420)
- GPD Foundation - Nature Scope transfer and net income additional (\$12,036.67)
- GPD Foundation - Paver/Bench sales transfer (\$606)
- GPD Foundation - Bateman Endowment 2006 interest transfer (\$1,472.40)
- GPD Foundation - Bio-Centennial transfer (\$310)
- GPD Foundation - Snake care and Nature Center donation transfer (\$100)
- GPD Foundation - GPD Employee training donation transfer (\$400)
- Mitchell - Future projects donation (\$800)
- Patrons - Sap's Sunday donation (\$3.42)

Fees

- Programs - Schools - Out-of-County	221.00
- Shelters	40.00
- Facility Fees	100.00
- Administrative Fees, GPD Foundation	2,500.00
- Workshops, General, Public Program	38.00

Sales

- Tapper's Treasures - MC	193.41
- Tree Tops - TWW	1,663.11
- Syrup Sales	856.71

- Credit Card - All Facilities	359.39	
- Water Vending Machine Sales - TWW	10.75	
<u>Rental Properties</u>		
- Swine Creek house - Harry	400.00	
- Burton Wetlands House- Kolar	400.00	
- Hyde House - McKinnon	400.00	
<u>Other Receipts</u>		
Citation Disbursement	40.00	
Recycling Proceeds	18.74	
Refunds- Other - DW Ross, restroom material returned	261.91	
Miscellaneous Receipts	4665.12	
- Cleveland MetroParks - Regional Parks Conference Balance Transfer (\$4,576.16)		
- Western Reserve Farm Co-Op - Patronage Refund 2006 (\$29.96)		
- Misc Patrons - Auction sales mixer, sap tanks, printer (\$59)		
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF MARCH 31, 2007		3,700,044.32
LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND		
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE MARCH 1, 2007		3,479,122.02
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES		41,446.35
Vouchers	41,446.35	
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES		36,599.04
<u>Investment Income</u>	32,599.57	
<u>Gifts & Donations</u>	3,026.50	
- Hasman - Survey of property donation (\$2,000)		
- GPD Foundation - Observatory donations transfer (\$600)		
- Affelder Trust Interest (\$426.50)		
<u>Royalties</u>		
- Oxford Oil Co - Swine Creek	248.34	
- Cedar Valley Energy - Hehmeyer property	597.31	
- Great Lakes Energy - Hart property	59.46	
- Cedar Valley Energy - Sunnybrook property	67.86	
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF MARCH 31, 2007		3,474,274.71
RETAINAGE FUND		
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE MARCH 1, 2007		200,485.73
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES		1,690.13
<u>Investment Income</u>	1,690.13	
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF MARCH 31, 2007		202,175.86

VOUCHER RESOLUTION NO. 06-07

The Board asked for clarification on a number of voucher items. All questions were answered satisfactorily. Dr. Rzeszotarski was impressed with the final financial statement for the Bio-Centennial Exhibit. Total attendance was 20,043 and he felt the cost per visitor, approximately \$3.00, was quite reasonable for such a high-quality program. Mr. Leech commended the staff for their ingenuity and hard work on the exhibit.

Mr. Leech moved to adopt Voucher Resolution No. 06-07, a copy of which is on file in the Park District office.

Dr. Rzeszotarski seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Leech	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Mr. Curtin shared the following communications with the Board:

Mr. Sam Speck expressed appreciation to the Park for the resolution that was presented to him upon his retirement from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

A letter was received from James K. Bissell, Director of Conservation for the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, thanking the Park District for helping to sponsor the 2007 Natural Areas Conference.

A note of thanks was received from Aggie Sperry for the dedication held in honor of her late husband, Mark Sperry.

United Way Services of Geauga County sent a Certificate of Appreciation to acknowledge the support given to the campaign by the Park District.

A Certificate of Congressional Recognition and Achievement was received from Congressman Steven LaTourette recognizing the Park as a recipient of the 2006 Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) Award for the Infinitree project.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Mr. McCullough opened the floor to the members of the public present at the meeting. There were no comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Oil and Gas Well Drilling

Mr. Curtin reported that thirty-five park districts in Ohio were contacted regarding oil and gas well drilling. Of the eight responses received, no parks have officially acted upon requests from oil and gas well drilling companies. Dr. Rzeszotarski asked if other parks had responded to the opinion issued by Geauga Park District's legal counsel. Mr. Curtin stated that other parks believe the issue has been interpreted too "narrowly" and that the Park District could be forced into mandatory pooling. The Board directed Mr. Curtin to contact legal counsel with regard to the legal ramifications of mandatory pooling.

Hart Property

Mr. Curtin recommended amending the June 2005 motion that declared five acres and the associated structures of the Hart property as surplus property.

Mr. McCullough moved to amend the motion made by the Park Commissioners in June 2005 and declare seven acres and associated structures on the Hart property as surplus property, based upon setbacks required by the Geauga County Planning Commission.

Mr. Leech seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Leech	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

Deer Management Updates and Recommendations

Natural Resource Manager John Oros presented his recommendations for the 2007-08 deer season. Recommendations include allowing bow hunting (under a different permit process) in twelve Park properties, allowing more time for bow hunters to apply for a permit, closing Burton Wetlands State Nature Preserve for fifteen days and allowing the Neubauer Hunt Club to hunt there during the shotgun and muzzleloader seasons, administering the required archery proficiency test in May and working on a possible sharpshooting plan for 2008-09.

Mr. Oros also advised the board that, despite five attempts, Larry Davis Aviation was unable to complete accurate infrared deer counts due to inclement weather and a prior overseas commitment. Previous infrared deer counts have shown the deer population in Observatory Park in Montville and Sunnybrook Preserve in Chester Township to be three times larger than the optimal amount of 10 deer per square mile.

Since the aviation counts will not be conducted until the fall, the Board discussed other methodologies. Dr. Rzeszotarski suggested using the "Lincoln index" for population sampling. Mr. Oros stated that he believes using infrared flyovers is the most effective procedure because many methodologies are labor intensive and it would be a challenge to utilize Park staff to conduct sampling.

The Board discussed using volunteer groups such as Citizen Science and conservation organizations to help with the counts. Mr. Leech stated any additional data the Park can acquire would be helpful in determining the procedure for next year. Mr. Curtin advised the Board that a combination of tools may be used to reduce the deer population. The Board agreed that the archery proficiency test would ensure that qualified hunters are applying for park-issued permits.

Mr. Leech made a motion to utilize Great Lakes Outdoors in Middlefield, Ohio for archery proficiency testing, beginning in May, 2007.

Dr. Rzeszotarski seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Leech	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

PARK UPDATES

Easter Sunday Facility Closing

At the April Board meeting, there was an oversight regarding the hours of operation on Easter Sunday for The West Woods Nature Center and Donald W. Meyer Center. In previous years, The West Woods Nature Center and Donald W. Meyer Center have been closed on Easter Sunday.

Endowment Funds

The Cleveland Foundation will be returning funds from the Endowment Fund Account sometime in April. Mr. Curtin suggested that the money be deposited into the Q41 Account.

Affelder House

Trail work is nearing completion and the patio extension is in progress. Mr. Curtin advised the Board that the facility has already been used for the Salamander Workshop and Geauga Park District Foundation Meeting.

Bass Lake Preserve, Beartown Lakes Reservation, Frohring Meadows

Preconstruction meetings are scheduled.

Camp Chickagami

A meeting on April 20, 2007 has been scheduled with the Greater Western Reserve Boy Scout Council to determine a timeline for the Park District to assume ownership of the Camp.

Maple Highlands Trail, Central

Contractor will begin working on the punch list. Sections of the trail will be closed from April 16, 2007 through the end of July 2007.

Mountain Run Station

A preconstruction meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2007.

Observatory Park

The Natural Resources staff is working on wetlands delineation and will be filing a permit with the Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Curtin met with Dr. Earl Luck, Professor of Astronomy at Case Western Reserve, regarding the proposed archaeoastronomy features for Observatory Park. Dr. Luck is interested in helping with the project and suggested that the Park recreate cultural models of various observatories, along with an original "henge" feature. Dr. Rzeszotarski stated that it would be useful to have the exhibits portable so that they could be used off-site. Mr. McCullough would like to see a permanent display incorporating the constellation which will be present during the opening of Observatory Park. A fundraising timeline was given to the Board prior to the meeting for their review. Development Officer Leslie Bednar informed the Board that fundraising has been an ongoing, informal grassroots process and that the Foundation is working diligently to cultivate donor relationships.

Sunnybrook Preserve

The draft master plan will be presented at the May meeting. The second public meeting will be held at Geauga West Library on May 9, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Best Preserve

Talks are continuing with Best Sand to establish a trail around the lake.

Park Planner

Interviews for the park planner are scheduled for April 18, April 23, and April 24, 2007.

Donald W. Meyer Center

The contractor has begun work on replacement of the concrete sidewalks.

Thornbury Development

A check in the amount of \$37,800.00 was received from HzW Environmental Consultants and is a portion of the money the Park will receive from the Silver Creek mitigation agreement with Thornbury Development in Solon, Ohio.

Nature Arts Festival

A food vendor has been selected for the festival and they have asked permission to sell wine. After some discussion, no decision was reached.

Green Yoga

Anne Ondrey is asking for approval to host a "Green Yoga" class for six people once a week in the Cherry Room at Donald W. Meyer Center. Mr. Curtin explained that the class would not interfere with any programs scheduled at the Meyer Center.

River Oaks Investment Company

River Oaks Investment Company has filed a lawsuit against the Park District and the City of Chardon. The company is seeking an at-grade crossing of Maple Highlands Trail Central to build houses on the northern side of the railroad right-of-way.

Mentor Radio-Controlled Airplane Club

Mr. Curtin received a request from the Mentor Area Radio-Controlled Airplane Club for permission to use Park property to fly model planes on ten acres of land in Montville.

First Energy Transmission Lines

The Park has been receiving phone calls from Clay Street residents regarding the proposed transmission lines. Mr. Curtin has contacted the representative from First Energy to discuss the situation and, at this time, has not received a response. It was suggested that Park staff attend some of the public meetings to keep abreast of the situation. The Board inquired about the resolution passed in 1996 and reiterated that they would like a position statement issued opposing the transmission lines. Mr. Curtin stated that First Energy will be issuing an environmental report in the next three to five months and that the previous position statement was issued after receipt of the 1996 report. The Board agreed that a position statement should be issued by the Park District subsequent to the receipt of the report from First Energy. Mr. Curtin advised the Board that he will follow-up on his contact with First Energy and provide an update at the next meeting.

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT FOUNDATION REPORT

Todd Ray, Geauga Park District Foundation Trustee, reported that the Foundation Board met on March 22, 2007 at the Affelder House. The Foundation's subcommittees discussed how to actively implement their course of action for the year. The Resource Development Committee will be meeting on April 30, 2007 to discuss project timelines and new trustee orientation.

NEW BUSINESS

TRANSFER OF FUNDS, RESOLUTION 07-07

Mr. Curtin informed the Board of the Geauga County Auditor's Office notification that Three Million One Hundred Fifty Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Dollars and Twenty-Six Cents (\$3,150,260.26) in real estate taxes has been posted to the Park District's General S05 Account.

Mr. McCullough moved the adoption of Resolution 07-07, transferring One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000.00) from the General S05 Account to the Q41 Land Improvement Fund.

Mr. Leech seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Leech	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES TO FOUNDATION BOARD

The Geauga Park District Foundation approved the appointment of nine candidates to serve as Foundation Board Trustees. They are Al Cisan, David Ford, Richard Frenchie, Erin Corrigan Martin, Mark Meister, Bob Page, Betsy Rader, Jim Stotter, and Jeff Suszynski. Each will serve a three-year term beginning April 10, 2007 and ending December 31, 2010. Mr. Leech stated that the new trustees are of high caliber and that the Foundation can be proud of these new members. Dr. Rzeszotarski felt the questionnaires were helpful in the selection process.

Mr. McCullough made a motion to appoint Al Cisan, David Ford, Richard Frenchie, Erin Corrigan Martin, Mark Meister, Bob Page, Betsy Rader, Jim Stotter, and Jeff Suszynski as trustees to the Geauga Park District Foundation Board for a three-year term beginning April 10, 2007 and ending December 31, 2010.

Mr. Leech seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Leech	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

2007 LIABILITY INSURANCE

Sherry Bosworth, Business Affairs Director, presented the results of the Insurance Program Proposals taken on March 30, 2007. The recommendation is to continue with the current insurer, Public Entities Pool of Ohio. The new annual premium is \$66,825.00, a reduction of \$11,710.00 (15%) from the old annual premium of \$77,535.00. There were no changes to deductible amounts in the policy. Dr. Rzeszotarski was pleased to see that terrorism coverage was included in the policy.

Mr. Leech made a motion to accept the proposal from Public Entities Pool of Ohio for insurance coverage for a one-year period, beginning April 25, 2007, with an annual premium of \$66,825.00. Dr. Rzeszotarski seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Leech	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

BASS LAKE SITE IMPROVEMENTS, CHANGE ORDER NO. 01

Mr. Curtin presented the Clemson Excavating change order request for Bass Lake site improvements, relating to the construction of Alternate 1, Boat Dock, and Alternate 2, Boat Launch. The original contract price was \$54,360.00 and the new contract price with approved change orders is \$68,360.00, a net increase of \$14,000.00.

Mr. Leech made a motion to approve the Bass Lake Site Improvement Change Order No. 01 in the amount of \$14,000.00.

Mr. McCullough seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Leech	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

FROHRING MEADOWS, CHANGE ORDER NO. 01

Mr. Curtin presented the Danco General Contracting change order request for Frohring Meadows, as it relates to the construction of Alternate 2 (aggregate trail) and installation of Alternate 3 (geogrid). The original contract price was \$618,390.71 and the new contract price with approved change orders is \$813,411.16, a net increase of \$195,020.45.

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion to approve the Frohring Meadows Change Order No. 01 in the amount of \$195,020.45.

Mr. Leech seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Leech	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

THOMPSON HINE CONTRACT INCREASE

Mr. Curtin asked the Board for approval to increase the contract fees for Thompson Hine in the amount of \$25,000.00.

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion to approve the Thomson Hine Contract increase in the amount of \$25,000.00.

Mr. McCullough seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Leech	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

COMMISSIONERS' TIME

Mr. McCullough asked the Commissioners if there were any comments or questions. There was discussion regarding plans for the next exhibit at The West Woods Nature Center. Mr. Leech commented that he has received positive feedback regarding the redesigned newsletter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McCullough moved to go into Executive Session at 5:45 p.m. for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and for personnel to discuss the compensation of employees.

Mr. Leech seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Leech	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

The Board returned from Executive Session at 6:20 p.m. The following was discussed for resolution:

LAND ACQUISITION

Bahnick Property

Mr. McCullough moved to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the Geauga County Commissioners and Planning Commission for the purchase of an agricultural conservation easement in Burton Township. Geauga Park District will commit up to \$32,800.63. Fifty percent of easement funding is being sought from a grant program; 25 percent match from the Bahnicks; 12.5 percent match from the Geauga County Commissioners and a 12.5 percent match from Geauga Park District.

Dr. Rzeszotarski seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Leech	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

Beaumier Property

Mr. McCullough moved to authorize the Executive Director to purchase 14.66 acres of real property in Burton Township, Permanent Parcel No. 04-126800, from Judith M. Beaumier in the amount of \$120,000.00. The property is contiguous with Burton Wetlands.

Dr. Rzeszotarski seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Leech	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

Mr. McCullough signed the purchase agreement on behalf of the Board.

PERSONNEL

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to approve adjustments to the pay grade schedule as recommended by Chris Belz. These adjustments are based on the restructuring of the Operations Department and the resulting job title and job duty changes.

Mr. McCullough seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Leech	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

There were no reports from committees of the Board.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOARD

Departmental reports from the Supervisors were submitted for the month of March to the Executive Director and a summary sheet was forwarded to the Board in their packets prior to the Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

SUNSHINE LAW COMPLIANCE

The rules of the Park Board were complied with by sending notice pursuant to the rules adopted by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas G. Curtin, Executive Director

Robert McCullough, President