

-GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES
November 14, 2006

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held on November 14, 2006 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 member Betty Cope was present.

Employees present were:

Tom Curtin, Executive Director
Keith McClintock, Deputy Director
Brett Bellas, Park Manager
Sherry Bosworth, Business Affairs Director
Barb Emch, Executive Secretary
Joel Firem, Ranger
Tami Gingrich, Field Naturalist
John Hayhurst, Lt. Ranger
Paige Hosier, Marketing Director
Larry McKinnon, Ranger
Rod Sharpnack, Project Manager
Dennis Sloan, Ranger
Robert Urban, Chief Ranger

Visitors Present:

Kathy Hanes
Sofie Horvath
Glenn Miller, *The Maple Leaf*
Diane Ryder, *The News Herald*
Denver Sallee
Diane Sloan
Jeff Suszynski

Gauga Park District Foundation Representative: Jay Giles

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Miss Cope moved to accept the revised agenda 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	Absent

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 10, 2006

Miss Cope moved to accept the minutes of October 10, 2006 as written.

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	Absent

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 25, 2006

Miss Cope moved to accept the minutes of October 25, 2006 as written.

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	Absent

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Curtin acknowledged the presence of Sofie Horvath, Denver Sallee, Glenn Miller, Jeff Suszynski and Diane Sloan.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE MONTH ENDING
OCTOBER 31, 2006**

GENERAL FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE OCTOBER 1, 2006 **\$3,669,727.57**

EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES **1,929,758.72**

Personnel	164,614.34
Medicare	2,252.53
Dental /Hospitalization	34,819.35
PERS	22,916.27
Transfer to Land Improvement Fund	1,600,000.00
Vouchers	105,156.23

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES

450,687.91

General Tax Collections

- Personal Property Tax 421,525.27

Investment Income 16,410.55

Gifts & Donations 2,080.00

- GPD Volunteers - Training donation (\$250)
- Nature Scopes - Pearce (\$1,000)
- In memory of Imhoff - Matlock (\$500)
- In memory of Meyer - Post (\$80)
- Program donation - Hambden Congregational Church (\$50)
- TWW 2nd Invitational Run - Gerstein (\$200)

Fees

- Camping 30.00
- Shelters 40.00
- Facility Utilities 535.00
- Workshops - General - Public Program 105.00
- Programs - General - Public Program 80.00

Sales

- Tapper's Treasures-MC 191.68
- Tree Tops - TWW 615.41
- Credit Card - All

Facilities 546.58

- Water Vending Machine Sales - TWW 16.00

Rental Properties

- Swine Creek house - Harry 400.00
- Burton Wetlands House- Kolar 400.00
- Hyde House- McKinnon 400.00

Other Receipts

Citation Disbursement 100.00

Recycling Proceeds 31.54

- Exempt parcel tax refund 182.61

Local Government Funds 6,940.27

Miscellaneous Receipts 58.00

- Ohio Maple Producers - Syrup entry proceeds (\$58)
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2006 **\$2,190,656.76**

LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE OCTOBER 1, 2006 **\$2,554,779.97**
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES **67,594.74**

Vouchers 67,594.74

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES **1,611,603.28**

Investment Income 11,120.22

Transfer from General Fund 1,600,000.00

Royalties

- Oxford Oil Co - Swine Creek 195.95

- Cedar Valley Energy - Hehmeyer property 287.11

ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2006 **\$ 4,098,788.51**

RETAINAGE FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE OCTOBER 1, 2006 **197,010.75**

EXPENDITURES **0.00**

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES **856.10**

Investment Income 856.10

ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2006 **\$197,866.85**

VOUCHER RESOLUTION NO. 24-06

Mr. McCullough moved the adoption of the voucher resolution, a copy of which is on file in the Park District office, so marked Resolution No. 24-06.

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

Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Absent

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Mr. Curtin read a letter from Sandy Oberle, who is the widow of Norman Oberle, the builder of the telescope that will reside in the observatory planned for the Montville Township property. Mrs. Oberle wrote in thanks of the enjoyable evening she had at the recent Night Vision fundraiser for the Observatory Park. She was very appreciative of the plans for the complex and for the lasting tribute it will provide to her husband's dedication to amateur astronomy.

Comments were read from patrons who have recently used Park District facilities. Two patrons were very pleased with their camping experience at Big Creek Park and were appreciative of the shelter and firewood that was available. Recent patrons of the Great Blue Heron Lodge at The Rookery complimented the Park District about that facility. One lodge patron complained that the previous patron had left a mess, but that the Park District staff responded quickly to their call. Two other patrons of The Rookery asked if the outdoor lighting could be improved especially above the door and down the walkway to the restroom.

The lighting at the Swine Creek Lodge facility was mentioned as being poor once the sun goes down. Mr. Curtin stated that this issue is already being examined by the Operations Department.

Cheryl and Dennis Lee of Novelty emailed the Park District regarding their concerns about the controlled deer hunt. They stated that they have been supporters and patrons of the Park District but are very disappointed in the decision to go forward with the controlled hunting of turkey and deer. They further stated that they would no longer be supportive of the current administration if the hunting continues.

Mr. Curtin read a letter from county resident Robert K. Meyer who thanked the Board of Commissioners for consideration pertaining to the controlled deer hunting program. As a hunter and conservationist, he stated that he feels strongly about the regulated control of our natural resources and acknowledges the impact of the over population of deer in our area.

Mr. McCullough reported that he recently accompanied a former Geauga County resident on a tour of the Park District. Frank Merritt had lived in Geauga County in the 1950's and was very impressed to see The Maple Highlands Trail and how the Park District has developed.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Mr. Curtin introduced Kathy Hanes who will start her position as Executive Secretary on November 27, 2006. Mr. Curtin then opened the floor to the members of the public present at the meeting.

Jeff Suszynski of Chardon stated that he wanted to thank the Board for the opportunity to participate in the management of wildlife. He stated that he was drawn in the lottery to hunt at Bass Lake Preserve. He added that although he was not successful, he had the opportunity to observe many species of wildlife: turkey, wood ducks, squirrel, Canada Geese and Barred Owls. Having lived his life in Geauga County he has fished, picnicked and celebrated family events in the parks. He stated that he is honored to have had the opportunity to hunt Whitetail Deer and to be a part of the effort to use citizens to help manage the resources.

Sofie Horvath of Munson Township stated that she is against hunting. She commented that Mr. Suszynski had an opportunity and privilege to see the beauty of a park to which the average public does not have access. She asked about the deer harvest at Bass Lake Preserve because she had heard that no deer were taken. Mr. Curtin corrected her by saying that deer were harvested on that property and the information will be included in the harvest report that will be given later in the meeting. Mrs. Horvath asked why the Park District did not use Park Rangers to harvest the deer. Mr. Curtin replied that this could be a possibility in the future; however a permit is required. Mrs. Horvath asked for clarification of the access points to the Bass Lake property for hunting. Mr. Curtin replied that the hunters must park in the boat launch parking area off of Lakeview Road. Lt. Hayhurst added that hunters can enter from Sherman Road but that they must be dropped off at that location. There is no parking at that access point. Mrs. Horvath asked how a harvested deer is recorded. Mr. Curtin explained that all hunters must report at a deer check-in station and that they inform the state that the deer came from a Geauga Park District park. Mrs. Horvath asked how the Park District will know if the controlled hunt was successful. Mr. Curtin explained that aerial surveys will be conducted in 2007 to determine the deer population. All data will be reviewed and analyzed. Mrs. Horvath stated that she has come to the conclusion that the Park District is using its parks as a recreation vehicle for hunters to enjoy while the average person does not have access. She objects to her tax dollars supporting this. Mr. Curtin explained that the Park District deliberately chose parks for the hunt that were not open to the general public as a safe way to try with this management tool.

RANGER APPOINTMENT RESOLUTION 25-06

Dennis Sloan

Mr. McCullough made a motion for the adoption of the following resolution, so marked Resolution No. 25-06:

RESOLVED, that in accordance with Section 1545.13 of the Ohio Revised Code, Dennis Sloan be appointed as Ranger of Geauga Park District, and

RESOLVED, that this appointment be effective on the date November 14, 2006.

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

Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Absent

Mr. Curtin called Dennis Sloan forward and administered to him the oath of office.

BIG CREEK PARK GAS WELL

Mr. Curtin asked that the discussion of the gas well at Big Creek Park be postponed until later in the meeting when Dr. Rzeszotarski will be present.

TRAIL ACCESS POLICY

Mr. Curtin referred the Board members to the draft of the Trail Access Policy which they were given at the October Board meeting. He stated that this policy will be used as a guide for individuals from whom we have purchased right-of-way property as well as any other neighboring parcels seeking access to The Maple Highlands Trail. These individuals are permitted to access or cross The Maple Highlands Trail through their Purchase and Sale Agreement. This policy will outline the requirements for access links or crossings in terms of how they are to be constructed to prevent them from damaging or impacting the bike trail. Mr. Curtin asked the Board members for comments or questions regarding the policy. Miss Cope asked about the average distance of a trail link. Mr. Curtin replied that the average distance would be thirty to fifty feet to the bike trail. Mr. Curtin thanked the Board for their comments and said that the policy will be moved forward once he receives comments from Dr. Rzeszotarski.

PARK UPDATE

Mr. Curtin updated the Board on the following:

Burroughs Nature Club

Resolution No. 26-06

The Burroughs Nature Club is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year. Mr. Curtin stated that they have been very effective in helping to preserve land in northeastern Ohio. He asked the Board to consider adopting a resolution to acknowledge this event.

Mr. McCullough made a motion to adopt the following resolution, so marked Resolution No. 26-06:

WHEREAS, the Burroughs Nature Club is celebrating 90 years of exploring and studying the natural world in the spirit of John Burroughs, the great naturalist, after whom the club is named; and

WHEREAS, the Burroughs Nature Club has helped to preserve the natural heritage of the region through its support of the efforts of parks and conservation agencies; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Burroughs Nature Club have shared their love of the natural world by giving of their time and talents to young and old;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Geauga Park District hereby congratulates the Burroughs Nature Club on the occasion of their 90th year of fostering the study and enjoyment of nature and the conservation of natural resources.

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

Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Absent

Affelder House

Mr. Curtin reported that the interior renovations are completed. The work on the walkway down from the parking lot is on hold due to the weather.

Bass Lake Preserve

The Request for Proposal for the boat launch improvements is being developed for construction in 2007.

Camp Chickagami

The site visit with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is being coordinated as well as the evaluation of the septic system.

Frohring Meadows

Mr. Curtin reported that we anticipate advertising for bids in January 2007 for the construction of this project. The bid opening is scheduled for January 23, 2007 and the recommendation will be brought to the Park Board at their February meeting.

Headwaters Park

Mr. Curtin reported that the service road improvements are completed.

Hyde Dam Improvements

A draft of the Request for Qualifications for the engineering work is being prepared.

Dr. Rzeszotarski arrived at 4:10 p.m.

The Maple Highlands Trail Central

Mr. Curtin reported that the substantial completion date is November 15, 2006. The contractor will work on the remaining items as long as the weather holds. Mr. Curtin stated that he was very pleased to announce that The Maple Highlands Trail Central is completely paved. This announcement was very well received by Mr. McCullough who stated that he had waited a long time to hear those words and as such asked Mr. Curtin to repeat the statement. Mr. Curtin accommodated his request which was followed by a round of applause from those present.

Mountain Run Station

Mr. Curtin reported that the bid package for Phase II of the site improvements is approximately thirty-five percent completed. Construction is set to begin in the spring of 2007.

Walter C. Best Preserve

The dam clearing project is completed. Mr. Curtin stated that the project went very well.

Controlled Hunting Report

Mr. Curtin reported that twenty-two deer have been harvested to date. The list of deer taken by property is as follows:

Montville Property Zone 1	4 deer	2 -8 point bucks; 1 -5 point buck; 1 doe
Bass Lake Zone 1	1 deer	1 – 6 point buck
Bass Lake Zone 2	7 deer	5 –does; 1 buck yearling; 1 doe yearling
Bass Lake Zone 3	2 deer	1 doe; 1 yearling
Becvar Property	3 deer	3 does
Ellerin Property	3 deer	2 buck yearling; 1 doe
Sunnybrook Preserve	2 deer	1 doe yearling; 1 – 6 point buck

Mr. Curtin reported that one hunter called to report that an injured deer traveled onto private property. The Park District Ranger contacted the homeowner for permission to follow the deer which then came back on Park property. He added that a Ranger was dispatched to assist a hunter who was being harassed by a party who claimed that the Park District maps were wrong. This matter was taken care of. Another hunter reported ATV activity on the Ellerin property.

Affelder House Sign

Mr. Curtin showed a rendering of the sign that will be placed at the entrance to the Affelder House on State Route 306. The sign depicts the name of the site as the Lewis and Ruth Affelder House.

Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) Update

Mr. Curtin gave an update on the legislative activities of the OPRA in lobbying for the continuation of Local Government Funding and for the reinstatement of the tangible personal property tax. These are both funds that affect park districts.

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT FOUNDATION REPORT

Jay Giles reported that 2007 will see a new group of Geauga Park District Foundation Trustees. He stated that John Steigerwald, the new Chairman, is very organized and focused. The next meeting of the Foundation will take place at the end of November where the budget will be approved and will likely include dollars for the Observatory project.

Mr. Giles reported that he was very impressed with the Bio-Centennial exhibit and was pleased to see the plans come to life.

BIG CREEK PARK GAS WELL

Mr. McClintock explained that a proposal has been received from a company requesting to drill for gas on Big Creek Park property. The gas company line will come down the utility corridor and the existing road will be used for access. Mr. McClintock said that the gas will be run to the feeder pipe on Robinson Road and then along the road to the Big Creek Shop. He added that the area is already cleared and no trees will need to be cut. Dr. Rzeszotarski asked about the timeline for the proposal. Mr. McClintock stated that the drilling would begin in 2007. Proposed for 2008 is a non-drilling use of property arrangement for drilling a unit well on the Stinchcomb property which is adjacent to Big Creek Park.

Mr. McClintock explained that the proposal outlines the following benefits to Geauga Park District.

- Payment of 12.5% of gross proceeds from the sale of natural gas and any associated oil from the well.
- 250,000 cubic feet of natural gas each year to heat Park District facilities without charge.
- Right to purchase additional gas at wellhead prices which are usually lower.

Dr. Rzeszotarski asked about the cost of replacing the furnace at the Meyer Center. Mr. McClintock said that we would need to determine those costs and do a cost/benefit analysis to see if converting to gas is feasible.

Dr. Rzeszotarski asked about the impact on existing or future trail development near the well site. Mr. McClintock indicated that there would be minimal impact and that the line would be approximately 70-100 feet away from existing trails.

Dr. Rzeszotarski stated that he would like to save these resources for the future but it is apparent in this case that the gas is being pulled out by surrounding wells and may be depleted in the future. He asked if we can have reasonable assurance that the drilling company will manage the impact and the salt brine. Mr. McClintock replied that if we decide to move forward with the proposal that the Park District will work with the local Soil and Water Conservation District which has established guidelines for well drillers and landowners which include best management practices for brine and erosion control. Mr. McClintock stated that there will likely be some mud on the road and noise for approximately two weeks but that the size of the property provides a buffer to the nearest neighbor and best management practices will be required to minimize off-site delivery of soil.

Mr. McCullough asked if the Park District will be approached with other requests for drilling. Dr. Rzeszotarski stated that this may be likely but that the decision with regard to this well has been given long and considerable thought.

Miss Cope made a motion to move ahead with the proposal for drilling a gas well on Big Creek Park property.

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

Mr. McClintock stated that all contract language will be brought forward to the Board for review.

2006 SMALL RESEARCH GRANTS RESULTS

Tami Gingrich opened the discussion of the results of the research conducted in the Park District through the 2006 small research grants. The following research projects were conducted:

Roger F. Thoma

The Crayfishes of Geauga County and the Geauga Park District

Julie A. Wolin, PhD

Cleveland State University

Environmental History of Bass Lake, Geauga County, Ohio

Dr. Samuel J. Mazzer, PhD

Mr. Chris Slaybaugh

Wetland Systems, Inc.

Bass Lake, Survey and Mapping of Emergent and Submergent Aquatic Vegetation

Kaloyan Ivanov

Joe B. Keiper

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History

Survey of the Ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) of Geauga County

Dr. Chris Stanton

April Sidoti

Baldwin Wallace College

Summer Reptile Survey of Sunnybrook Preserve

Mr. Brian Redmond
Mr. Mark A. Kolleyer
The Cleveland Museum of Natural History
Archaeological Identification and Investigation of the Bass Lake Site

Tami passed around the display of ants that were collected as part of the research on the ants of Geauga County. The collection was made for the Park District and will be used for educational purposes. A similar collection was also prepared for the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Tami added that the researcher has asked for a collector's permit to continue his research in the Park District in 2007.

Mr. McCullough asked if the researchers conduct field trips for staff as part of their grant. Mrs. Gingrich replied that this is a requirement of the grant process and that the Natural Resource Department staff has benefited by being able to accompany the researchers in the field.

Tami stated that Roger Thoma developed a field guide on crayfish and shared a copy of the draft with the Board members. She added that Mr. Thoma is pursuing getting the guide published. He has also conducted a public program for the Park District on the topic of crayfish.

Mr. McCullough asked about the archeological research study at Bass Lake Preserve. Tami explained that the research was prompted by the discovery many years ago of the remnants of pottery and other items of prehistoric cultural significance. The location of these findings was called the Bass Lake Site 33GE79. Tami stated that the investigation conducted this year showed that the site was not located on Park District property but just off the park boundary on land owned by the private owner.

Tami stated that the research will be made available to the public via the Park District website. Dr. Rzeszotarski suggested that it would be helpful to have a lay person summary of the research for the website. He also suggested that a public meeting with the researchers for a round table discussion of the studies may be of interest.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL FOR DEER MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

Mr. Curtin stated that at the October Board meeting, Mr. Denver Sallee asked the Board to give consideration to establishing a task force for the management of wildlife. Mr. Sallee presented copies of the Iowa City Wildlife Management Task Force report. Mr. Curtin stated that the document had been reviewed and discussed and that the Iowa City Task Force came to the same conclusions as our Natural Resource Department staff regarding hunting as a management tool.

Mr. Curtin stated that based upon the Iowa City Report, the recommendations of Anthony DeNicola of White Buffalo, Inc., and the research of our staff, he sees no need to create a task force. Mr. Curtin stated that he feels we are on the right track and that his recommendation is to continue with the current course of controlled hunting measures. He added that we have received a lot of good information. Miss Cope agreed that we have a good group of experts including our own staff and those we have consulted from other park districts.

Mr. Sallee stated that there is conflicting information from Mr. DeNicola regarding the costs and effectiveness of bow hunting. He added that the information given Linda O'Brien by Mr. DeNicola was in conflict to what he told the Park District. Mr. DeNicola told Ms. O'Brien that he does not feel that bow hunting is an effective means of controlling the deer population. Mr. Curtin stated that he has not seen anything in writing in terms of what Mr. DeNicola told Linda O'Brien, the Russell Township resident who offered to donate funds for sharpshooting deer. Mr. Curtin

replied that, in his communication to John Oros, Mr. DeNicola suggested a combination of bow hunting, sharpshooting, and shotgun hunting. Mr. Curtin added that the Iowa City report suggested the same thing. Mr. Sallee asked if the Park District is considering other methods besides bow hunting. Mr. Curtin replied that we will consider all of those methods in the future. Dr. Rzeszotarski added that a plan to use sharpshooting requires approximately six months to be approved.

Mr. Sallee commented on the recent presentation at the Meyer Center by Mike Tonkovich from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) on the subject of wildlife management. Mr. Sallee stated that Mr. Tonkovich was pro-hunting and that he was promoting hunting because the number of hunters is shrinking in the State of Ohio. Mr. Sallee quoted Mr. Tonkovich as saying that twenty percent (20%) of the ODNR budget comes from hunting. Mr. Sallee stated that his own research showed that the percentage was closer to forty percent (40%). He suggested that it was necessary to follow the money to determine the motivation of ODNR in promoting hunting. Mr. Curtin stated that the Park District is not conducting hunting for any financial gain or for the financial gain of ODNR. Dr. Rzeszotarski stated that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources is the regulatory agency that provides the framework for the oversight and safety of hunting in the state and it is just like other government agencies who receive revenue from fees for providing this oversight. The Ohio Department of Health is a similar agency that provides the framework for protecting our health. Dr. Rzeszotarski added that a significant part of the revenue for these agencies comes from fees.

Mr. Sallee stated that a woman in the audience during the presentation asked what she could do to control deer on her seventy acres of property. Mr. Sallee stated that Tonkovich told her that because of the range of deer there was little that she could do on such a small piece of land. Mr. Curtin replied that agencies and landowners will need to cooperate in the efforts to manage the wildlife and that the Park District will continue to use controlled hunting as a management tool. He added that other park districts have been using the method for years culling as many as three to four hundred deer per year. Mr. Sallee asked about the deer population in Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP). Mr. Curtin replied that the CVNP officials recognize the problem but that their hands are somewhat tied being federal land. Mr. Curtin stated that Geauga Park District will give consideration to a combination of deer management methods including bow hunting, sharpshooting, and shotgun hunting in the future once the results of this current controlled hunt are complete and analyzed.

Mr. McCullough stated that the Board would move from this topic to the remaining agenda items and thanked Mr. Sallee for his comments.

CLEMSON EXCAVATING, INC.
PAY APPLICATION NO. 1

Mr. Curtin presented Pay Application No. 1 for Clemson Excavating, Inc. in the amount of Seventy Nine Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$79,480.00). Mr. Curtin stated that this is the first and final payment for the dam clearing project at Walter C. Best Preserve. He added that this project was completed at approximately Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000.00) under budget.

Mr. McCullough made a motion to approve Pay Application No. 1 for Clemson Excavating, Inc. in the amount of Seventy Nine Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$79,480.00).

Miss Cope 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

STATE AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Board members were provided with a copy of the report of the recent audit completed by the Office of the State Auditor. Sherry Bosworth responded to their comments and questions.

She stated that the audit will need to be signed and sent to the state clearinghouse in Indiana. Mrs. Bosworth added that the Park District will receive a single audit next year because we received over Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) in funds this year from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for The Maple Highlands Trail Central. This single audit will cost the Park District approximately Five Thousand Dollars (\$5000.00). Dr. Rzeszotarski asked if the audit will be conducted in the Park District office. Mrs. Bosworth explained that most of the audit will be conducted at the County Auditor's office and that it will focus on land improvement and ODOT funds.

At issue are the Endowment Funds with The Cleveland Foundation. When the Endowment Fund was established, the State Auditor's office was contacted and the Park District was advised to seek the opinion of legal counsel. Park District legal counsel could not find any issue with establishing the Endowment Fund. It has since been determined that according to Section 135 of the Ohio Revised Code, a government entity is only permitted to make low risk investments. In order to continue holding the Endowment Funds, The Cleveland Foundation must comply with this requirement or return the funds to the Park District. It has only recently become known that the Cuyahoga County Public Library found itself in a similar situation and had to retrieve their money from The Cleveland Foundation. The Board members expressed concern that this case had not been known prior to our establishing the Endowment Funds. Mr. Curtin commented that it was unfortunate that the State Auditor's office did not refer us to the Ohio Revised Code Section 135 at the time of the initial investigation. Miss Cope asked how the monies would be appropriated if they are returned. Mr. Curtin stated that they could be put into land acquisition, used for the Observatory Park project, or other projects. Dr. Rzeszotarski added that currently the endowment funds are distributed among three areas: Education, Stewardship, and Unrestricted. He suggested that the funds remain allocated to those three areas.

Dr. Rzeszotarski stated that we will need to wait for further clarification. Mr. Curtin replied that there is no timeline for acting on this issue. Sherry Bosworth stated that she will ask for a recommendation from the Geauga County Auditor's office as to whether an account needs to be set up to show the dollars returning in 2007 and then being appropriated for projects.

RESCIND RESOLUTION NO. 09-06
RESIGNATION OF RANGER BRIAN BISHOP

Mr. McCullough moved to rescind Resolution No. 09-06 dated April 11, 2006 (*Geauga Park District Minutes*, April 11, 2006, Book 6 Page 387) pertaining to the appointment of Brian Bishop as a Ranger effective September 23, 2006. Mr. Bishop has resigned.

Miss Cope 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

MANDATORY LODGE HEAT FEE

Mr. Curtin explained that patrons who reserve the Great Blue Heron Lodge, Swine Creek Lodge, and the Bass Lake Lodge during the months of November, December, January, and February are charged a heat fee of \$25.00 per session. This fee is mandatory during those months but the patron has the option of asking for heat at other times. The months of October and March can have very changeable weather. When the heat fee is not mandatory and thus the heat is not activated, patrons frequently call at the last minute to get the heat turned on. Payment arrangements and last minute communication to the Operations Department is then necessary which result in an inconvenience to the patrons and extra travel time for the Operations Department. It is recommended that the mandatory heat fee be extended from October 15th through March 15th to minimize the inconvenience to the patron and maximize staff time.

Miss Cope made a motion to approve the extension of the mandatory heat fee from October 15th through March 15th as stated above.

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

PERSONAL USE OF PARK VEHICLE POLICY
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Mr. Curtin explained that Keith McClintock has requested to have a formal agreement with the Board outlining his ability to use his Park vehicle for personal use. This is in keeping with the new Internal Revenue Service ruling regarding the taxability of personal use of a company vehicle. Mr. McClintock will track all mileage and will pay taxes on the mileage for personal use.

Mr. McCullough made a motion to approve the formal agreement for Keith McClintock regarding using his Park vehicle for personal use.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McCullough moved to go into Executive Session at 5:20 p.m. for the purpose of discussing land acquisition, the compensation of employees, and pending litigation.

Miss Cope 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 6:45 p.m.

GREAT LAKES CONSTRUCTION CO.

The settlement agreement and contract addendum with Great Lakes Construction Co. was signed by the Board.

SUNNYBROOK PRESERVE PUBLIC MEETING

Mr. Curtin distributed the notes and comments from the public at the meeting regarding the development of Sunnybrook Preserve which was held on November 8, 2006 at the Geauga West Library. Mr. Curtin stated that this was a session to gather information from the public.

OHIO PARKS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION (OPRA)

Mr. Curtin stated that he was approached by Vern Hartenburg, Executive Director of Cleveland Metroparks, regarding the monetary support of the upcoming state conference which will be held in February 2007. Mr. Curtin explained that Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) needs to be raised for the conference and the amount of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00) is being requested of Geauga Park District. Other park districts in northeast Ohio are also being asked to contribute. Discussion took place regarding the feasibility of providing this amount. Mr. Curtin stated that park districts benefit from the lobbying efforts of OPRA. They also provide continuing education opportunities for Board members.

Miss Cope made a motion to approve the sum of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00) for support of the OPRA state conference in February 2007.

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

Mr. McCullough suggested that the amount could be obtained from the contingency funds.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Departmental reports from the Supervisors were submitted for the month of October 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 7:00 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, Executive Director

Robert McCullough, President