

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES
April 11, 2006

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held on April 11, 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 members Betty Cope and Mark Rzeszotarski were present.

<p>Employees present were:</p> <p>Tom Curtin, Executive Director Keith McClintock, Deputy Director Barb Emch, Executive Secretary Joel Firem, Ranger Cindy Ford, Marketing Assistant Tami Gingrich, Field Naturalist Kathleen Henning, Ranger Paige Hosier, Marketing Director John Kolar, Naturalist Bob Lange, Land Steward Larry McKinnon, Sergeant Ranger John Oros, Natural Resource Manager Robin Pilarczyk, Human Resources Manager Tom Salo, Park Manager Richard Sherwood, Ranger Consultant Robert Urban, Chief Ranger Diane Valen, Naturalist Services Director</p>	<p>Visitors present:</p> <p>Linda Alexander Frank Antenucci Jean Antenucci Robert W. Blair Jr. Chris Cooperrider Bill Debevc Michelle Faber-Reda Damon Green Jacquie Hayhurst Chip Hess John Horton Joe Koziol Bebe Ober L. J. O'Brien Don Paschke Reno Reda Nora Stanton Frank Stehli</p>
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Gauga Park District Foundation Representative: Jacqueline Samuel

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to accept the agenda as revised for the meeting.
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

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 14, 2006

Miss Cope moved that the minutes of March 14, 2006 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 ENDING
MARCH 31, 2006**

GENERAL FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE MARCH 1, 2006		\$1,045,083.93
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES		2,125,069.46
Personnel	250,037.53	
Medicare	19,667.31	
Dental /Hospitalization	34,148.71	

PERS	32,620.20	
Unemployment Transfers	349.99	
Worker's Compensation	45,275.79	
Transfer to Land Improvement Fund	1,600,000.00	
Vouchers	142,969.93	
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES		3,515,190.19
<u>General Tax Collections</u>		
- Real Estate Tax	3,114,172.71	
- State Reimburse Tax	373,563.21	
<u>Investment Income</u>	4,127.58	
<u>Gifts & Donations</u>	11,012.72	
- Geauga Hospital - TnT program (\$10,000)		
- GPD Foundation - Endowment Interest (\$1,012.72)		
<u>Fees</u>		
- Programs - Schools - Out-of-County	406.00	
- Camping	20.00	
- Facility Utilities	210.00	
Administrative Fees - From GPD Foundation	2,500.00	
- Workshops - General - Public Program	55.00	
- Programs - General - Public Program	400.00	
<u>Sales</u>		
- Tapper's Treasures - MC	134.54	
- Tree Tops - TWW	568.35	
- Syrup Sales	988.76	
- Credit Card - All Facilities	365.01	
- Water Vending Machine Sales - TWW	10.00	
<u>Rental Properties</u>		
- Swine Creek House - Harry	400.00	
- Burton Wetlands House- Kolar	400.00	
- Hyde House - McKinnon	400.00	
<u>Other Receipts</u>		
Parking Ticket Collections	10.00	
Recycling Proceeds	20.98	
Local Government Funds	5,163.31	
Miscellaneous Receipts	262.02	
- Juvenile Court - Restitution		
- GPD Foundation - postage reimbursement		
- Harry - Jury duty reimbursement		
- Western Reserve Farm Co-Op - Patronage Refund 2005		
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF MARCH 31, 2006		\$2,435,204.66
LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND		
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE MARCH 1, 2006		\$1,629,442.11
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES		22,324.94

Vouchers	22,324.94	
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES		1,606,869.39
<u>Investment Income</u>	5,552.10	
<u>Transfer from General Fund</u>	1,600,000.00	
<u>Gifts & Donations</u>		
- Affelder Trust Interest	390.75	
<u>Royalties</u>		
- Oxford Oil Co - Swine Creek	447.90	
- Cedar Valley Energy - Hehmeyer property	311.35	
- Great Lakes Energy - Hart property	134.70	
- Power Gas - Farley property	32.59	
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF MARCH 31, 2006		\$3,213,986.56

RETAINAGE FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE MARCH 1, 2006		\$191,541.25
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES		649.45
<u>Investment Income</u>	649.45	
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF MARCH 31, 2006		\$192,190.70

VOUCHER RESOLUTION NO. 08-06

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. 08-06.

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	Yes

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Mr. Curtin shared the following communications with the Board:

A note was received from the Burton Congregational Church Food Cupboard thanking the Park District staff for their collection of food and supplies for the Harvest for Hunger campaign.

An email was received from Gretchen Mack, a Parkman resident, regarding the recent target practice conducted by Park District Rangers at the Camp Chickagami property. Chief Ranger Urban reported that the range was oriented such that it was not in the vicinity of the surrounding homes. A Ranger will visit the patron to discuss the issue and in the future the range will be conducted earlier in the day.

Mark and Vicki Solomon, the owners of the pair of oxen used for Sap's a Risin' Sundays, wrote to say that they appreciated the opportunity to work with our staff and volunteers and hoped to work with the Park District again on future projects.

The Naturalist Department received an email from Mrs. Nannette Rumprik, teacher from St. Joan of Arc School. She acknowledged the wonderful job of Roy Podojil, volunteer, in explaining the syrup production process during their recent visit to Swine Creek Reservation. Mr. McCullough added that Mr. Podojil was recently awarded the honor of Environmental Volunteer of the Year by the Environmental Education Council of Ohio.

RANGER APPOINTMENT RESOLUTION 09-06

Brian Bishop

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion for the adoption of the following resolution, so marked Resolution No. 09-06:

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

RESOLVED, that this appointment be effective on the date April 11, 2006.

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. Curtin called Brian Bishop forward and administered to him the oath of office.

LIEUTENANT RANGER APOINTMENT

John Hayhurst

Mr. Curtin informed the Board that part-time Ranger John Hayhurst was recommended for promotion to full-time Lieutenant Ranger.

Mr. McCullough made a motion to approve the appointment of Ranger John Hayhurst to Lieutenant Ranger in accordance with Section 1545.13 of the Ohio Revised Code.

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

Mr. Curtin called John Hayhurst forward and administered to him the oath of office.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Curtin opened the meeting to the public. Visitors were given an opportunity to speak regarding the controlled hunt of wild turkey scheduled to take place at the end of April on Park property in Montville Township. Comments were made both in support and in opposition. A record of the comments is on file in the Park District office. Mr. Curtin displayed a layered map to show the development of Geauga County from 1975 to 2000. He stated that the increase in developed land has led to problems in wildlife management by making habitats more conducive to some wildlife populations such as deer and turkey. Park District lands will be impacted by these changes making it important to document the impact and monitor for bio-diversity and a balanced population of wildlife.

PRESENTATION- PRINCIPLES OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

John Oros gave a presentation on the Principles of Wildlife Management. He explained how the sciences of natural resource management, land stewardship, and wildlife biology are used to develop management practices to sustain biodiversity and protect natural resources. He stated that controlled hunting is a pro-active approach to wildlife management to achieve ecological balance, eliminate competition between species and to address species surplus. He cited other park districts such as Five Rivers Metroparks, Stark County Park District, Lorain County Metro Parks, and others who have implemented controlled hunting as a management tool.

STRATEGIC PLAN FINAL APPROVAL

Mr. Curtin asked the Board if they had any comments regarding the latest draft of the Park District Strategic Plan. He added that the document will be reviewed annually and any necessary changes or updates will be made.

Miss Cope commented that the document should address the wildlife management policy. Mr. Curtin stated that points will be added under the Environmental Stewardship section to show specific strategies that will be implemented as part of the wildlife management policy.

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion to approve the Strategic Plan for 2006-2011 contingent upon the addition of strategies regarding the wildlife management policy which will be reviewed by the Board members.

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

PARK UPDATES

Mr. Curtin updated the Board on the following:

Tracks n Treads Program

Mr. Curtin informed the Board that the kick-off event for the Tracks n Treads program will be held on Saturday, May 6th at The West Woods Nature Center beginning at 9:00 a.m. There will be activities for all age groups as well as a hike to Ansel's Cave. Fitness related agencies and vendors will provide displays and information. Dr. Rzeszotarski asked whether there will be a related speakers' series.

Mr. Curtin stated that the Park District as well as Geauga Regional Hospital and the YMCA will provide a program of speakers each month through October. The year's activities will conclude on October 21, 2006 with a closing celebration held at Big Creek Park.

Subdivision Trail Linkage

The West Woods

Mr. Curtin gave the Board an update on the proposal by developer, Bob Jackson, who would like to connect his cul de sac subdivision off of Music Street to The West Woods. He is now proposing a conservation easement for an area adjacent to Pioneer Trail which the Park District could hold. The Homeowners' Association would own the land but nothing could be done to the land without the Park District's permission. Mr. Curtin stated that providing this link could result in additional park supporters but that we will need to think about the issue of setting precedents in such situations. Mr. Curtin added that he is amendable to the idea of having a conservation easement between the boundary of park lands and housing developments. This is unlike the situation at Beartown Lakes Reservation where a housing development comes right up to the park's boundaries. Mr. Curtin will have Park District legal counsel review the language of the conservation easement and the Homeowner's Association agreement. Mr. Curtin will keep the Board informed as this progresses.

Affelder House Improvements

A pre-construction meeting was held with Burton Scot Construction. They are ready to begin the house remodeling project. The electrical contractor will provide a quote for walkway lighting.

Beartown Lakes Reservation

Dam Improvements

Revised drawings have been sent to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Water.

Frohing Meadows

We are awaiting a response from the Geauga County Engineer's Office regarding the address of the Frohling Meadows property. Mr. Curtin explained that we have decided to include the seeding for the prairie into the construction contract.

The Maple Highlands Trail-North

Mr. Curtin reported that we are still hoping to settle with Great Lakes Construction Co. regarding the cost for the repairs to The Maple Highlands Trail-North.

The Maple Highlands Trail-Central

Mesh barriers will be placed over the window openings on the bridges at Taylor Wells Road and Aquilla/Claridon Road. A Change Order will be presented to the Board for approval later in this meeting. Mr. Curtin reported that the signs on the bridges will be placed by the end of May.

Observatory Park

A meeting was held regarding the design of Phase I of the project. The geotechnical reports have been reviewed in relation to the construction of the entrance drive and parking lot. Mr. Curtin reported that he spoke with a potential funder who encouraged the Park District to submit a grant for the project.

House Auction

Mr. Curtin reported that we are still waiting for the Geauga County Planning Commission to approve the lot split. Park legal counsel, Dave Ondrey, sent a letter to the Geauga County Prosecutor's office for assistance in getting the lot split approved.

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT FOUNDATION REPORT

Jacqueline Samuel, Foundation Trustee, gave the following report from the Geauga Park District Foundation:

The Action Committee under the leadership of John Steigerwald presented a Powerpoint presentation to the Foundation Trustees at their last meeting to gain consensus regarding future efforts of the Foundation. The Executive Officers of the Foundation will join this committee which will then become the Transition Committee. This committee has completed a strategic planning S.W.O.T. (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis in an effort to align the Foundation goals with the Park District's Strategic Plan.

Mrs. Samuel reported that the Foundation currently has fourteen members; however, they will soon be losing two members. The Development Committee would like to add three or four trustees to the Foundation and work toward a maximum of twenty trustees. Dr. Rzeszotarski asked if there were enough approved candidates to fill those openings. Mrs. Samuel replied in the affirmative but added that the process can be ongoing and additional candidates may be brought forward for the Board's approval.

Mrs. Samuel reported that in late March Les Bednar, Development Officer, sent out 477 appeal letters for the BioCentennial Exhibit. To date over forty positive responses have been received for over Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) in contributions. Two negative responses were received in reaction to the proposed controlled turkey hunt.

SPRING TURKEY HUNT

Mr. Oros asked the Board for comments and questions in view of the issues brought forward by patrons earlier in the meeting. Dr. Rzeszotarski stated that it was clear that those opposing the hunt wanted to have evaluative data regarding wildlife populations. He felt that we have a lot of good information and aerial surveys on the deer population and suggested that we take the opportunity to put out the facts and numbers to the public. Mr. Oros suggested that a public informational program could be offered in the future as the Board considers options for addressing other species. Dr. Rzeszotarski stated that we communicate that the controlled hunt is meant to conserve and manage our park lands and is a management tool similar to controlling invasive species such as loosestrife, garlic mustard, etc. We have been managing wildlife since the Park District's inception by removing beaver and muskrat so this is not a new concept. Miss Cope stated that we must stress the facts and use the most understandable language.

Dr. Rzeszotarski asked about the costs involving an alternative such as bringing in sharpshooters. Mr. Curtin stated that he would obtain those costs from other park districts that have used that method of controlling populations.

Mr. Oros gave a breakdown of the responses received by the public regarding the turkey hunt.

Emails and letters	30 opposed	22 in support
Phone calls	28 opposed	25 in support

One hundred eighty-nine (189) postcards were received for the turkey hunting lottery representing men, women, and youth from communities throughout the county.

The Board took a break from 5:40 p.m. to 6:05 p.m.

2006 LIABILITY INSURANCE

Mr. Curtin reported that the cost for liability insurance for the Park District through the Public Entities Pool of Ohio will increase approximately nine percent (9%) for an total cost of Seventy-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-Five Dollars (\$78,535.00) for Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00) in coverage. The increase is mainly due to additional property acquisitions along with coverage for three new bridges along The Maple Highlands Trail. The proposal included quotes for additional coverage but Mr. Curtin stated that we are not recommending an increase in coverage at this time. The expiration date for our current coverage is April 25, 2006.

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion to approve the execution of the liability insurance policy at a total cost of Seventy-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-Five Dollars (\$78,535.00) for Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00) in coverage.

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

RULES AND REGULATIONS ADDITION- RESOLUTION NO 10-06

Mr. Curtin presented proposed additions to Section 12 of the Park District Rules and Regulations that pertains to Hunting, Trapping and Fishing. These additions are proposed in an effort to protect the Park District and individuals participating in controlled hunts on park land. Mr. Curtin explained that the additions have been reviewed by Park District legal counsel. Mr. McCullough and Dr. Rzeszotarski suggested minor changes to the text.

Mr. McCullough made a motion for the adoption of a resolution to make the following additions to the Geauga Park District Rules and Regulations, so marked as Resolution No. 10-06

12.5 No one, on property owned or controlled by the Park District, shall purposely prevent or attempt to prevent any person from hunting, trapping or fishing for wild animals as authorized by the Executive Director by any of the following means.

- (a) Placing oneself in a location, in which he/she knows or should know that his/her presence may affect the behavior of the animal being hunted, trapped or fished.
- (b) Creating a visual, aural, olfactory or physical stimulus intended to affect the behavior of the wild animal being hunted, trapped or fished
- (c) Affecting the condition or location of personal property intended for the use of the hunting, trapping or fishing activity.
- (d) Creating noise or loud sounds to interfere with the hunting, trapping or fishing.

12.6 In any park, or any portion of any park, where the Executive Director has authorized individuals to hunt, no other persons shall be permitted within such park, or portion of such park, other than Park District employees and such authorized individuals, for so long as the hunting is authorized.

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

EXEMPT POSITIONS

Mr. Curtin presented a revision to Personnel Policy 503.1 to reflect the current positions at Geauga Park District which are exempted from overtime. The revision was necessary as positions had been added and some titles had been changed. The additions to the list of exempt positions are as follows:

- Director of Operations
- Naturalist Services Director
- Park Biologist
- Park Planner
- Development Officer
- Accountant
- Senior Naturalist

Dr. Rzeszotarski asked if these changes had been discussed with the employees involved. Mr. McClintock replied in the affirmative. He added that the changes are based on the personnel laws of Ohio.

Miss Cope made a motion to accept the changes to Personnel Policy 503.1 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

SODA CONSTRUCTION, INC. CHANGE ORDER NO. 14

Mr. Curtin presented Soda Construction, Inc. Change Order No. 14 in the amount of Five Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-Three Dollars and Seventy-One Cents (\$5,683.71) which represents the cost of installation of wire mesh over the windows on the bridges at Taylor Wells Road and Aquilla/Claridon Road as well as some additional piping not in the original scope of the contract.

Mr. McCullough made a motion to approve Soda Construction, Inc. Change Order No. 14 in the amount of Five Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-Three Dollars and Seventy-One Cents (\$5,683.71). 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

THRASHER, DINSMORE & DOLAN CONTRACT INCREASE

Mr. Curtin informed the Board that the contract with legal counsel, Thrasher, Dinsmore and Dolan, will need to be increased by Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) in part due to the ongoing legal work related to the case involving Great Lakes Construction, Co. Additional engineering services required to establish our position in this case are paid through the legal counsel contract. The Kostelec arbitration case is also a factor in the increase.

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion to increase the contract with Thrasher, Dinsmore and Dolan in the amount of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) as stated 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

INFINITREE EXHIBIT SALES

Mr. Curtin explained that during the budgeting process for 2006, it was estimated that the sales for the Infinitree artwork would be approximately Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00). Based on the calculation that the Arts Council receives twenty-five percent (25%) of sales, the artist fifty percent (50%) and the Park District twenty-five percent (25%), the amount to be expensed was set at Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00).

When the artwork actually came in and was priced, the total came to slightly over Seventy-One Thousand Dollars (\$71,000.00) which would require an expense payout of approximately Fifty-Three Thousand Dollars (\$53,000.00) if all items are sold.

Sales of artwork in the first two days of the Infinitree Event have totaled Five Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$5,750.00). Sherry Bosworth, Business Affairs Director, is requesting to open a contract in the amount of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) through which to run all the Infinitree artwork sales. Mrs. Bosworth will track the sales and monitor the contract to see if an additional increase is necessary.

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion to establish a contract in the amount of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) through which to run all the Infinitree artwork sales.

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 suggested that we use our twenty-five percent for an event similar in nature to the Infinitree exhibit in the future.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McCullough moved to go into Executive Session at 6:35 p.m. for the purpose of discussing land acquisition.

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 6:50 p.m. The following was discussed for resolution:

Land Acquisition

Claridon Township

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to authorize the Executive Director to enter into negotiations for real property in Claridon Township.

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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Departmental reports from the Supervisors were submitted for the month of March 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 6:50 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