

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 13, 2002

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held on August 13, 2002, at the Park District office, Chardon, Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. President Robert McCullough was in the chair. Board members Betty Cope and Mark Rzeszotarski were present. Employees present were: Tom Curtin, Keith McClintock, Sherry Bosworth, Barbara Emch, Samantha Mutz, Sylvia Neptune, and Eileen Smith. Guests present were: Fred Dixon, Gerald Hornick, Jon Green, Clayton Kovats, and Craig Lanese.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to accept the agenda as amended for the meeting.

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

Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to accept the minutes of July 9, 2002, as amended.

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

Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to accept the minutes of July 24, 2002, as presented.

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

Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to accept the minutes of August 5, 2002, as presented.

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

Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE MONTH ENDED JULY 31, 2002

GENERAL FUND

BALANCE JULY 1, 2002

1,940,579.48

EXPENDITURES

303,304.14

Personnel	145,459.54
Medicare	1,798.06
Dental /Hospitalization- July	19,579.21

PBX	185.06	
PERS- 2nd Quarter	56,679.48	
Unemployment Transfers	102.48	
Vouchers	79,500.31	

RECEIPTS **15,499.63**

Fees:

Camping	30.00
Shelters	80.00
Programs- out of county fees	50.00
Field Guide Book for program	6.00
Canoe and Kayak	449.00
Drawing Animals	120.00
WCNAF Table Fees	215.00

Rental Properties-July

- McKinnon- Swine Creek house	350.00
- Scott - Krehlik House	350.00
- Kolar - Burton Wetlands House	350.00
- McClintock - Hyde House	350.00

Sales: Gift Cart 386.39

Citation Disbursement 60.00

Donation: Chardon United Methodist Church 20.00

Donation: Eagle America- sponsor for Transit Service 750.00

Tax Distributions-Manufactured Home Tax 694.31

Bulletproof Vest Grant 1,279.99

Local Government Funds 4,854.93

Interest earned 5,104.01

BALANCE JULY 31, 2002 **1,652,774.97**

CONSTRUCTION FUND

BALANCE JULY 1, 2002 **4,299,799.40**

EXPENDITURES **458,614.35**

Vouchers 458,614.35

RECEIPTS **6,947.63**

Interest Earned 6,398.76

Royalties: Power Gas- Farley 70.07

Royalties: Oxford Oil Co-Swine Creek 115.50

Royalties: Cedar Valley Energy-Hehmeyer 363.30

BALANCE JULY 31, 2002 **3,848,132.68**

VOUCHER RESOLUTION NO. 14-02

Miss Cope moved the adoption of the voucher resolution as amended, a copy of which is on file in the Park District office, so marked Resolution No. 14-02.

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

Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Barbara Emch was introduced to the Board as the Park District's secretary, replacing Denise Wolfe who will be joining the Naturalist Department as their secretary at The West Woods Nature Center. Samantha Mutz was also introduced to the Board as the Administrative Department's summer seasonal. Fred Dixon introduced himself to the Board. Mr. Dixon expressed concern that there was no Park action taken on correspondence he initiated concerning land acquisition. Mr. Curtin told Mr. Dixon that time-sensitive projects are taking precedence.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Tom Curtin shared with the Board correspondence he received from Chagrin Valley Camera Club. The camera club recently held it's annual picnic at Bessie Benner Metzenbaum Park. The club reported that they had a grand time and enjoyed the facilities.

Miss Cope shared with the Board correspondence she received from the Naguski family. The family was together at The West Woods for a trail dedication ceremony. Mrs. Naguski sent her appreciation to the Park District; their family had a wonderful time.

Miss Cope was also in communication with Miriam Gale, who is a trustee for the Musical Arts Association for Holden Arboretum. Ms. Gale shared with Miss Cope that Holden Arboretum is planning to construct a nature center.

Keith McClintock reported that we will be receiving a copy of a book for our library on Charles A. Dambach written by his daughter, Charlou Dambach Howald. Dambach Preserve in Burton Wetlands was named after Charles Dambach.

THE WEST WOODS

Grand Opening Update

Teresa Runion, Special Events Coordinator, updated the Board on the status of the grand opening events scheduled for Saturday, October 19, 2002. She shared with the Board a draft of the program, which featured Carol Prior's artwork on the cover, the program agenda, floor plans, as well as recognition for donations of monies, goods and services. Mrs. Runion indicated that resolutions would be presented at the grand opening from Newbury and Russell Township Trustees. Parking arrangements have been made with the American Society of Metals (ASM), as well as Wiegands Lake Park. Geauga Transit will shuttle park patrons from these parking areas to the Nature Center. Mr. McCullough questioned if there was an alternate plan in case of inclement weather. Mrs. Runion replied that they were working on an alternate plan.

Construction Update

Tom Curtin shared with the Board construction pictures of the Nature Center. Mr. Curtin reported that the project is 87% complete overall, sanitary system installation is at 95% complete, the water systems is at 40% complete. They have begun the installation of the carpeting. Mr. Curtin indicated that next week they would begin keying the doors. Mr. Curtin further reported that interior wood doors have been installed, the phone and data wiring is almost complete and that the Kraft Maid cabinets have been delivered and installed.

J. G. JOHNSON CONSTRUCTION COMPANY – CHANGE ORDER NO. 15

Mr. Curtin presented to the Board J. G. Johnson Construction Company's Change Order No. 15 in the amount of Thirteen Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars (\$13,895.00). This change order reflects site work for the storm water filter beds and the undercut at the service drive, HVAC work, carpentry trim, panels in the ductwork in the basement, and installing a smoke detector in the elevator. This change order also reflects a credit for the deletion of carpet padding in the lower level of the Nature Center.

Mr. McCullough moved to approve J. G. Johnson Construction Company's Change Order No. 15 in the amount of Thirteen Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars (\$13,895.00) as stated above.

Miss Cope seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes

Mr. Curtin indicated that the punch list for the Nature Center should be very small. August 26th is the target date for taking over the occupancy of the building.

UPDATE ON HOUSE AUCTIONS

Tom Curtin informed the Board that the opening of the bids for the house auctions would be this Friday, August 16, 2002, at 1:00 p.m. in the Cherry Room. Mr. Curtin indicated that 13 people previewed the Farley house in Parkman and 30 people previewed the Kaplan house in Claridon. Dr. Rzeszotarski asked whether we have been receiving calls on these properties. Mr. Curtin replied that we have received phone inquiries.

BIOHABITATS AGREEMENT

The Biohabitats agreement was presented to the Board for approval at the April 9, 2002, meeting. This contract was approved for Four Hundred Five Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Nine Dollars (\$405,129.00). (See Book 5, page 0478 of the Records of Proceedings of Geauga Park District Board). This figure did not include the monitoring cost. Biohabitats originally came in with a higher figure for monitoring. They did agree to a lower price and that figure was put into the contract price. Mr. McClintock shared with the Board that the actual contract was signed to include the five-year monitoring plan that goes along with the restoration project. The contract amount, including monitoring, is Four Hundred Ninety-Three Thousand Dollars (\$493,000.00). The project has been started and will be completed by June 30, 2003.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT DISPLAY

Keith McClintock reported that Sylvia Neptune and Mike Fath worked on the conservation easement display, which was set up for the Board meeting. This display would be placed in the Geauga Park District Fair building during the Geauga County Fair. The Board made suggested changes to the display for clarification.

PARK UPDATES

Dogs Off Leash -- Mr. Curtin shared with the Board that the new signs informing patrons that all dogs must be on a leash have been working well. Tom Curtin reported that the Ranger Department has written fewer citations and verbal warnings. There have also been fewer complaints from the public.

The West Woods -- Mr. Curtin updated the Board on the miscellaneous projects being done by Zeigler Earthworks at the north end of The West Woods. They have adjusted the swale to divert drainage, addressed the hillside slump and the culvert to eliminate erosion, and have bored under the road for an electrical conduit to light the east side of the Park's entrance sign. Zeigler Earthworks still needs to install erosion control matting on the hillside.

The Maple Highland Trails – North -- The Director reported that things are progressing satisfactorily. Great Lakes Construction Company has sufficient manpower and equipment on the project. A minimum amount of trees were removed along the Campton Ridge subdivision and the clearing behind the homes in the Rory Glen subdivision was performed without receiving complaints from the residents. Dr. Rzeszotarski questioned if we had received many phone calls. Tom Curtin replied that we did receive a call from an individual who lived right by the junction of the trail and the spur. This individual had constructed a lake. During the clearing, we cut across part of his property. We have since marked the properties better and have installed a silt fence by the lake.

Keith McClintock reported that he attended the Chardon Township Trustees' meeting. The Trustees informed Mr. McClintock that they have not received any complaints. Mr. McClintock also reported that on Thursday, August 15, 2002, Tim would be meeting with the Ohio EPA to make sure everything is done correctly.

Mr. Curtin informed the Board that the East Ohio gas line needs to be moved. The relocation of this line will cost Forty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$46,000.00). Mr. Curtin also informed the Board that a letter has been sent to ODOT requesting compensation. This expenditure qualifies for reimbursement from the ISTEAF funding.

The Maple Highlands Trail – South – Mr. Curtin reported that railroad right-of-way surveys are being done for several parcels. Environmental surveys are also being conducted on several properties.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

The Director reported that the Park District has been approached by two representatives of the Board of Elections concerning the use of The West Woods Nature as a voting location. The Park District would not have to store the equipment on site. Mr. Curtin recommended to the Board the use of the Nature Center for this purpose. Dr. Rzeszotarski suggested contacting the Russell Township Trustees to see if they could foresee there being any problem with the Nature Center being used as a voting location. Mr. Curtin replied that he would look into this and report back to the Board. Mr. McCullough welcomed the opportunity to utilize the Nature Center as a voting location.

RESOLUTION NO. 15-02

TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Mr. Curtin had previously explained to the Board it would cost the Park District Forty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$46,000.00) to relocate the gas pipeline along the Maple Highlands Trail – North. This expense may be eligible for reimbursement through the ISTEAF funding. Dr. Rzeszotarski questioned whether we would be reimbursed this year. Mr. Curtin replied that with the LPA Agreement with ODOT, we could possibly be reimbursed this year.

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion to approve the transfer of money from S05 (General Fund) to Q41 (Construction Fund) in the amount of Forty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$46,000.00) for the relocation of the gas pipeline along the Maple Highlands Trail – North. Mr. McCullough seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes

RESOLUTION NO. 16-02

THOMAS DENBOW

Keith McClintock received notice that Thomas Denbow has resigned from the Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc.

Mr. McCullough moved to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Thomas Denbow has served as the Executive Director of the Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc. since the spring of 1997; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Denbow has been monumental in the receipt of numerous grants for the Chagrin River Watershed; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Denbow has been a key participant in providing technical assistance to the Chagrin River Watershed members on riparian and wetland issues, floodplain management, erosion and sediment control, site planning, alternative site development, and storm water management.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Geauga Park District's Board of Park Commissioners express their sincere thanks and appreciation to Thomas Denbow for his service to the people of Geauga County and the Chagrin River Watershed, and his persistent efforts to improve the quality of precious resources with the Chagrin River Watershed.

Miss Cope seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes

Mr. McClintock indicated that a replacement for Thomas Denbow has been appointed. Keith McClintock informed the Board of the promotion of Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells as Executive Director of the Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc. A congratulatory letter will be sent to Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-02
2003 BUDGET

Mr. McCullough moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, This Board of Park Commissioners in accordance with the provisions of law has previously adopted a Tax Budget for the next succeeding fiscal year commencing January 1st, 2003; and

WHEREAS, The Budget Commission of Geauga County, Ohio, has certified its action thereon to this Board together with an estimate by the County Auditor of the rate of each tax necessary to be levied by this Board, and what part thereof is without, and what part within, the ten mill tax limitation; therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the Board of Park Commissioners of Geauga County, Ohio, that the amounts and rates, as determined by the Budget Commission in its certification, be and the same are hereby accepted; and be it further

RESOLVED, That there be and is hereby levied on the tax duplicate of said County the rate of each tax necessary to be levied within and without the ten mill limitation as follows:

Amount to be derived from levies outside 10 M. limitation:		
General Fund		\$6,590,400.00
	Maximum Rate Authorized to be Levied	County Auditor's Estimate of Yield of Levy
Current expense levy authorized by voters on May 6, 1986 -- 20 years	.70	\$857,900.00
Current expense levy authorized by voters on November 3, 1992 -- 20 years	1.00	\$1,586,800.00
Current expense levy authorized by voters on November 7, 1995 -- 18 years	1.00	\$1,843,800.00
Current expense levy authorized by voters on November 7, 2000 -- 20 years	1.00	\$2,301,900.00

and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Director of this Park Board be and he is hereby directed to certify a copy of this Resolution to the County Auditor of said County.

Miss Cope seconded the Resolution and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McCullough moved to go into Executive Session at 4:31 p.m. for the purpose of discussing land acquisitions and personnel.

Miss Cope seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes

The Board returned from Executive Session at 5:30 p.m.

LAND ACQUISITIONS

Abela Property

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion for the Director to proceed with negotiations to purchase property from Michael F. Abela, known as permanent parcel numbers 25-000200 and 25-000300 containing approximately 69.68 acres of land in Parkman Township for the price of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00).

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

Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOARD

Gerald Hornick, Foundation president, and Jon Green, Foundation member, came before the Board to discuss the revision of the Foundation's By-laws. The Board and Foundation members discussed areas of concern that need to be clarified. In an effort to move forward, Gerald Hornick would like to get together with Matt Dolan of Thrasher, Dinsmore and Dolan and Paul Newman, Foundation member and attorney, for a special meeting.

The Board took a short recess from 6:20 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 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, Director

Robert McCullough, President