

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES
August 9, 2005

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held on August 9, 2005, 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
Cindy Ford, Marketing Assistant
John Hayhurst, Ranger
Kathleen Henning, Ranger
Paige Hosier, Marketing Director
Larry McKinnon, Sgt. Ranger
Mark Reid, Ranger
Tom Salo, Park Manager-North
Robert Urban, Chief Ranger
Vince Valerio, Ranger

Guests present were:

Randy Ricciardo, Lake Metroparks

Foundation Representative: Jon Green

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:

Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF JULY 19, 2005

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved that the minutes of July 19, 2005 be approved as amended.
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

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
FINANCIAL STATEMENT MONTH ENDED
JULY 31, 2005**

GENERAL FUND		
BALANCE JULY 1, 2005		1,122,298.05
EXPENDITURES		370,286.33
Personnel	180,897.89	
Medicare	2,176.54	
Dental /Hospitalization	30,365.24	
PERS	25,261.99	
Vouchers	131,584.67	
RECEIPTS		16,111.66
General:		

Fees:		
- Camping	20.00	
- Shelters	100.00	
- Canoe and Kayak	55.00	
- NAF Table Fees	720.00	
- Workshops - General - public program	30.00	
- Programs - General - public program	75.00	
Rental Properties		
- Harry- Swine Creek house	350.00	
- Kolar - Burton Wetlands House	350.00	
- McKinnon - Hyde House	350.00	
Sales:		
Sales: Gift Cart - Meyer Center	385.22	
Sales: Tree Tops	1,692.80	
Sales - Credit Cards	1,169.32	
(\$165.26 - Meyer Center, \$1,004.06 Tree Tops)		
Sales: Water Vending Machine Sales - TWW	24.00	
Other:		
Citation Disbursement	219.00	
Parking Ticket Collections	10.00	
Refunds- Other - Rocco, garage refund from K-9	40.00	
Donations:	1,038.00	
- Kinder - In memory of Ken Kinder		
- GPD Foundation, Bateman Endowment interest transfer		
Local Government Funds	6,306.03	
Interest earned	3,143.51	
Other Miscellaneous	33.78	
- GPD Foundation, postage reimbursement		
BALANCE AS OF JULY 31, 2005		768,123.38
CONSTRUCTION FUND		
BALANCE JULY 1, 2005		1,384,944.43
EXPENDITURES		13,187.50
Vouchers	13,187.50	
RECEIPTS		4,442.03
Interest Earned	3,713.66	
Royalties: Oxford Oil Co	271.20	
Royalties: Cedar Valley Energy	398.20	
Royalties - Power Gas	58.97	
BALANCE AS OF JULY 31, 2005		1,376,198.96

VOUCHER RESOLUTION NO. 23-05

Mr. Curtin presented three additional vouchers that were submitted for Board pre-approval before payment. The additional vouchers for legal services are as follows:

Thrasher Dinsmore and Dolan	\$9,556.00
Blaugrund Herbert and Martin	\$1,190.75
The Dublin Management Group	\$ 761.40

Miss Cope moved the adoption of the voucher resolution, a copy of which is on file in the Park District office, so marked Resolution No. 23-05.

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

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Miss Cope commented about her experience at the Geauga Park District levy table during the Nature Arts Festival. She stated that the patrons expressed strong support for the Park District.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-05 TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Mr. Curtin asked the Board to approve the transfer of One Million Four Hundred Fifty-One Thousand Dollars (\$1,451,000.00) from the SO5 General Fund to the Q41 Construction Fund for construction projects and land acquisition as budgeted.

Mr. McCullough moved the adoption of Resolution No. 24-05 as stated above.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 25-05 APPOINTMENT OF RANGER

Mark Reid

Mr. McCullough made a motion for the adoption of the following resolution, so marked Resolution No. 25-05:

RESOLVED, that in accordance with section 1545.13 of the Ohio Revised Code, Mark Reid be appointed as Ranger of Geauga Park District, and

RESOLVED, that this appointment be effective on the date August 9, 2005.

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

Mr. Curtin called Mark Reid forward and administered the oath of office to him.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-05 APPOINTMENT OF RANGER

John Hayhurst

Mr. McCullough made a motion for the adoption of the following resolution, so marked Resolution No. 26-05:

RESOLVED, that in accordance with section 1545.13 of the Ohio Revised Code, John Hayhurst be appointed as Ranger of Geauga Park District, and

RESOLVED, that this appointment be effective on the date August 8, 2005.

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

Mr. Curtin called John Hayhurst forward and administered the oath of office to him. Mr. Curtin had previously administered the oath of office to Ranger Hayhurst on August 8, 2005 as it was his first day of employment.

QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS RE: HOUSE BILL 367

House Bill 367 is the recent legislation passed which permits park districts operating under Section 1545.21 of the Ohio Revised Code to increase the size of their boards. The results of a survey of park districts in Ohio which operate under Section 1545.21 were distributed to the Board prior to this meeting. The survey asked the park districts whether their boards had discussed increasing the size of their membership or if they had plans to do so. The survey was sent to over forty park districts with fifteen responding. Thirteen of the responding parks reported that their boards discussed the topic either when the legislation was proposed or after it passed. Fourteen of the parks responded that they have no plans to increase their boards in the future with one park district reporting that they were to have a discussion about the topic at their August meeting. The Board was provided with the complete responses which included comments about the issue from the various park administrators. Mr. Curtin informed the Board that since the survey results were distributed, the park district in Stark County reported that their board discussed the issue and it appears that they will move to add two new members. Dr. Rzeszotarski stated that he found the comments enlightening and that it was interesting to see and understand the different perspectives reflected in the survey. Miss Cope reported that she had a talk with Fred Rzepka, Vice President of the Board of Cleveland Metroparks. She mentioned that Mr. Rzepka stated that he sees no point in considering adding new members if the board or park district is not in trouble. He shared that their park board rotates the officers every year. Miss Cope stated that she felt that after talking with Mr. Rzepka and reviewing the survey comments that there is no need to consider any changes at this time but that perhaps the issue should be revisited in another two years. She commented that it will be fascinating to see what happens in Stark County.

KOSTELEK, PETE & DARLENE

PROPERTY UPDATE

The Maple Highlands Trail

Mr. Curtin reported that he talked with Park legal counsel once again regarding the Pete and Darlene Kostelec property where the construction crew cleared trees close to their property. The Kostelegs agreed to the Park's offer of compensation for the tree which was felled but want additional compensation for the loss of screening of the trail which they claim was affected by the clearing. Dave Ondrey, Geauga Park District legal counsel, stated that if we proceed with arbitration it could be settled in a timely manner. An arbitration panel of three lawyers will be created. The Park District will choose one member, the Kostelegs will choose one member and the two lawyers will choose the third member. It is Mr. Ondrey's recommendation that we go to arbitration and that we include the ability for each side to do discovery in order to present a better

case to the arbitration panel. Mr. Curtin stated that he is in agreement with the recommendation of arbitration and that Kevin O'Reilly, the attorney for the Kostelevs, is also making this recommendation to his clients.

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion that the Park District proceed with arbitration as stated above in the matter regarding Pete and Darlene Kostelev.

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

PARK UPDATES

Mr. Curtin updated the Board on the following:

Ranger Department Assistance To Sheriff's Department

Mr. Curtin reported to the Board that on August 4, 2005 a hit and run accident took place with an Amish buggy on State Route 87. Sgt. Larry McKinnon's quick thinking led to his apprehending the driver on Claridon-Troy Road. Sgt. McKinnon held the suspect until the Sheriff's deputies arrived. Sheriff Daniel McClelland expressed his appreciation to Chief Robert Urban for Sgt. McKinnon's assistance in this matter. Chief Urban has written a letter for Sgt. McKinnon's file which will be read at the next Park District staff meeting.

Bio-Centennial Fundraising

Les Bednar presented documents to the Board members for their review and feedback. The documents presented a master list of the underwriting opportunities for different levels of the exhibit elements. Discussion took place regarding how this fundraising will differ from that of the *Engage the Ice Age!* exhibit. There are not as many levels of opportunities as with the previous exhibit. Dr. Rzeszotarski suggested borrowing from the extensive collection of biology and botany of the Natural History Museum to show wildlife collected in the County. Such collections could be displayed in the gallery, lobby, or classroom. He stated that the average person will never see such collections in a museum and they would offer a low-end funding opportunity.

Miss Cope asked how much money has been contributed to the donation box in the lobby of The West Woods Nature Center. Mrs. Bednar replied that approximately Five Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$5,100.00) has been collected by the volunteers. The Bio-Centennial exhibit will open on November 1, 2006.

The West Woods

Affelder House

Mr. Curtin reported that Rod Sharpnack, Operations Director, met with Russell Township Fire Department for approval of the driveway requirements.

Beartown Lakes Reservation

Lower Bear Lake Dam Improvements

The contract has been signed with Smolen Engineering, Ltd. for the engineering of repairs to the Lower Bear Lake dam and they hope to have the engineering work completed by October of 2005. The field repairs will take place in May or June of 2006.

Frohring Meadows

All design recommendations and revisions have been included in the design contract with Environmental Design Group, Inc. The contract with the Environmental Design Group, Inc. was negotiated in the amount of Forty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$47,500.00) and has been sent to them for signature. Mercyhurst Archaeological Institute will start field investigation for the archaeological survey of the property on August 15, 2005.

Mr. Curtin reported that he received a telephone call from Paula Frohring, the daughter of Paul Frohring, the individual who donated the land for Frohring Meadows. Ms. Frohring thanked Mr. Curtin for the update on the plans for the project and commented that she thought the sixty (60) car parking lot indicated on the plans was too large. Mr. Curtin also received an email from the grandson of Mr. Frohring expressing concern over the size of the parking lot. Mr. Curtin stated that since those plans were sent, we have downsized the plans for the parking lot to forty (40) cars. Mr. Curtin said that he will invite Paula Frohring to walk the property with John Oros and talk about the plans for the park. Dr. Rzeszotarski added that it might be helpful to share with Ms. Frohring statistics regarding visitation and reservations at Beartown Lakes to support the idea that a park in the Bainbridge area will get considerable use.

Green Roof Interpretive Display Panel

Mr. Curtin explained that the green roof interpretive display panel will be located right along side the Neighbor's Way Trail at The West Woods. The purpose of the display is to provide visitors with information about the construction, maintenance, and benefits of the green roof installed on the garage building. Mr. John Jensen of The Gund Foundation had been eager to see an interpretive feature for the green roof project. The Board members were given a draft of the panels for their review and were given an opportunity to comment. Miss Cope suggested that the material also be presented in a brochure. Paige Hosier commented that there are plans for a brochure that will be similar in look and content. Mr. McCullough mentioned that he would like to see some interpretive information regarding the green aspects of the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems at The West Woods.

The Maple Highlands Trail – Central

Soda Construction's progress on the embankment for the Taylor Wells Road bridge approaches is at ninety (90) percent completion. Union Industrial Contractors is working on the roof panels. We hope to get the road open for the fair. Signs will be posted for fair traffic and the Claridon Township trustees will be notified. Demolition of the bridge at Claridon/Aquilla Road will take place in mid-September. The bridge construction company, Union Industrial Contractors, is ordering the pre-fabricated bridge.

Mountain Run Station

Change Order No. 1 with Mark Haynes Construction approved at the July 19, 2005 meeting of the Board came in at Twenty-One Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$21,100). Excavation, geo-grid for the embankment and stone to the trail junction is near completion. The retention and sediment basins have been seeded and covered with straw. Work on the bio-retention trenches will begin on August 15, 2005. The project is scheduled for completion on August 26, 2005.

Observatory Project

Interviews are scheduled for August 22, 2005 with three design firms for the Observatory project.

Walking Program

Mr. Curtin reported that Robin Pilarczyk and the committee for the new Tracks 'n Treads Program (T'nT) are meeting with University Hospital Health System-Geauga Regional Hospital to discuss a partnership in this program. More details will be presented at the September meeting of the Board.

Ruling on Tax Deductibility of Donations to Geauga Park District

The Park District has been working to get an official ruling on the tax deductibility of contributions made to Geauga Park District. Mr. Curtin reported that he received an email from Mark Carnabuci from the office of the State Auditor. Mr. Carnabuci stated that Geauga Park District is a political subdivision and, as such, charitable donations made directly to the Park District are tax deductible, if the gift is used exclusively for public purposes. This ruling will permit donors to receive a tax deduction on contributions made to Geauga Park District directly or to the Geauga Park District Foundation.

SODA CONSTRUCTION, INC.
CHANGE ORDER N0-6

Mr. Curtin presented Change Order No. 6 from Soda Construction, Inc. which reflected a decrease of Thirty-Three Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety-Two Dollars and Ninety-Six Cents (\$33,792.96) due to the change of the bridge type at Claridon Road to a different structure. The contract price with all approved Change Orders is Four Million Nine Hundred Sixty-Three Thousand Thirty-Nine Dollars and Nineteen Cents (\$4,963,039.19).

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion to approve Change Order No. 6 from Soda Construction, Inc. reflecting a decrease of Thirty-Three Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety-Two Dollars and Ninety-Six Cents (\$33,792.96).

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

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT FOUNDATION
APPROVAL OF NEW TRUSTEES

Ms. Bednar distributed a list of the names of four individuals whom the Park Board had approved for consideration as trustees of the Geauga Park District Foundation. The Foundation Board of Trustees has agreed that the following four individuals be added to their Board:

Tom Basista
Pat Leech
John Steigerwald
Loren Yeager

Miss Cope made a motion to approve the appointment of the new trustees to the Geauga Park District Foundation as listed above.

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

EXTENSION OF LEASE WITH CITY OF AKRON FOR
EAST BRANCH RESERVOIR (HEADWATERS PARK)

Mr. Curtin explained that the ten-year lease with the City of Akron for Headwaters Park will come to an end on December 31, 2005. We have the option of two five-year extensions before the contract needs to be re-negotiated. Miss Cope asked if the five-year extension lease would remain the same for both parties. Mr. Curtin replied in the affirmative. Dr. Rzeszotarski asked if we could approach the City of Akron for a ten-year lease. Mr. Curtin replied that he would ask that question. Mr. Curtin also stated that the agreement does permit either party to terminate the agreement with written notice.

Mr. McCullough made a motion to extend the lease with the City of Akron for Headwaters Park which will become effective January 1, 2006.

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

Mr. McCullough then signed the lease and it was witnessed by Miss Cope and Dr. Rzeszotarski.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Mr. Curtin opened the discussion regarding five specific questions related to the Strategic Plan.

1. What do we want Geauga Park District to look like in five years and how will we achieve it?
2. How will we balance acquisition and development of new park lands?
3. Which groups can we build partnerships with to increase awareness of and support for the Park District?
4. What kinds of skills will our staff need in five years and will we need more staff?
5. What is the projected level of funding to operate the Park District in the future?

Dr. Rzeszotarski suggested adding the following questions:

1. What is the big picture?
2. Where have we been?
3. What did we learn?
4. Where are we now?
5. Where are we going?

He also added that the executive summary should address the transition from a focus on land acquisition to development and maintenance of facilities and how we will provide the services required for a growing population. Miss Cope added that the discussion that took place earlier in the meeting about the Frohring property is relevant with respect to the personal involvement of the donor. Dr. Rzeszotarski stated that he understands the desire to make the least impact on the environment but that a balance needs to be struck in order to provide quality nature education for all. Mr. Curtin suggested having a special Board retreat to discuss these questions and to further develop the Strategic Plan. It was agreed that this retreat will take place on Saturday, September 24, 2005 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at The West Woods Nature Center.

The Board took a break from 4:40 p.m. to 4:50 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McCullough moved to go into Executive Session at 4:50 p.m. for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and personnel matters.

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

The Board returned from Executive Session at 5:45 p.m. The following was discussed for resolution:

LAND ACQUISITION

Russell Township

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to approve the purchase of real property in Russell Township owned by Mary Elizabeth Greene, containing approximately 6.5 acres of land, with the purchase price yet to be determined.

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

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 5:46 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