

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES
March 13, 2007

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held on March 13, 2007 at the Donald W. Meyer Center, Chardon, Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. President Robert McCullough was in the Chair. Board members John Leech and Mark Rzeszotarski were present.

Employees present:

Tom Curtin, Executive Director
Keith McClintock, Deputy Director
Les Bednar, Development Officer
Brett Bellas, Maintenance Manager
Cindy Ford, Marketing Assistant
Kathy Hanes, Executive Secretary
Paige Hosier, Marketing Director
John Oros, Operations Director
Aaron Young, Planning Director

Visitors present:

Diane Ryder, *The News Herald*

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mr. McCullough asked that a separate item called "Commissioners' Time" be added to the agenda each month. The Board agreed by unanimous consent.

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 FEBRUARY 13, 2007

Mr. Leech moved to accept the minutes of February 13, 2007 as written.

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 Diane Ryder.

Geauga Park District
FINANCIAL STATEMENT MONTH ENDED
 FEBRUARY 28, 2007

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE FEBRUARY 1, 2007 **1,363,902.62**

EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES **379,948.22**

Personnel	175,078.59
Medicare	2,401.01
Dental /Hospitalization	33,641.76
PERS	24,868.39
Vouchers	143,958.47

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES **20,279.76**

General Tax Collections

Gifts & Donations 858.95

- In Memory of Mary Lou Meyer-Schwindl - (\$626.45)
- In Memory of Elton Childs - (\$175)
- Girl Scouts LEC Troop 1923 - Bio-C program (\$40)
- Corner of Art and Function - Infnitree art donation (\$17.50)

Fees

- Programs - Schools - Out-of-County 35.00
- Bid Plans 1,135.00
- Facility Utilities 550.00
- Workshops - General - Public Program 208.00

Sales

- Tapper's Treasures - MC 134.16
- Tree Tops - TWW 634.00
- Credit Card - All Facilities 568.74
- Water Vending Machine Sales - TWW 16.00

Rental Properties

- Agriculture land use - Edward/Smith Property - Marsic 582.00
- Swine Creek House - Harry 400.00
- Burton Wetlands House- Kolar 400.00
- Hyde House - McKinnon 400.00

Other Receipts

- Recycling Proceeds 22.51
- Local Government Funds 14,006.51
- Miscellaneous Receipts 328.89
- Case Western Reserve Univ - Stipend for training (\$100)
- Geauga County Juvenile Court - Restitution (\$80)
- Western Reserve Farm Co-Op - Patronage Refund 2006 (\$63.89)
- Cross - Auction sales mixer and sap tank (\$85)

ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2007 **\$ 1,004,234.16**
 * No interest posted in February by Treasurer.

LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE FEBRUARY 1, 2007 **\$3,890,843.98**

EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES		413,095.17
Vouchers	413,095.17	

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES		1,373.21
<u>Gifts & Donations</u>		

<u>Royalties</u>		
- Oxford Oil Co - Swine Creek	301.02	
- Cedar Valley Energy - Hehmeyer property	405.75	
- Great Lakes Energy - Hart property	91.68	
- Range Resource Energy - Sunnybrook property	536.76	
- Power Gas - Farley property	38.00	

ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2007 **\$ 3,479,122.02**

* No interest posted in February by Treasurer.

RETAINAGE FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE FEBRUARY 1, 2007 **200,485.73**

ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2007 **200,485.73**

* No interest posted in February by Treasurer.

VOUCHER RESOLUTION NO. 05-07

Mr. Leech asked about the wide fluctuation in voucher payments and Mr. Curtin responded that it was common during certain periods of the year. The Board questioned why interest was not posted on the February statement and Mr. McClintock indicated that no reason was provided by the County Treasurer's Office. February's interest will be included in the March financial report.

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to adopt Voucher Resolution No. 05-07 as corrected. A copy of Resolution No. 05-07 is on file in the Park District office.

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

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Mr. Curtin shared the following communications with the Board:

Darla Weinrick of Chardon used Blue Heron Lodge at The Rookery on March 2, 2007. While utilizing the facility, the lights shut off at 10:05 p.m. instead of at 11:00 p.m. and her family had to clean up in the dark. The timer has been adjusted.

Claudia Czerr of Burton thanked the Park District for alerting her to the closure of Swine Creek Lodge during the recent bout of inclement weather. She appreciated the timely manner in which she was notified.

Dale Preston recently attended the Bio-Centennial Exhibit with his family. Mr. Preston complimented Dan Best and the rest of the Park Staff for their creativity and innovativeness. Mr. Preston included a donation with his letter as an expression of his support for the exhibit.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Big Creek Gas Well

The Board reviewed a legal opinion regarding gas drilling on Park property. For the benefit of those in attendance, Dr. Rzeszotarski read a portion of the opinion, which states that the Park “must establish a sufficiently defined purpose for such action that is consistent with the statutory objective of conserving natural resources”. A discussion ensued and the Board agreed that, generally, gas well drilling on park lands would not be consistent with furthering the Park’s goal of conserving natural resources.

Cutter Oil and Exploration, Inc.

Cutter Oil and Exploration, Inc. is in the process of obtaining permits for drilling on the Bessie Benner Metzenbaum Park property. Dr. Rzeszotarski suggested that Mr. Curtin explore the gas and well drilling policies of other park districts before acting upon the requests of Cutter Oil and the well for Big Creek Park.

Hart Property Deed Restriction

The deed restriction will state that the subject parcel shall only be used for the purposes of a public park.

Mr. McCullough moved to approve a deed restriction on the Hart Property.

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

Mr. McCullough signed the Deed Restriction on behalf of the Board.

PARK UPDATE

Bass Lake Preserve and Beartown Reservation

Construction contracts have been submitted and, once approved, notices will be sent out to residents alerting them regarding construction schedules in their neighborhood.

Frohring Meadows

Danco General Contracting has been awarded the contract. Prior to the start of any construction, neighbors will be notified.

Hyde Dam Improvements

A meeting has been scheduled with Fultech Consulting who was awarded the contract for engineering services for Hyde Dam.

Maple Highlands Trail

Punch list work is being coordinated with contractors and the target completion date is August 1, 2007.

Sunnybrook Preserve

The Planning Department is drafting the master plan concept for the property.

Observatory Park

The Planning Department is in the process of developing site features.

Walter C. Best Preserve

The Park District is working collaboratively with Fairmount Minerals to develop a plan to expand the trail.

Planning Department

Twenty-eight resumes have been reviewed for the Park Planner position and interviewing will begin in April. A student intern from Auburn Career Center will continue his internship through May 25, 2007.

Operations Report

The concrete walkway at the Donald W. Meyer Center will be replaced this summer.

Management Conference

Mr. Curtin asked for Board approval to attend a Management Seminar in Cleveland on May 15, 2007. The Board agreed by unanimous consent.

Legislative Update

The Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) is monitoring a bill in Congress that limits the use of eminent domain by any state entity, including park boards. Mr. Curtin and Mr. McClintock will be attending the OPRA Advocacy Day in Columbus on March 14, 2007 and will meet with Senator Timothy Grendell and Representative Mathew Dolan to discuss the issue.

Art Takes a Bough

The Geauga Council for Arts and Culture is sponsoring a community holiday art contest featuring handmade holiday ornaments by regional artisans. These ornaments will be displayed in four locations across Geauga County, including The West Woods Nature Center. An event featuring a holiday music performance, refreshments and final bidding in a silent auction for the ornaments is being planned for Tuesday, December 4, 2007 at Donald W. Meyer Center. The Park District will receive twenty-five percent (25%) of the proceeds from the auction.

Resolutions of Recognition

Mr. Curtin read a resolution honoring Mary Lou Meyer-Schwindl for her 42 years of devoted volunteer time, her friendship and her unwavering dedication to Geauga Park District. In addition, a resolution recognizing Sam Speck, Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, was read by Mr. Curtin. The Board expressed their appreciation and approved the Resolutions of Recognition by unanimous consent.

Bio-Centennial Exhibit

The Bio-Centennial Exhibit will be dismantled at the end of March. Mr. Leech suggested that Geauga Park District be recognized in some form by the agencies receiving exhibit materials.

Maple Highlands Trail, Central and Mountain Run Station

The dedication of Maple Highlands Trail and Mountain Run Station is scheduled for Saturday, September 15, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.

United States Department of Agriculture Wetland Reserve Program

An application for placing a Wetland Reserve Program easement on the Farley and Abela properties in Parkman has been submitted to the United States Department of Agriculture.

“Walk in the Park” Benefit

A benefit hosted by members of the Corrigan family is scheduled for May 19, 2007 at The West Woods. The Corrigans were killed in an automobile accident last year and were ardent supporters of the Park system. The benefit is open to the public and proceeds will benefit the Naturescopes program.

Mountain Run Station

Plans for the informational kiosk at Mountain Run were reviewed.

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT FOUNDATION REPORT

The retreat held in January was productive and informative, with emphasis on the roles and responsibilities of board members. Subcommittee positions were filled for the year and the recruitment of new trustees is continuing. The trustees hope to engage new donors and friends throughout the year.

The Board took a break from 5:53 p.m. to 6:14 p.m. to participate in a meeting of the Geauga Park District Endowment Funds Trustees.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Board Member to Audit Committee

Dr. Rzeszotarski attended the Audit Committee meeting, along with members Tom Basista and Laurie Hildebrand. The committee was provided with a matrix from the state auditor which provides guidance on the roles and responsibilities of Audit Committees. Dr. Rzeszotarski indicated that he would be willing to continue his participation on the committee for another year. A charter will be formalized at the next meeting of the Audit Committee, which is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on May 30, 2007 at The West Woods Nature Center.

Mr. McCullough made a motion to appoint Dr. Rzeszotarski, Tom Basista and Laurie Hildebrand as members of the Audit Committee.

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

2006 Hunting Report

John Oros, Operations and Natural Resource Director, presented the 2006 Hunting Summary. A total of 35 deer were harvested: 14 from Bass Lake, 5 from Becvar, 5 from Ellerin, 8 from Observatory Park, and 3 from Sunnybrook Preserve. The total cost of the 2006 Deer Management Program was \$4,587.95, which includes staff hours, mailings and supplies. Aerial infrared surveys will be conducted in May by Larry Davis Aviation to conduct deer counts on all parks hunted in 2006 and 2007. Next year, a survey from each hunter will be required to ensure that accurate information is being submitted. The Board asked whether the 35 deer harvested was the number that was anticipated and Mr. Oros felt it was comparable with other parks utilizing deer management programs.

Bass Lake Preserve Contract Construction Award

Mr. Curtin recommended that Clemson Excavating be awarded a contract for upgrades at Bass Lake Preserve. Of the five companies submitting proposals, Clemson’s bid of \$54,360.00 was the lowest.

Mr. McCullough made a motion to award the contract for excavation at Bass Lake Preserve to Clemson Excavating in the amount of \$54,360.00.

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

Beartown Lakes Reservation Construction Contract Award

Mr. Curtin recommended that the Board accept the contract from Northeast Ohio Trenching Service in the amount of \$74,800.00 for corrective repairs to the Beartown Lakes Dam and other repairs to park infrastructure.

Mr. Leech moved to approve the Northeast Ohio Trenching contract award for Beartown Lakes Reservation in the amount of \$74,800.00.

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

Mountain Run Station, Phase II

Mr. Curtin presented the contract from Ohio Paving and Construction of Willoughby for construction services for Mountain Run Station, Phase II. The total contract award is \$331,309.28.

Mr. McCullough moved to approve the Mountain Run Construction contract award for Ohio Paving and Construction in the amount of \$331,309.28.

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

Declaration of Surplus Property

The Board reviewed the list of surplus property slated for the Geauga County auction. The list of items is available in the Park office.

Mr. Leech moved to declare the property as surplus and send the items to auction.

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

Naming Options for Observatory Park

A summary of naming options for Observatory Park was given to the Board for their review prior to the meeting. Donations and applicable naming rights include:

Park	\$ 750,000
Public Building	300,000
Archaeoastronomy Features	75,000
Educational Features (weather, meteorology, seismology)	20,000
Entry Plaza Garden	10,000
Outdoor Telescope Pad	2,500
Star Gallery	1,000
	or more

A discussion was had regarding the naming of specific learning areas as opposed to naming the entire Park. No decision was reached. To further define the archaeoastronomy features, Mr. Curtin will be meeting with Professor R. Earle Luck of the Department of Astronomy at Case Western Reserve University.

Hours of Operation, Easter Sunday

Mr. Curtin recommended that The West Woods Nature Center and Donald W. Meyer Center be open from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Easter Sunday, April 8, 2007. Mr. McCullough asked if the staff would be paid for eight hours and Mr. Curtin answered in the affirmative.

Mr. McCullough made a motion to set the hours of operation for Easter Sunday at The West Woods and Donald W. Meyer Center from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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

First Energy Transmission Lines

Mr. Curtin distributed maps of properties adjacent to Observatory Park property that would be impacted by one of the proposed locations of transmission lines. First Energy is proposing that wood poles (80-100 feet tall with four lines on each pole) be placed two feet outside the road right of way, impacting thirty feet adjacent to the right of way along Clay Street. Dr. Rzeszotarski stated that the transmission lines would be antagonistic to park purposes and asked Mr. Curtin to keep the Board apprised of the situation. Mr. Curtin advised the Board that First Energy will be issuing a report in the next three to five months. The Board agreed that a position statement should be issued by the Park District subsequent to the receipt of the report from First Energy.

Purchase of New Vehicles

The board approved a recommendation by Mr. Curtin to purchase a Ford F-450 and a Ford F-350 from Valley Ford. The total purchase price is \$55,025. In addition, a dump bed would be purchased from Best Truck in the amount of \$22,970.

Mr. McCullough made a motion to approve the purchase of two trucks from Valley Ford and a dump bed from Best Truck.

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

Newsletter Contract

A recommendation was made to accept a contract from Duke Printing in the amount of \$24,000 for mailing of the Park newsletter. The cost for this year's mailing will be lower because Duke will be mailing the newsletter from Cleveland and this will save the Park District approximately .03 per piece in postage.

Mr. Leech made a motion to approve the contract from Duke Printing in the amount of \$24,000 for mailing the newsletter.

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

September Board Meeting Date Change

Due to a scheduling conflict, the September Board meeting was changed to September 18, 2007.

Commissioners' Time

Mr. Leech commended Mr. McCullough and Mr. Curtin on the fine presentations given at the Mark Sperry Dedication on March 11, 2007 at Swine Creek Reservation. He also commented that the parking and traffic were handled expertly. The Dedication was very well attended.

Mr. McCullough shared with those present a book written by Wangari Maathai. Ms. Maathai is the founder of the Green Tree Movement, an organization which promotes the planting of indigenous trees in Kenya. Mr. McCullough suggested that an article be placed in the newsletter or possibly a picture at The West Woods Nature Center highlighting the work of the organization.

Mr. McCullough distributed historical maps to the Board depicting various Park properties during the 1800s.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McCullough moved to go into Executive Session at 6:20 p.m. for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and for personnel to discuss the discipline or dismissal of an employee.

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

The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:36 p.m.

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 February 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 7:50 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, Executive Director

Robert McCullough, President

