

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
MARCH 13, 2001

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District was held March 13, 2001, at the Park District office, Chardon, Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. President Robert McCullough was in the chair. Board members present were Betty Cope and Mark Rzeszotarski. Employees present were Tom Curtin, Keith McClintock, Paige Hosier, Eileen Smith and Denise Weisbarth. Guest present was Edna Davis.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved that the minutes of February 13, 2001, be approved as amended. Miss Cope seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Tom Curtin introduced to the Board the newest member of the Ranger Department, the Park District's K-9 Unit, *Sammy*. Ranger Denise Weisbarth updated the Board on the medical and training history of *Sammy*.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE MONTH ENDED FEBURARY 28, 2001**

GENERAL FUND		
BALANCE FEBRUARY 1, 2001		902,040.11
EXPENDITURES		208,760.08
Personnel	117,313.07	
Medicare	1,400.93	
Hospitalization -February	16,552.25	
PBX	185.06	
Vouchers -February/March	65,431.13	
PERS-4th Quarter 2000	7,877.64	
RECEIPTS		19,956.36
Fees:		
Camping Fees	30.00	
Owl Workshop	30.00	
Gourd Workshop	72.00	
Sap Bucket Painting Workshop	25.00	
Rental Properties		
- McKinnon- Swine Creek house-February	350.00	
- McClintock - Hyde House - February	350.00	
- Scott - Krehlik House - February	350.00	

- Kolar - Burton Wetlands House February	350.00	
Postage fees	40.00	
Ohio Horseman's Council - plat book	10.00	
Holzheimer- jury duty fee	25.00	
Chardon Muni Court-Citation Disbursement	9.00	
Local Government Funds	12,125.04	
Interest earned	6,190.32	
BALANCE FEBRUARY 28, 2001		713,236.39

CONSTRUCTION FUND

BALANCE FEBRUARY 1, 2001 **3,925,894.36**

EXPENDITURES **73,303.55**

Vouchers - February/March 73,303.55

BALANCE FEBRUARY 1, 2001

RECEIPTS **19,819.69**

Interest Earned 19,462.70

Oxford Oil Co - Royalties 356.99

BALANCE FEBRUARY 28, 2001 **3,872,410.50**

PARK DEBT FUND

BALANCE FEBRUARY 1, 2001 **2,662.78**

EXPENDITURES **0.00**

RECEIPTS **289.77**

Interest Earned 289.77

BALANCE FEBRUARY 28, 2001 **2,952.55**

VOUCHER RESOLUTION 06-01

Miss Cope moved the adoption of the voucher resolution, a copy of which is on file in the Park District Board office so marked Resolution No. 06-01.

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

Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

There were no communications reported to the Board.

THE WEST WOODS

Paige Hosier updated the Board on the progress of the Capital Campaign for The West Woods. Ms. Hosier reported that the current total of pledges and donations was \$470,339.41. Paige Hosier also reported that 42 pavers have been sold (\$4,200) and the membership total was \$870.00. Ms. Hosier also reported that in the next publication of the Treeline Telegraph, there would be a campaign newsletter insert.

Tom Curtin updated the Board on the status of the award of the contract for The West Woods. Mr. Curtin reported that Tim Kallay was checking references and has questions that need to be answered from Tony Paskevich concerning this project before Mr. Kallay can make a recommendation. Mr. Curtin also stated that Mr. Kallay should be finished with his reference checking in several days and that a Special Board Meeting would be called to award the contract.

**MEYER CENTER CONSTRUCTION
CHANGE ORDER NO. TWO**

Mr. Curtin presented to the Board A. H. Stowe Construction Company’s Change Order No. Two in the amount of \$560.00. Mr. Curtin explained to the Board that the original specifications for the building called for a single pane of glass for the exterior doors. Mr. Curtin would like to upgrade this glass to provide insulated glass for the two exterior doors.

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion to approve A. H. Stowe Construction Company’s Change Order No. Two in the amount of \$560.00.

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

Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes

REGIONAL OPEN SPACE UPDATE

At the November 2000 Board meeting, Mr. Curtin shared with the Board a draft of a brochure that would be distributed to the media, political entities and businessmen. Tom Curtin distributed to the Board a second draft of this brochure. Mr. Curtin stated that further changes are needed to make this publication more balanced.

FAIR DISPLAY UPDATE

The Director apprised the Board that the Fair Committee is well underway planning the display at the Park building located at the Great Geauga County Fairgrounds. Mr. Curtin informed the Board that Teresa Runion is heading up this committee. The Fair display will focus on the 40th Anniversary theme: *For Our Land, For Our People, For Our Future*. The display will reflect the four quadrants of the County: North – Big Creek, Whitlam Woods, Best Preserve, Woodin Road; South – Beartown Lakes Reservation, Burton Wetlands, Eldon Russell Park; East – Swine Creek, Headwaters; and West – Bessie Benner Metzbaum Park, The Rookery, The West Woods, Frohring Meadows. The Fair Committee is also looking into rental of a 25’ inflatable owl to be placed outside the Fair building. There will also be a large banner attached to the roof of the building, which will state “Geauga Park District.”

PARK UPDATES

Meyer Center -- The Director updated the Board on the Meyer Center expansion. The general contractors are 52% complete; HVAC 75% complete, electrical 70% complete and the security and fire system is 70% complete. Mr. Curtin also reported that they are preparing to paint the interior walls and have removed carpeting in the original part of the building. Weather dependent, the contractors are preparing masonry samples and staining the lower level of the exterior siding. Dr. Rzeszotarski questioned the target completion date. Tom Curtin responded that he has not heard that the completion date would be altered.

Swine Creek -- Keith McClintock informed the Board that the sugaring season is going well at Swine Creek. To date, the Park District has made 104 gallons of syrup. The first day the Park collected sap was more than what they produced last year all season.

The Deputy Director also shared with the Board that the Maintenance and the Contract and Planning Departments would be looking at the North and South Maintenance facilities to assess their expansion needs.

Surveys/Reports -- Tom Curtin distributed to the Board an *Aerial Infrared Deer Count Report*. This report indicated the number count of deer both inside and outside the Park’s facilities. The

purpose of this survey is to gather baseline data. The Park can begin to develop a file on management issues to make qualified decisions on a deer management policy.

The Board also received a report from John Oros concerning *The History of Geauga Park District Fisheries Management*. The purpose of this report was to share with the Board the goal of the natural resource management personnel to manage all aquatic systems to benefit the entire Geauga Park District ecosystem.

Miss Cope brought to the attention of the Board several articles concerning coyotes. After discussion, the Board felt that it would be appropriate to have educational information concerning coyotes at the Fair booth this year. The Board also discussed the possibility of doing a program jointly with the Ohio Division of Wildlife at the Fair. Dr. Rzeszutowski stated he felt such a program would provide an educational piece so that common sense can prevail.

Mr. Curtin updated the Board on the Geauga County Prosecutor's request for an Opinion from the Attorney General's office regarding zoning regulations. Mr. Curtin provided the Board with a copy of Opinion 2001-002, rendered on March 9, 2001. Said Opinion was written in support of park district boards with reference to zoning regulations.

The Rookery -- Keith McClintock updated the Board on the suggested spring toys to be installed at The Rookery. Mr. McClintock further reported that this type of playground equipment fits our current budget. Keith McClintock asked for the Board's opinion on whether this equipment would suffice or whether we should wait. Miss Cope felt that these spring toys were intrusive. She felt the toys should be more nature-related. Mr. McCullough suggested that possibly the more subdued colors would be better. Dr. Rzeszutowski suggested that the Maintenance Department and James Ziemnik get together to work out an overall plan for equipment, adding to the play area piece by piece. Keith McClintock shared that the spring toys target the young age group that come into the Park. Mr. McCullough stated that the playground at Lakeside is well received. The Board was in agreement that the Park should provide a playground at The Rookery. This playground should be designed and implemented. The Board also discussed safety precautions of the spring toys, as well as the possibility of screening in the area to deter children from running into the parking lot.

Mr. Curtin updated the Board on the heat source installed at The Rookery. The location of the tank is not obtrusive, as it is situated behind the building on the west side. The gas is propane. There will be consideration for possible screening around the tank. The gas line is underground. Mr. McCullough asked how the heat was controlled. Mr. Curtin responded that it is set on a timer with a thermostat control. There was Board discussion on the possibility of a fee being assessed to those individuals requesting heat during their reservation.

Tom Curtin also reported on The West Woods trail names. The trail by the wetland area would be called *Discovery Trail* and the link from the small parking lot to the Nature Center would be called *Ansel's Cave Trail Link*. The Director further reported that the trail that ASM is sponsoring has yet to be named.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Keith McClintock had provided to the Board in their packet a draft copy of a joint Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Geauga County Board of Commissioners, the Geauga Park District and the Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District regarding the Clean Ohio Fund. Keith McClintock explained to the Board that the purpose of this memorandum is to establish an agreement among said parties to collaborate, whenever possible, on funding for agricultural and open space preservation. Dr. Rzeszutowski questioned whether legal counsel should look at this Memorandum. Tom Curtin responded that they could.

APPOINTMENT SCHEDULE—FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

Tom Curtin also provided in the Board packet a proposed schedule for the appointment of Foundation trustees. The Board felt this scheduled was too structured. The Board felt that they need some type of mechanism to review candidates before the October meeting. They were looking for a tool that would implement the appointment of trustees in a timely manner, giving them the opportunity to look at the candidates and suggest additional candidates. The proposed schedule will be revised.

**CHAGRIN RIVER LAND CONSERVANCY'S
BASS LAKE ACQUISITION CAMPAIGN
RESOLUTION NO. 07-01**

Keith McClintock met with Bill Hudson and Rich Cochran of the Chagrin River Land Conservancy to discuss the potential purchase of Bass Lake by Chagrin River Land Conservancy. Chagrin River Land Conservancy has requested a resolution of support stating that the Bass Lake Basin is a Geauga Park District top priority in the Chagrin River Watershed and one of the most ecologically important areas in Northeast Ohio. Mr. McClintock recommended the Board's support of this resolution.

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to support the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Bass Lake Basin is a large contiguous block of land with extraordinary scenic, cultural, historic and natural heritage values; and

WHEREAS, the Bass Lake Basin houses a diverse assemblage of habitats, including over 300 acres of high-quality wetlands, mixed deciduous hardwoods, successional forest, and floodplain areas; and

WHEREAS, the Bass Lake Basin provides watershed protection elements, including ground water recharge and purification, storm water management, and flood water attenuation functions; and

WHEREAS, the Bass Lake Basin is a critical migratory waterfowl resting and feeding area and an exceptional habitat for migrating songbirds; and

WHEREAS, the Bass Lake Basin houses at least five State-listed endangered species.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Geauga Park District Board of Commissioners supports the Chagrin River Land Conservancy's efforts to purchase and protect the Bass Lake Basin, and have identified preservation of the Bass Lake Basin as a top priority in the Chagrin River watershed and one of the most ecologically important areas in Northeast Ohio.

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

Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes

BOARD RETREAT

Mr. Curtin expressed his desire to host a Board Retreat on April 28, 2001, from 9:00 a.m. until Noon, the purpose of which would be to discuss the future direction of the Park, the budget, land acquisitions and the Foundation. Dr. Rzeszotarski expressed the need for Board retreats on a quarterly basis. Mr. Curtin was directed by the Board to set up a location for the April 28th Board Retreat.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McCullough made a motion to go into executive session at 4:55 p.m. for the purpose of discussing land acquisitions and personnel.

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

Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes

The Board returned from Executive Session at 5:55 p.m.

LAND ACQUISITIONS

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion for the Director to proceed with negotiations regarding property in Bainbridge Township.

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

Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes

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 packet prior to the Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 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

Robert McCullough