

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2002

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held on September 10, 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, Jay Abercrombie, Paige Hosier, Sylvia Neptune and Eileen Smith. Guests present were Mike Christ, Edna Davis, Fahim Gemayel, Joan Kirk and Ken Kirk.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Miss Cope moved to accept the agenda as presented for the meeting.
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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to accept the minutes of August 13, 2002, as amended.
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

Miss Cope moved to accept the minutes of August 21, 2002, as amended.
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

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE MONTH ENDED AUGUST 31, 2002**

GENERAL FUND		
BALANCE AUG 1, 2002		1,652,774.97
EXPENDITURES		223,909.58
Personnel	146,505.68	
Medicare	1,813.24	
Dental /Hospitalization- August	19,579.21	
PBX	185.06	
Vouchers	55,826.39	
RECEIPTS		2,539,163.46
Fees:		
Camping	40.00	
Rookery Heat	20.00	

Canoe and Kayak	266.00	
Drawing Animals	120.00	
Holly Days Table Fees	515.00	
Rental Properties-August		
- 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	1,116.97	
Citation Disbursement	42.00	
Jury Duty - Sharpnack	15.00	
Donation: Nancy Meyer for Donald W. Meyer Memorial	100.00	
Sale of Park Equipment at County Auction	5,320.83	
Plan Fees for Big Creek Shop Expansion	1,800.00	
Plan fees for TWW Landscaping	100.00	
Artwork Commission - Clapsaddle	14.00	
2nd Half Real Estate Tax Settlement	2,519,299.52	
Local Government Funds	5,678.96	
Interest earned	3,315.18	
BALANCE AUG 31, 2002		3,968,028.85

VOUCHER RESOLUTION NO. 18-02

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved the adoption of the voucher resolution as presented, a copy of which is on file in the Park District office, so marked Resolution No. 18-02.

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Ken Kirk approached the Board about his interest in the Farley property. He and his wife were out of town at the time of the auction and were not able to bid on the property. Mr. Curtin responded that he is looking into several options to present to the Board. Mr. Kirk would like Mr. Curtin to look into legal options regarding their purchasing the property from the Park or the possible reconsideration of putting the house up for auction again. Mr. Curtin will follow up.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

There were no communications at this time.

THE WEST WOODS

Grand Opening Update

Sylvia Neptune reported to the Board that 89 reservations have been received for the *Passage to The West Woods* fundraiser on October 5, 2002, as well as over \$200 in donations. The Grand Opening invitations will be mailed on Monday.

Mrs. Neptune further reported the Trout Lily Trail dedication has been scheduled for Saturday, October 12th, from 10:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. This trail is being dedicated in memory of Edith Lerner's husband. The Friend's annual meeting will follow this dedication from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Mrs. Neptune also reported that she has been in contact with Chuck Miller regarding the Sunset Overlook Trail.

The Affelder House

Sylvia Neptune reported that Jeannie Affelder would be hosting a reunion at the Affelder House on Sunday, October 13th, from 9:00 a.m. until Noon. The Affelder family donated 85 acres in 1992 to the Park District. The family has requested that the house officially be named “The Affelder House”.

Mr. McCullough made a motion that the official name for the house donated to the Park by the Affelder family would be “The Affelder House”.

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

Construction Update

Tom Curtin reported to the Board that exhibitry was being installed as we speak. The Director was enthusiastic about the progress of the building and encouraged the Board members to stop out to see the building. Mr. Curtin reported that the carpeting is in, as well as the cubicles. The elevator is operating and will be inspected at the end of this week. Mr. McCullough questioned whether the elevator would be quieter than the one in the Meyer Center. Mr. Curtin replied that it would be quieter. The Director also reported that the reverse osmosis system has been installed. The interior water feature is nearly complete. Mr. Curtin did inform the Board that the light poles were delivered damaged. Replacements have been ordered.

THE MAPLE HIGHLANDS TRAIL

With reference to the northern section of The Maple Highlands Trail, the project is making great progress. The stone base is in place. Weather-dependent, the first section of the pavement will be in place this week. Mr. McCullough questioned whether the gas line had been moved. Mr. Curtin replied that it had not been done. Mr. McCullough further questioned who has control over that part of the project. Mr. Curtin responded that this concern is between the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Dominion East Ohio Gas Company. Mr. McCullough questioned whether there had been any citizen complaints. Mr. Curtin responded that we have received very few complaints. Mr. Curtin had received a noise complaint today and would be responding to that complaint after the Board meeting.

NATURAL QUALITY EVALUATION INDEX PRESENTATION

Jay Abercrombie, Biologist, presented to the Board a Natural Quality Evaluation Index presentation. Amalie Lipstreu, volunteer, and Shane Wohlken, GIS Operator, worked with Dr. Abercrombie in developing the Natural Quality Evaluation Index. This ecological evaluation would assist the Board and the Natural Resources Department in indexing and scoring potential land acquisitions and our current parklands. Dr. Abercrombie explained his indexing and scoring system and shared with the Board the results of his trial on Park properties. Dr. Rzeszotarski questioned whether other factors should be taken into consideration such as air quality, noise pollution, light pollution, as well as fertilizer or contamination run off. Dr. Rzeszotarski stated that he would like to see this index used in all our parks. He would be interested to see how our parks would score. Miss Cope questioned the scoring method if four different people scored the lands, how close would their numbers be. Dr. Abercrombie replied that if they all used the same approach, the scoring would be quite close. Dr. Rzeszotarski indicated that he would like to see a sheet indicating notable features and depicting strengths and weaknesses. Dr. Abercrombie indicated that he would create a field form.

PARK UPDATES

Big Creek Shop and Ranger Garage – Tom Curtin reported we have sent to Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District our storm water plan.

Mr. Curtin also reported that we received three bids on the Big Creek shop and Ranger garage. The bids ranged from \$478,000.00 to \$493,000.00. Mr. Curtin indicated that we are now in the process of checking the references for the two lowest bidders. The results of the bidding are as follows:

Lakeland Management Systems	--	\$478,399.00
JTO, Inc.	--	\$482,000.00
Peterson Construction	--	\$493,741.12

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to approve either the bid from Lakeland Management Systems in the amount of Four Hundred Seventy-Eight Thousand Three Hundred Ninety-Nine Dollars (\$478,399.00) or JTO, Inc. in the amount of Four Hundred Eight-Two Thousand Dollars (\$482,000.00) based upon reference checks and the determination of the best and lowest bid.

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

Land Acquisition – Dr. Rzeszotarski questioned whether there had been a follow up with Mr. Dixon concerning the property he wanted to bring to the Board’s attention. Dr. Rzeszotarski suggested that Jay Abercrombie look at this property and assess it using his Natural Quality Evaluation Index.

Dogs Off Leash Sign – Dr. Rzeszotarski questioned how the “dogs off leash” signs were working in the parks. Mr. Curtin responded that they seem to be working out well.

Ziegler Earthworks – Dr. Rzeszotarski questioned whether Ziegler Earthworks had completed the slope repairs at The West Woods. Mr. Curtin responded that all repairs had been made pursuant to the contract.

Board of Elections – Dr. Rzeszotarski questioned whether Russell Township had been contacted to determine whether there would be a conflict of interest with The West Woods Nature Center serving as a voting precinct. Mr. Curtin responded that Russell Township had been contacted and they did not foresee any problem with The West Woods Nature Center serving as a voting precinct.

Fair Building – Dr. Rzeszotarski brought the Board’s attention to the end of the month reports supplied to the Board in their Board packet. Dr. Rzeszotarski commented about the attendance figure for the Fair building. Over 8,000 people visited the Fair building. Dr. Rzeszotarski did comment that next year we would need to make sure that the scheduling for the programs are appropriately spread out. Mr. McCullough indicated that the area adjacent to our building was not used this year. Possibly we may consider using that area in addition to our Fair building.

OPRA FALL SECTION MEETING

The Director asked the Board for approval to attend the Fall Section Meeting of the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA), which will be held from September 22nd through September 24th in Dayton, Ohio. Mr. Curtin reported that the cost of the seminar would be \$130.00 for registration and \$69.00 a night. Mr. Curtin would be staying two nights.

Mr. McCullough moved to approve the Director's request to attend the OPRA Fall Section Meeting on September 22-24, 2002, in Dayton, Ohio, and to pay all expenses incurred therein. 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

TRANSFER OF FUNDS

RESOLUTION NO. 19-02

Mr. Curtin requested approval from the Board to transfer Two Million Four Hundred Sixty-Nine Thousand One Hundred Thirty-One Dollars (\$2,469,131.00) from the general fund to the construction fund to cover construction expenses.

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to approve the transfer of Two Million Four Hundred Sixty-Nine Thousand One Hundred Thirty-One Dollars (\$2,469,131.00) from the general fund to the construction fund to cover construction expenses.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McCullough moved to go into Executive Session at 4:50 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:

Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes

The Board returned from Executive Session at 6:20 p.m.

LAND ACQUISITION

Railroad Right-of-Way Properties

Ferritto

At the June 11, 2002, Board meeting, the Board authorized the Director to proceed with the purchase of the railroad right-of-way property from William and Deanna Ferritto. The acreage and the dollar amount to be determined at a later time. Mr. Curtin informed the Board that the Ferritto property contained 0.16775 acres of land for the purchase price of Four Thousand Seventy-Seven Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$4,077.50).

Kraus

At the April 9, 2002, Board meeting, the Board authorized the Director to proceed with the purchase of the railroad right-of-way property from Robert P. and Melissa Kraus. The acreage and the dollar amount to be determined at a later time. Mr. Curtin informed the Board that the Kraus property contained 0.1746 acres of land for the purchase price of Four Thousand One Hundred Forty-Six Dollars (\$4,146.00).

Barber Hill

Mr. McCullough moved to authorize the Director to proceed with the purchase of the railroad right-of-way property from Eva Arlene Barber Hill for 1.91 acres of land for Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00).

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

Artim, et al.

Mr. McCullough authorized the Director to proceed with the purchase of 59.39 acres of land in Chardon Township from Ken and Jennifer Artim, Rex and Patricia Cooley, Timothy and Karen Kloiber, Milton and Barbara Luther, and Larry and Renee Weeks for the purchase price of One Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$190,000.00).

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

PERSONNEL

Director's Contract

Mr. McCullough moved to accept the renewal of the Director's contract, awarding Mr. Curtin a salary of Sixty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$67,500.00) per year. This contract also reflects professional memberships in various organizations up to One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). A copy of the Director's contract is on file in the Park District office.

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

THE WEST WOODS—LANDSCAPE CONTRACT

Mr. Curtin reported that bids were received for the landscape contract. This was an unusual bid. Based on figures from Jim Ziemnik, Landscape Architect, the bids came in over the 10% allowance. Mr. Curtin indicated that we could delete various units and re-examine all bids to see if once we delete the various units who would have the lowest bid and best bid and be within the 10% allowance. Dr. Rzeszotarski questioned liability. Mr. Curtin responded that he did check with David Ondrey, counsel for Geauga Park District. Mr. Ondrey indicated that we could delete fairly from all three bids and re-examine the bids to see who has the lowest and best bidder.

Mr. Curtin reported that the three lowest and best bids were as follows:

J. G. Johnson Construction Company	--	\$120,515.45
Riverwood Tree	--	\$133,239.24
Complete Site	--	\$144,383.50

The Park District is in the process of checking references.

Miss Cope made a motion that pursuant to provisions in the specifications, some elements of the work will be deleted. The low bidder for the project is J. G. Johnson Construction Company.

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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Departmental reports from the Supervisors were submitted for the month of August 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 6:45 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