

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT  
MINUTES  
August 8, 2006

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held on August 8, 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.

Employees present were:

Tom Curtin, Executive Director  
Keith McClintock, Deputy Director  
Les Bednar, Development Officer  
Barb Emch, Executive Secretary  
Holly Ferrante, Natural Resource Intern  
Cindy Ford, Marketing Assistant  
Tami Gingrich, Field Naturalist  
John Hayhurst, Lt. Ranger  
Paige Hosier, Marketing Director  
Bob Lange, Land Steward  
Josh Michalski, Natural Resource Intern  
John Oros, Natural Resource Manager  
Robin Pilarczyk, Human Resources Manager  
Paul Pira, Park Biologist  
Aaron Young, Park Planner

Visitors Present:

John Horton, The Plain Dealer  
Sofie L. Horvath  
Jerol Kennedy  
Glen Miller, The Maple Leaf  
T & Barbara Parkinson  
Diane Ryder, The News Herald  
Geri & Leila Slater

Geauga Park District Foundation Representative: Jacqueline Samuel

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Miss Cope moved to accept the agenda for the meeting.

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 |

**ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF JULY 11, 2006**

Miss Cope moved to accept the minutes of July 11, 2006 as amended.

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 OF JULY 24, 2006**

Miss Cope moved to accept the minutes of July 24, 2006 as amended.

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 |

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Mr. Curtin acknowledged the presence of the visitors in the audience and asked them to state their name and township of residence.

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

**GENERAL FUND**

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>BEGINNING FUND BALANCE JULY 1, 2006</b>                                | <b>1,452,185.32</b> |
| EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES   | <b>366,397.39</b>   |
| Personnel   | 180,288.61          |
| Medicare  | 2,478.52            |
| Dental /Hospitalization   | 35,071.80           |
| PERS  | 25,141.32           |
| Vouchers  | 123,417.14          |
| REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES  | <b>73,993.11</b>    |
| <u>General Tax Collections</u>  |                     |
| <u>Investment Income</u> <span style="float: right;">6,846.44</span>      |                     |
| <u>Gifts &amp; Donations</u> <span style="float: right;">49,493.43</span> |                     |
| - Corner of Art & Function - Infitree Art donation (\$52.50)              |                     |
| - Chardon United Methodist Church - program donation (\$25)               |                     |
| - In Memory of Dave Imhof (see attached- \$2,357)                         |                     |
| - In Memory of Eric Guzell - Timbertot program (Marx, \$50)               |                     |
| - GPD Foundation - Transfer Bio-C donations (\$47,008.93)                 |                     |
| <u>Fees</u>   |                     |
| - Programs - Schools - Out-of-County                                      | 50.00               |
| - Camping   | 20.00               |
| - Shelters  | 180.00              |
| - NAF Table Fees  | 400.00              |
| - Facility Utilities  | 25.00               |
| - Workshops - General - Public Program                                    | 60.00               |
| - Programs - General - Public Program                                     | 96.00               |
| <u>Sales</u>  |                     |
| - Tapper's Treasures - MC   | 216.83              |
| - Tree Tops - TWW   | 6,491.70            |
| - Credit Card - All Facilities  | 824.00              |
| - Water Vending Machine Sales - TWW                                       | 45.00               |
| <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>   |                     |
| Citation Disbursement   | 100.00              |
| Recycling Proceeds  | 45.25               |
| Refunds- Other -  | 278.93              |
| - BP Oil, refund overpayment (\$189.35)                                   |                     |
| - Insect Lore, returned items refunded (\$89.58)                          |                     |
| Local Government Funds  | 6,306.03            |

|  |          |                        |
|--|----------|------------------------|
| Miscellaneous Receipts   | 1,314.50 |                        |
| - County auction - Gravely mower, John Deere mower, computers (\$314.50) |          |                        |
| - Hi-Tech Extrusions - License agreement through 6/20/07 (\$1,000)       |          |                        |
| <b>ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF</b>   |          | <b>\$ 1,159,781.04</b> |

**LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND**

|  |           |                        |
|--|-----------|------------------------|
| <b>BEGINNING FUND BALANCE JULY 1, 2006</b>           |           | <b>3,100,754.20</b>    |
| EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES                            |           |                        |
| Vouchers   |           | <b>161,654.45</b>      |
| REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES                             |           |                        |
| <i>Investment Income</i>                             |           | <b>13,801.95</b>       |
| <i>Transfer from General Fund</i>                    | 12,956.76 |                        |
| <i>Gifts &amp; Donations</i>                         | 100.00    |                        |
| -In Memory of Nancy Thiege (\$25)                    |           |                        |
| -In Memory of Nancy Meyer (Kronk, McCullough - \$75) | 0.00      |                        |
| <i>Royalties</i>                                     |           |                        |
| - Oxford Oil Co - Swine Creek                        | 336.53    |                        |
| - Cedar Valley Energy - Hehmeyer property            | 332.74    |                        |
| - Range Resource Energy - Hart property              | 75.92     |                        |
| - Burton   | 0.00      |                        |
| <b>ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF</b>                     |           | <b>\$ 2,952,901.70</b> |
| <b>JULY 31, 2006</b>                                 |           |                        |

**RETAINAGE FUND**

|  |  |                   |
|--|--|-------------------|
| <b>BEGINNING FUND BALANCE JULY 1, 2006</b> |  | <b>194,472.93</b> |
| EXPENDITURES                               |  | <b>0.00</b>       |
| REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES                   |  | <b>800.03</b>     |
| <b>ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF</b>           |  | <b>195,272.96</b> |
| <b>JULY 31, 2006</b>                       |  |                   |

**VOUCHER RESOLUTION NO. 18-06**

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. 18-06.

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 reported that Geauga Park District maple syrup entries in the Ohio State Fair won the following ribbons:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place for light amber syrup
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place for medium amber syrup
- 1<sup>st</sup> place for dark amber syrup
- 1<sup>st</sup> place overall

Miss Cope was pleased with the results and wondered about the number of entries in each category. Mr. Curtin stated he would find out that information.

Mr. Curtin had communication from several patrons regarding their recent shelter reservations. Mary Zimmer of Chardon thanked the Park District for the use of the Aspen Grove shelter at Big Creek Park and wished that water could have been available. Nancy Tomazic's family enjoyed their recent camping experience at Big Creek Park and can't wait to have camping back at Headwaters Park. Georgie Farinacci of Chardon expressed thanks for the perfect park setting for a recent memorial service. Phyllis Pracker of Novelty would like to see fire pits near the shelters at The West Woods.

Mr. McCullough stated that he received a telephone call from Marjorie Rummel who expressed her enjoyment with a recent program conducted by Naturalist John Kolar held at The Weils of Bainbridge.

### **OPEN TO PUBLIC**

Mr. Curtin opened the meeting to the public for their comments.

Sofie Horvath of Munson Township stated her opposition to the proposal for a controlled deer hunt. She had several questions regarding the proposal which Mr. Curtin stated would be answered when the proposal was brought forward for discussion later in the meeting.

Jerol Kennedy of Auburn Township also expressed her opposition to a deer hunt and had questions about the Hunter Safety course offered by the Park District. Mr. Curtin explained that these classes are required to obtain an Ohio hunting license and that the Park District has been holding these classes since the 1980's.

Geri Slater of Chardon Township asked why the Park District is in favor of controlled hunting on park property. Mr. Curtin responded that we see negative impact in our parks from deer browse and that we need to maintain biodiversity of all species. The deer browse affects the understory plants that sustain many birds, animals, and insects. We have seen significant decline in the wildflowers in our parks, such as the trillium in Big Creek Park. He added that Cleveland Metroparks and the Metroparks serving Summit County use sharpshooters to control the deer populations. We want to allow county residents the opportunity to help us manage the population. He continued that maintaining a healthy balance of all plant and wildlife is the goal and not to just provide an opportunity for hunting. Mr. Slater commented that he is not against hunting but feels that the parks are for the protection of animals. Leila Slater asked about natural predators of deer. Mr. Curtin replied that there are no longer any natural predators of deer such as wolves or cougars. Man is the only predator of deer.

T. Parkinson of Munson Township made a statement about the impact of the deer population and the fiscal and safety concerns with encountering them on the roadways. He added that the over grazing and loss of browse causes sickness and starvation among the deer population. He stated that the park lands should not be permitted to be a refuge for the excessive number of animals now present. He added that he supports a proposal to permit county residents to hunt deer on park lands under the regulations of the Ohio Division of Wildlife and with proper notification to the public.

Barbara Parkinson stated that she is not a hunter but is in favor of a controlled hunt as she feels that the park lands are for everyone including hunters and fishermen.

In order to address the concerns stated by the public, Mr. Curtin asked Mr. Oros to proceed with the explanation of the fall controlled hunting proposal.

### **FALL CONTROLLED HUNT**

Mr. Curtin stated that the Park District Natural Resource Department has conducted research on the deer populations on park lands and that this research is controlling and driving the policy.

John Oros, Natural Resource Manager, referred the Board to the proposal for a fall controlled hunt. The proposal recommends that bow-hunting for whitetail deer and shotgun hunting for wild turkey be conducted on several park properties not open to the public. Eight park properties were recommended for deer hunts. The research shows that the healthy biological carrying capacity of 5-10 deer per mile has been exceeded on these properties as indicated by aerial deer surveys. One hunter per approximately 50 acres will be permitted. Hunters will be allowed to use tree stands and bait piles to humanely harvest the deer. The hunters must complete a bow hunting accuracy test. A local archery range will be selected to conduct this test in cooperation with the Park District Ranger Department.

The proposal included a controlled hunt for turkey at the Observatory Park during the turkey shotgun season. Other suggestions were proposed for hunting other waterfowl such as Canada Geese.

The Board members offered comments and suggestions regarding the proposal.

Mr. McCullough asked about arrangements for parking on these properties for the hunters. Mr. Oros stated that those issues would need to be examined and that, where access was a limiting factor, neighbors of the property could be invited to enter the lottery for a permit.

Miss Cope stated that sufficient time must be given to notify the neighbors of the property as to the dates of the hunt. Mr. McCullough asked how the Park District would communicate with the Amish community. Mr. Oros stated that they would utilize the *Good News* to invite the Amish community to participate in the hunt.

Mrs. Horvath once again objected to the idea of killing wildlife. Mr. Curtin explained that we as a society are being forced to make these decisions based on the way we have developed the land. Two hundred years ago there were not as many deer as there are now. The changes in the habitat have been in favor of increasing populations. Park lands may be a small part of the total acreage in the county but they are being negatively impacted. If nothing is done, plant life and birds will diminish. Mr. McCullough added that research has shown that deer are a predator to ground nesting songbirds. Miss Cope mentioned that two weeks ago she and John Oros visited Brecksville Reservation with the Natural Resource Manager from Cleveland Metroparks. They walked the trails and made notice of the absence of lush greenery. She was shocked by the bare tree trunks and the lack of ground vegetation. She stated that measures need to be taken to prevent this loss of vegetation and biodiversity in our parks.

Dr. Rzeszotarski talked about the aerial surveys of the deer populations on park lands. He stated that we have been monitoring this data for years. Biological methods for controlling the deer population, such as sterilization do not work. The decision to conduct controlled hunting is based on science. He explained that the Park District has been monitoring the impact of deer browse on the vegetation for years through the use of deer exclosures.

Questions were asked by the visitors present about the safety of this type of hunting. Dr. Rzeszotarski stated that of the eight park properties only one, Bass Lake, was open to the public. Bass Lake Preserve only has public access to the lodge building and the lake for fishing. There are no trails on that property. The Park District will take all measures to be sure that the hunting is done safely. He added that we will look to control the park boundaries and determine the range of the firearms and if it can't be done safely then we will not do it.

Mrs. Kennedy asked about the response that the Park District has received for and against the hunting issue. Mr. Oros stated that the response to the spring turkey hunt was approximately

even in terms of those opposed and those in favor. Dr. Rzeszotarski added that at the recent civil discourse meeting on hunting in the parks, which was sponsored by the West Geauga Library, nearly ninety percent of those attending were in favor of hunting on parklands.

Dr. Rzeszotarski stated that no decision with regard to a fall controlled hunt has been made at this time. He would like clarification on several items, among them the parking issues and the training and competency of the hunters. He added that even though the hunting season starts on September 30<sup>th</sup>, we do not have to feel compelled to start at that time. He suggested that a special meeting of the Board may need to be held to discuss the issue further.

Mr. McCullough thanked the visitors for their input and stated that we would proceed with the remaining items on the agenda.

**VIOLENCE IN THE WORKPLACE POLICY NO. 712.1**

The Violence in the Workplace Policy No. 712.1 was reviewed by the Board at their July 11, 2006 meeting and at that time they suggested several wording changes and asked that it be reviewed by Park District legal counsel. Robin Pilarczyk stated that the policy has been reviewed by Park legal counsel as well as the legal counsel for the Ranger union.

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion to approve the Violence in the Workplace Policy No. 712.1, a copy of which is on file in the Park District office.

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 |

**DRUG FREE WORKPLACE POLICY NO. 707.1**

A revision to the Drug Free Workplace Policy was brought before the Board at their July 11, 2006 meeting. The change included mandatory pre-employment drug testing for new employees only. The Board made several wording changes and asked that it be reviewed by Park District legal counsel. Mr. Curtin stated that the changes they requested were made and that the policy had been reviewed by Park District legal counsel. Mr. McCullough asked if there was a list of the drugs that an individual would be tested for as he was concerned that an individual may be legally taking a drug that is on the list. Robin Pilarczyk stated that if someone is legally taking a drug on the list then there are steps to be taken to be sure that they are accommodated.

Dr. Rzeszotarski suggested that employees be given information about the testing and a link to website information regarding the list of drugs.

Miss Cope made a motion to approve the revisions of the Drug Free Workplace Policy No. 707.1, a copy of which 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:

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Miss Cope        | Yes |
| Mr. McCullough   | Yes |
| Dr. Rzeszotarski | Yes |

**LOCATION AND TIME OF BOARD MEETINGS**

Mr. Curtin shared with the Board the results of a survey of other park districts in the state as to the time and location of their board meetings. He stated that eleven of the eighteen districts surveyed have daytime board meetings with the remaining having early evening meetings.

Dr. Rzeszotarski stated that the advantage of having meetings at the Meyer Center is that the records and information are easily accessible.

Mr. Curtin reported that he received a call from Russell resident, Ben Sustin, who asked that the Board consider having meetings in the evening.

Dr. Rzeszotarski said that when the need arises, we will give consideration to holding special meetings in an area of the county at a time to afford additional opportunities for input from the public. Miss Cope agreed that we should be open to holding meetings in other locations to give access to residents as was done for the recent Frohring Meadows issue.

### **PARK UPDATE**

Mr. Curtin updated the Board on the following:

#### **Wildlife Management Public Programs**

Mr. Curtin reported that the following programs have been scheduled for the fall having to do with the issue of wildlife management:

"Trapping's Place in History, The Present & the Future" 10/19/06 - 7:00 p.m.- Meyer Center  
"The Deer Problem: Stats, Facts and Proposed Solutions" 10/26/06 - 7:00 p.m. - Meyer Center  
"The Global Issue of Animal Health" 12/2/06 - 7:00 p.m. - Meyer Center

#### **Great Lakes Construction, Inc.**

Mr. Curtin explained that the Park District is considering mediation in the case regarding Great Lakes Construction, Inc. and the repairs to The Maple Highlands Trail North. The mediation could take place in late September and the decision would not be binding. The cost of the mediator would be split between the Park District and Great Lakes Construction, Inc. Mr. Curtin recommended taking this route as it would cost more to go to court.

#### **Geauga Park District Endowment Fund**

It was reported that Keith McClintock, Sherry Bosworth, Business Affairs Director, and Michele Pennell, Park District Accountant, had a recent meeting with Tracy Jemison, Geauga County Auditor. Mr. Jemison stated that he had concerns about the endowment fund in view of a Senate Bill 81 ruling in 2003. This ruling states that government agencies cannot invest taxpayers' dollars in mutual funds. Mr. Jemison concluded that this meant that Geauga Park District could not take public funds to create an endowment fund. The warrant for the funds to establish the endowment fund was signed by the County Auditor. In addition, Mr. Curtin stated that we asked for an opinion from the State Auditor's office prior to the establishment of the funds and were told to get a legal opinion. An opinion from Park legal counsel was received which indicated that there was no prohibition to establishing an endowment fund.

Clarification needs to be made as to whether donations and bequests are different from tax dollars. Dr. Rzeszotarski stated that we need to go to the Ohio Attorney General's office and get an opinion. We are also seeking the opinion of lawyers who specialize in this field to determine if the correct process was followed in the establishment of these funds and to receive guidance as to how to proceed.

#### **Ranger Department Neighbor Meetings**

Mr. Curtin reported that the Ranger Department will conduct the first of its park neighbor meetings. The first meeting will be held on Thursday, August 24, 2006 for the neighbors of Big Creek Park.

#### **Nature Arts Festival**

Mr. Curtin reported that the attendance at the recent Nature Arts Festival was 1500. This is down from our average attendance of over 2000. The artists reported that they are seeing this trend at other art shows. Comments from the artists were favorable for the way the event was organized and run.

### **Sedimentation Issue near The Maple Highlands Trail-North**

Mr. Curtin informed the Board that residents who have property with a pond on the west side of State Route 44 and Hosford Rd. have complained that they have experienced sedimentation in their pond during heavy rains. They are blaming it on runoff from The Maple Highlands Trail. Mr. Curtin explained that he visited the site and took pictures and does not feel that the run-off is coming from the trail. He met with the neighbors again to share that information with them; however, they feel that the pond was clear until the bike trail was constructed. Mr. McClintock added that the bike trail represents five to seven percent (5-7%) of the runoff from that watershed which also drains over 130 acres from the north and the east. Dr. Rzeszotarski suggested that more pictures could be taken to show the path of the runoff in heavy rains.

### **Affelder House**

Mr. Curtin showed the Board copies of the signs that will be used at Affelder House at the State Route 306 entrance. Mr. Curtin reported that Jeanne Affelder was very pleased with the renovations when she visited the property in July. Recently, some water damage was incurred when a pipe broke which was the fault of the contractor. The floor will need to be resealed. Outdoor site improvements continue with work on the dry hydrant, patio and outside drain.

### **Life Insurance Plan**

Mr. Curtin stated that the Park District will maintain our current employee life insurance plan. Other options were reviewed and it was determined that the current plan is competitive.

### **Bass Lake Preserve**

A revised concept plan and preliminary drawings will be brought to the Board for review at their September meeting.

### **Frohring Meadows**

Mr. Curtin reported that we are still waiting for the Ohio Department of Transportation to forward the final wetland documents. We are also waiting for final approval of trail funds from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. With continuing delays, the prairie will not be planted this fall.

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

Mr. Curtin reported that approximately 800 feet of the trail is paved with stone work completed from Stillwell Road to State Rt. 608. Some vandalism occurred on the bridge at Taylor Wells Road however the offenders were apprehended by our Ranger Department.

### **Mountain Run Station**

Parking lot construction will begin next year. Dr. Rzeszotarski suggested meeting with the neighbors of the Mountain Run Station area early next year to review the plans.

### **GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT FOUNDATION REPORT**

Les Bednar reported on a fundraising event for the Observatory Park which will be held on Saturday, October 7, 2006 at Wicked Woods Golf Club in Newbury, Ohio. The event is entitled "Reach for the Heavens." Underwriters are being sought for auction items and other support. The venue is polished yet rustic which will afford for an elegant yet natureful event. There will be hands-on, nature-related activities and telescopes for night vision adventures.

Jacqueline Samuel distributed a copy of the organizational chart for the Geauga Park District Foundation. She pointed out that the Resource Committee is in charge of all fundraising with four sub-committees which will focus on specific areas. The Resource Committee chair will also serve on the Finance Committee to maintain a connection. Mrs. Samuel stated that three members will be leaving the Foundation Board and are members of the Executive Committee. Potential candidates are being approached and several have expressed interest.



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

**CERTIFICATION OF REVENUE RUNDS – RESOLUTION NO. 19-06**

Mr. Curtin reported that the Park District is receiving a Material Citation from the 2005 state audit. The auditors consider the Two Million Two Hundred Forty-Eight Thousand Four Hundred Sixty-Eight Dollars and Fifty-Five Cents (\$2,248,468.55) that was paid directly to Soda Construction for The Maple Highlands Trail be considered an asset. Those funds should have been certified in the Park District's 2005 budget and were not.

In view of this ruling, the following funds need to be certified by resolution:

|                                     |                  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Bike Trail PID 5231 ODOT            | \$2,759,428.90   |
| Bike Trail PID 5231 additional ODOT | 364,000.00       |
| Biennium Funding PID 81291 ODOT     | <u>46,195.00</u> |
| Total to be certified               | \$3,169,623.90   |

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion to approve the following resolution, so marked Resolution No. 19-06:

WHEREAS, Geauga Park District must certify all funds that the Park District receives from Federal or State grants in money as well as material.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; for the year 2006 additional revenue to be certified from the Ohio Department of Transportation Grant PID 5231 is Three Million One Hundred Twenty-Three Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-Eight Dollars and Ninety Cents (\$3,123,428.90) and the Ohio Department of Transportation Biennium Fund PID81291 in the amount of Forty-Six Thousand One Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars (\$46,195.00) for a total of Three Million One Hundred Sixty-Nine Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-Three Dollars and Ninety Cents (\$3,169,623.90).

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 |

**EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION PLAN**

At the July 11, 2006 Board meeting, Chris Belz from Belz and Associates, Inc. presented to the Board proposed revisions to the compensation system for Geauga Park District employees.

Mr. McCullough made a motion to approve the Compensation System as presented to the Board to be implemented accordingly.

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 |

A copy of the Compensation System matrix is on file in the Human Resource Department of the Park District office.

### **CONTROLLED HUNT PROPOSAL**

Dr. Rzeszotarski desired to continue the discussion of the fall controlled hunting proposal and had several comments and questions for John Oros. He would like to see more documentation and research before approving hunting for waterfowl as we need to have an evaluation of those populations. Mr. Curtin added that we need to obtain data and pictures of the impact of these waterfowl on park lands.

Dr. Rzeszotarski stated that he would like to see a repeat of the turkey hunt at the Observatory property during fall shotgun season to compare this to the results of the spring turkey hunt. Mr. McClintock stated that the pattern and behavior of turkeys this year made the hunting difficult even for the best hunters. Mr. Oros added that there is still a significant amount of turkey scratch at the Observatory property which is of concern as that property holds several listed threatened and endangered species of plants.

Dr. Rzeszotarski recommended that consideration be given to deer bow hunting this fall and mentioned four park properties that stood out: Becvar Preserve, Ellerin Property, Observatory Park, and Sunnybrook Preserve. These are closed parks that would be easier to control. He added that at the Observatory property, the bow hunting for deer should be closed during the shotgun season for turkey. The aerial surveys indicate that the deer population at Frohring Meadows is quite high but that property will not be included in a hunt this year as construction may begin there this fall.

Regarding the parking issue, Dr. Rzeszotarski commented that if parking is not available than the hunt should be limited to those with local access only.

In order to insure the competency of the hunters, Dr. Rzeszotarski suggested working with one firm in the county that has demonstrated reliability and responsibility in this area. Firms could be asked to submit a proposal for certifying the hunters and then we would select the best.

Dr. Rzeszotarski stated that park boundaries should be clearly marked. Flags could be placed within 100 feet of the park limits. A training session should be held with the hunters and these boundaries very carefully spelled out.

Dr. Rzeszotarski wanted to be sure that we reach out to the neighbors adjacent to the properties and to the Amish community. Consideration could be given to provide priority to adjacent landowners and experienced archers. He added that he would like to limit the hunt to adults at this time. Mr. Curtin stated that the spring turkey hunt for youth went well. Dr. Rzeszotarski commented that a youth hunt may have a negative reaction by the public.

Dr. Rzeszotarski suggested conducting a special Board meeting in two weeks to finalize the plans for a fall controlled hunt. Mr. Curtin suggested meeting at The West Woods Nature Center and inviting the public officials of the townships where the properties are located.

### **MOUNTAIN RUN STATION PHASE II ENGINEERING CONTRACT**

Mr. Curtin presented for approval the contract for the consulting engineering work for Phase II of Mountain Run Station with E. G. & G. Inc. in the amount of Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred Five Dollars (\$17,505.00). The work will involve assistance with the construction documents, the bidding process, and construction administration.

Mr. McCullough made a motion to approve the contract with E. G. & G. Inc. in the amount of Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred Five Dollars (\$17,505.00) as stated above. 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 |

### **BIG CREEK PARK- GAS WELL**

Keith McClintock reported that he was contacted by Dr. Al Coogan, a former professor and geologist and reputable individual regarding the gas reserves on Big Creek Park land. Dr. Coogan now represents a company that has installed three gas wells on property across from Big Creek Park on Robinson Road. Dr. Coogan told Keith that the size of the reserves from those wells are unheard of and are the best producing wells in the county but are likely pulling from park property as well. The company is proposing to drill a well on park property near the power line in an area that is already impacted. The well could provide gas to the Big Creek shop. Gas for the shop cost Fourteen Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$14,125.00) in 2003. We could get a credit of 200,000 cubic feet of gas. Three-quarters of an acre would be needed to drill and the site would be restored after drilling. Dr. Rzeszotarski stated that he prefers saving gas reserves for future needs but is concerned that we are losing it through the neighboring wells. Dr. Rzeszotarski added that he would like more information from another expert and additional underground strata information. He feels that a vast majority of wells are not producing. It was decided to table the matter until additional information is obtained.

### **IRS RULING- FRINGE BENEFITS**

Mr. Curtin reported that Michele Pennell, Accountant, and Robin Pilarczyk, Human Resources Manager attended a recent meeting with other Geauga County departments. The Internal Revenue Service implemented changes to taxable benefits in 2003 and have been going from county to county in the state to provide training. Changes to park policies and practices must be made to be in compliance with these changes. Mr. Curtin reported that the issues that affect Park District employees are uniforms, meals associated with travel or training, flu shots, staff awards, personal use of park vehicles, cell phones and education benefits.

Mr. Curtin stated that the Park District and all the county agencies as well as the County Auditor's office were not in compliance with these new rulings as none were aware of the changes. Miss Cope stated that our legal counsel should have kept up with these changes and notified us. Dr. Rzeszotarski was disappointed that the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association was not on top of these changes. Mr. Curtin stated that Sherry Bosworth and Robin Pilarczyk are working on implementing these changes and will notify the staff at the next all-staff meeting. The policy on uniforms is still being worked out. Mr. Curtin wanted to inform the Board of the situation.

### **SODA CONSTRUCTION CO. CHANGE ORDER NO. 15**

Mr. Curtin presented Soda Construction Co. Change Order No. 15 for approval. The change represents an increase in the length of the contract due to weather delays for a total of forty-one days overall bringing the completion date to September 25, 2006.

Miss Cope made a motion to approve Soda Construction Co. Change Order No. 15 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 |

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. McCullough moved to go into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and pending litigation.

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 8:00 p.m. The following was discussed for resolution:

**Miller House Auction**

Mr. Curtin reported that park property, Parcel No. 18-090713, containing a house and three acres at 17363 Swine Creek Road in Middlefield Township was sold at auction for One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) on August 8, 2006 to Daniel D. J. Miller of Middlefield Township.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

Departmental reports from the Supervisors were submitted for the month of July 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 8:05 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,

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Thomas G. Curtin, Executive Director

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Robert McCullough, President