

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT  
MINUTES  
MARCH 11, 2003

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held on March 11, 2003, 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, Jerry Holzheimer, Paige Hosier, and Eileen Smith. Guests present were: Jim Kish, Al Klauss, and Matt Setzekorn.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to accept the agenda as presented for the meeting.  
Mr. McCullough seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

**ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved that the minutes of February 3, 2003, be approved as presented.  
Mr. McCullough seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

Miss Cope moved that the minutes of February 11, 2003, be approved as amended.  
Dr. Rzeszotarski seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
FOR THE MONTH ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2003**

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		
<b>BALANCE FEB 1, 2003</b>		<b>1,144,157.08</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>246,121.86</b>
Personnel	133,089.91	
Medicare	1,428.33	
Dental /Hospitalization	30,736.49	
PBX-December & January	370.12	
Ohio PERS	18,492.55	
Vouchers	62,004.46	
 <b>RECEIPTS</b>		 <b>21,001.74</b>
Fees:		
Rookery Heat	140.00	
Knotless Necklace	30.00	

Owl Box Workshop	108.00	
Out of County Program Fees	48.00	
Copies of Park Information	6.90	
Rental Properties-February		
- McKinnon- Swine Creek house	350.00	
- Scott - Krehlik House	350.00	
- Kolar - Burton Wetlands House	350.00	
- McClintock - Hyde House	350.00	
Sales: Nature Stores	984.21	
Sponsorship: Outdoor Writers' Dinner-Marc's	250.00	
Sponsorship: Outdoor Writers' Dinner-Red Maple Inn	100.00	
Sponsorship: Outdoor Writers' Dinner-Kinetico	500.00	
Western Res Farm Co-op- Annual Dividend	58.90	
Local Government Funds	14,006.51	
Interest earned- December & January	3,369.22	
<b>BALANCE FEB 28, 2003</b>		<b>919,036.96</b>

**CONSTRUCTION FUND**

**BALANCE FEB 1, 2003** **2,755,812.54**

**EXPENDITURES** **476,669.79**

Vouchers 476,669.79

**RECEIPTS** **90,473.08**

Interest Earned-December & January 9,608.28

Royalties: Oxford Oil - Ford Well 315.48

Royalties: Cedar Valley Energy-Hehmeyer 173.37

Royalties: Farley Property 40.41

Refund: Gea Title Agency –  
Closing Cost Bass Lake 20,356.76

Auction of Surplus Property-  
Land to Kirk's (Farley Property) 59,978.78

**BALANCE FEB 28, 2003** **2,369,615.83**

**VOUCHER RESOLUTION NO. 05-03**

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved the adoption of the voucher resolution, a copy of which is on file in the Park District office, so marked Resolution No. 05-03.

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

Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

**COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

Mr. McCullough shared with the Board that on a recent visit to The West Woods Nature Center, a former student of Mr. McCullough's left a note for him reflecting favorable comments on The West Woods Nature Center.

**TREE TAPPING**

Mr. McCullough questioned the Director as to whether the Park had started to tap the trees. Mr. Curtin replied that over 400 buckets have been placed in the sugar bush. Because of the unusually cold winter weather, Geauga Park District had delayed tapping the trees for maple syrup. The Park had a small amount of sap running last week and it is hopeful, weather permitting, that the Park would have much heavier flows of sap by the end of the week.

### **ALCOHOL IN THE SHELTERS**

Tom Curtin shared with the Board that the discussion of alcohol in parks was brought up at the OPRA (Ohio Parks and Recreation Association) conference. Mr. Curtin shared that we were in the minority as far as allowing alcohol in the park. Mr. Curtin will be revisiting liability issues with the Park's legal counsel.

### **BIG CREEK MAINTENANCE SHOP AND RANGER GARAGE**

Tom Curtin updated the Board on the progress of the construction. The weather conditions have slowed progress on these projects. With reference to the maintenance shop project, we have had several unusual incidents. Over the last three days, the Lakeland Management Inc. crew has managed to sever the electric line, water line, phone line, and gas line. A construction meeting has been scheduled for tomorrow morning with the Director, Tim Kallay, Jerry Holzheimer, the construction company, and the architect to discuss the difficulties the Park is experiencing. Jerry Holzheimer is reviewing fill material with the soil engineer to confirm suitability for filling the former sanitary system near the proposed ranger garage.

### **OUTDOOR WRITERS' CONFERENCE**

Paige Hosier gave the Board background information concerning the Outdoor Writers' Conference. This event is held annually. We were asked by Jeff Fischcorn of The News Herald to host this event at The West Woods Nature Center on April 25, 2003. Ms. Hosier reported that she has received sponsorship and food donations to cover the expense of the conference. She extended an invitation to the Board and their spouses to attend this conference. Ms. Hosier requested permission to serve alcohol at this event. The Board approved this request.

### **THE WEST WOODS**

#### **Geothermal System**

Jerry Holzheimer, Project Manager, introduced Jim Kish and Matt Setzekorn, who are engineers from Engineering Elements, and Al Klauss, project manager from Paskevich & Associates. Mr. Kish gave the Board an overview on how the geothermal system was to work at The West Woods Nature Center. Mr. McCullough questioned Mr. Kish as to why the system was not functioning properly. The basis of the problem may stem from erroneous information given to Engineering Elements, which lead them to delete glycol (antifreeze) from the geothermal system. Glycol will be added to the system in an attempt to resolve the problem.

There was discussion as to whether there is documentation that a credit was given to Geauga Park District on removing the glycol from the system. Jerry Holzheimer will address this concern with J. G. Johnson Construction Company.

#### **Roof Leaks**

The West Woods Nature Center has been experiencing a problem with the roof leaking due to ice build up and backing up of water beyond the ice guard limits. Jerry Holzheimer, Al Klauss, and J. G. Johnson Construction Company are working on the resolution of this problem. It was brought to the Board's attention that the copula was "all enclosed" with dry wall. It appeared that there was not enough venting. There was discussion as to possible solutions: add more insulation, use heat cables in areas with ice damming, tearing off the roof, and put the ice guard higher.

Mr. McCullough questioned Mr. Klauss concerning the damage at the nature store. Mr. Klauss indicated that they could not determine what caused the damage. Mr. Klauss indicated that J. G. Johnson Construction Company would repair the damage as quickly as possible.

## **RESEARCH GRANT**

In the Board packet, the Board received a copy of a report on *Macroinvertebrate Fauna of Spring Brook* authored by Paul Pira. Mr. Pira was awarded a research grant by Geauga Park District. Mr. McCullough expressed concern with the title of the report and that the information referred to only one site instead of two. Dr. Rzeszotarski stated that the report contained good information, but would like Jay Abercrombie, Biologist, to assess the report as to the criteria set forth in the original proposal.

## **PARK UPDATES**

### **Surveys and Studies**

Mr. Curtin informed the Board that the Park is moving along with several surveys. We are waiting for the Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) on the Leech and Taylor-Wells properties.

### **The Maple Highlands Trail – North**

Mr. Curtin reported that Tim Kallay, Contract and Planning Administrator, and Pat Schwan of Richland Engineering, Ltd., Great Lakes Construction, and ODOT representatives would be meeting to review the “extras” claimed by the contractor. It is Mr. Kallay’s opinion that these “extras” were part of the project and not “add-ons.”

A contract has been sent to Richland Engineering for the north parking area at Tupelo Pond.

ODOT has indicated that they will seek reimbursement for the high-pressure gas line relocation expenditure. They would like the Park District to pay for this expenditure. Mr. Curtin indicated that we might be able to be reimbursed with the Federal money that was set aside for this project, as it would qualify as a legitimate right-of-way expense.

### **The Maple Highlands Trail – Central**

Park staff will be meeting with Pat Schwan of Richland Engineering, Ltd. to review bridge alternatives. We will be constructing the bridge first and then the construction of the actual trail in 2004. Jay Abercrombie, Biologist, will be working on an environmental study of this section.

## **TELESCOPE PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

Mr. Curtin shared with the Board that the Chagrin Valley Astrological Society has approached the Park District with the opportunity to participate in a joint partnership with them and Lake Metroparks on building an observatory. Mr. Curtin explained that one of the Society’s members passed away and his widow would like to donate his telescope, which is 11 foot long and 37 inches in diameter. The telescope would have to be refurbished. The Society has the capability of upgrading this telescope. The Society indicated that they would also help with financial responsibility. The Society has also indicated their desire to help us find funds for an observatory. Mr. Curtin shared his excitement about the acquisition of such a telescope, which would enhance our astrological programs and benefit the public. Mr. Curtin will be arranging a meeting to discuss this project further.

## **TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND**

### **PUBLIC PRESENTATION AT THE WEST WOODS**

The Trust for Public Land Ohio office will be hosting a public presentation at The West Woods on May 16<sup>th</sup>, which will be a free program open to the public. The guest speaker will be Peter Forbes, who will be giving a presentation with reference to land and people. Mr. Forbes will be sharing his conservation message to northeast Ohio. Prior to the presentation, there will be a private reception for approximately 40 people. The Trust for Public Land would like to serve alcoholic beverages. The Board approved this request.

## **VEHICLE OPERATION POLICY**

Tom Curtin informed the Board that Geauga Park District is currently working with David Kessler of Dublin Management Inc. on a vehicle operation policy, which would spell out what would happen if you have points on your driver's license. Mr. Curtin indicated that the current policy does not spell out the procedural steps that would be taken should an employee have too many points on his license. Miss Cope expressed concern as to policing staff's personal life if it did not affect their job performance for the Park. Dr. Rzeszotarski expressed concern if there is a consistent habitual problem.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. McCullough move to go into Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing land acquisitions.

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

Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:20 p.m.

**LAND ACQUISITION**

Mr. McCullough moved to authorize the Director to proceed with land acquisition negotiations in Claridon Township.

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

Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

**RANGER CONTRACT**

Mr. Curtin presented to the Board for their approval and adoption, the Ranger Union Contract, which will be effective for a three-year period, beginning January 1, 2003, to September 3, 2005.

Miss Cope moved to adopt the Ranger Union Contract referred to above.

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

Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

**SALARY SURVEY**

Mr. Curtin informed the Board that they have not made a final selection as to who would be awarded the salary survey contract. Mr. Curtin asked the Board to approve proceeding with the hiring of a salary survey consultant and entering into a contract pending further investigation.

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to approve proceeding with the hiring of a salary survey consultant and entering into a contract pending further investigation.

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

Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

**MIDDLEFIELD VILLAGE**

Tom Curtin updated the Board that the Park is close to entering into a perpetual use agreement with the Village of Middlefield concerning the railroad right-of-way. Said agreement would contain an “out” should the agreement become unlivable. A year’s written notice would have to be given. Middlefield Village would have to agree to sell Geauga Park District the perpetual use agreement for a reasonable sum of money.

**AMICUS BRIEF**

Tom Curtin received an e-mail from Larry Peck who works with John O’Meara. Mr. Peck shared information that Greene, Clark, and Madison counties are involved in a suit challenging eminent domain. The Complaint alleges eminent domain on land purchases and land gifts would only apply if the parks were created before 1920. Mr. Peck inquired whether Geauga Park District would be interested in joining in on filing an Amicus Brief. Mr. Curtin indicated that we would participate. The cost for filing this brief would vary depending on how many parks participated. Mr. Curtin estimated the total expense would not exceed \$5,000.00. Geauga Park District would be responsible for only a percentage of this expense. The Board approved the Park’s participation in this Amicus Brief.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

Departmental reports from the Supervisors were submitted for the month of February 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 7:45 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