

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES
JANUARY 10, 2006

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held on January 10, 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
Barb Emch, Executive Secretary
Cindy Ford, Marketing Assistant
Tami Gingrich, Field Naturalist
Paige Hosier, Marketing Director
John Oros, Natural Resource Manager
Robin Pilarczyk, Human Resources Manager

Guests present:

Mr. Bill Young, Geauga County Commissioner

Foundation Representatives: Jacqueline Samuel
John Steigerwald

APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBER

In the matter of the Appointment of a Park Board Member to the Gauga Park District)))	JUDGE CHARLES E. HENRY JOURNAL ENTRY
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On the 16th Day of December, 2005 the Court reappoints Mark Rzeszotarski to a three year term on the Geauga County Park District Board of Commissioners commencing January 1, 2006 and ending on December 31, 2008.

Before entering upon the performance of his duties, said Commissioner shall take an oath to faithfully perform his duties of office and shall post bond for the faithful performance of the duties of office in a sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00). Such bond shall be approved and filed with the auditor of Geauga County.

The Commissioner herein appointed shall serve without compensation, but shall be allowed actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of duties. This appointment is made in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 1545.05.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

**CHARLES E. HENRY, PROBATE JUDGE
December 16, 2005**

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President Robert McCullough relinquished the chair to Tom Curtin for the purpose of conducting the election of officers.

Mr. Curtin asked for nominations for the Office of President.

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to nominate Mr. McCullough for the Office of President. Miss Cope seconded the motion. There being no further nominations, the chair declared the nominations closed. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to nominate Miss Cope for the Office of Vice President. Mr. McCullough seconded the motion. There being no further nominations, the chair declared the nominations closed. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Miss Cope moved to accept the agenda as revised 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 DECEMBER 13, 2005

Miss Cope moved that the minutes of December 13, 2005, be approved 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 introduced Jacqueline Samuel and John Steigerwald, Trustees from the Geauga Park District Foundation and Geauga County Commissioner, Bill Young.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE MONTH ENDING
December 31, 2005

GENERAL FUND		
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE DECEMBER 1, 2005		1,799,424.88
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES		296,577.13
Personnel	163,806.87	
Medicare	1,984.78	
Dental /Hospitalization	32,487.41	
PERS	22,530.27	
Vouchers	75,767.80	
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES		49,137.80
<u>General Tax Collections</u>		
- Personal Property Tax	31,898.48	
<u>Investment Income</u>	6,306.62	
<u>Gifts & Donations</u>	237.00	
- Geauga Walkers - In Memory of Ann Hesener		
- LaRosa - In Honor of Bill Gin		
- Belew, Dee		
- Reeser, James & Diana		

- Botos, Sue & Doug- In Honor of Dr. Reeser

Fees

- Programs - Schools - Out-of-County	349.00
- Camping	20.00
- Facility Utilities	531.00
- Workshops - General - Public Program	430.00

Sales

- Tapper's Treasures - MC	253.58
- Tree Tops - TWW	886.57
- Credit Card - All Facilities	1,136.49
- Water Vending Machine Sales - TWW	10.00

Rental Properties

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

Other Receipts

Citation Disbursement	188.00
Recycling Proceeds	24.16
Local Government Funds	5,666.90

ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2005

\$ 1,551,985.55

LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE DECEMBER 1, 2005

2,013,480.01

EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES

83,985.36

Vouchers

83,985.36

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES

14,638.56

Investment Income

6,534.54

Gifts & Donations

5,100.00

- Anonymous

- A.C. Sinagle Jr.

- Affelder Trust Interest

406.00

Refund

- CUE Excavating overpayment

400.00

Royalties

- Oxford Oil Co - Swine Creek

1,468.15

- Cedar Valley Energy - Hehmeyer property

677.26

- Great Lakes Energy - Hart property

52.61

ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2005

\$ 1,944,133.21

RETAINAGE FUND*

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE DECEMBER 1, 2005

189,584.07

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES

608.25

Investment Income

608.25

ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2005

190,192.32

* Established in August 2005

VOUCHER RESOLUTION NO. 01-06

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. 01-06.

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 distributed a copy of a reply that was written by John Oros and Aaron Young, Park Planner in response to a letter from Ms. Jane Hazen concerning questions regarding the development of Frohring Meadows. She had expressed concerns regarding the size of the parking lot and the location of the shelter. Mr. Curtin explained that the plans have been modified since the preliminary drawings were presented at a public meeting in May 2005. The parking lot has been reduced to forty cars and adjustments have been made in screening the lot. The shelter will have a lower profile and, with the tall prairie grass, only the roof line will be seen from the road. We will also be planting trees along Savage Road to block the headlights of cars exiting the park. Mr. Curtin added that we have just received the first set of plans which will be presented to the Board later in this meeting.

REVIEW OF MISSION STATEMENT AND PARK PHILOSOPHY

The Board reviewed the current Geauga Park District Mission Statement and Park Philosophy. No changes were suggested. The Mission Statement and the Park Philosophy are as follows:

MISSION STATEMENT
FOR
GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT

The mission of Geauga Park District is to preserve, conserve and protect the natural features of Geauga County and to provide the opportunity for people to enjoy and appreciate these resources.

PHILOSOPHY

Geauga Park District was created for the purpose of conserving natural resources. The parks are usually large undeveloped tracts of land devoted to conserving and preserving the forests, grasslands, wetlands, geological features, rivers, streams, lakes and ponds, and the plants and animals associated therewith. Prime consideration is given to protecting the natural aesthetic values and scenic landscapes. Only a small percentage of the area is physically developed and then only when this is not in conflict with the objectives of protection and conservation.

Developments in the parks provide the opportunity to use and enjoy the natural resources without diminishing their quality for future visitors. Recreation is primarily limited to passive trail oriented activities. Most developments should provide an opportunity to learn more about the parks and their plant and animal life and other natural features.

Programs are offered to increase the public's knowledge of the natural and cultural heritage of Geauga County. Programs may be presented anywhere in the county but will usually be scheduled in the parks.

Geauga Park District strives to maintain clean, safe parks which are enjoyable to visit and which protect valuable natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations. We believe that we are, and we intend to remain, "the best park district in Ohio".

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT POLICY

John Oros presented a copy of the Proposal for Managing Wildlife Populations on Geauga Park District lands dated July 28, 2004. He requested that the Board review the document and consider the proposed changes to the original Appendix F, the Policy for the Management of Wildlife Populations. He explained that the original version was heavy on the control of nuisance species whereas the revised version proposes a management program to sustain healthy wildlife populations and a balanced ecosystem. He stated that at this point there are options other than culling. Miss Cope asked for clarification of the phrase "carrying capacity". Mr. Oros explained that this was a wildlife management term meaning the number of species that can be supported in a defined area without degrading the natural environment.

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion to accept the revised Appendix F, Policy for the Management of Wildlife Populations as follows:

Policy for the Management of Wildlife Populations

The Geauga Park District recognizes that wildlife populations are dependent upon the carrying capacity of their habitat. The carrying capacity is exceeded when species' densities exceed a habitat's ability to sustain a healthy bio-diversity for all flora and fauna. When wildlife populations exceed carrying capacity the environmental integrity of park lands is compromised. This impact does not coincide with the Geauga Park District mission to preserve, conserve, and protect the natural resources of Geauga County. Accordingly, the Board of Park Commissioners has adopted the following criteria for the management of wildlife populations in Park District properties.

- A selected management program must meet all guidelines established and enforced by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of wildlife, which has statutory authority regarding Ohio's wildlife populations.
- The selected management program will attempt to sustain healthy wildlife populations recognizing the goal of establishing balanced ecosystems and maintaining maximum bio-diversity.
- The selected management program must involve the prudent stewardship of public tax dollars. While cost will not be the single determining factor associated with implementation of the selected method, costs should be reasonable, yet sufficient to establish an ongoing program to manage wildlife populations.
- The selected management program will strive for humane treatment of animals and remain safe for humans.
- The selected management program must be supported by Geauga County residents to the furthest extent possible.

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

Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

Dr. Rzeszotarski suggested that we seek to create a policy similar in framework and philosophy for invasive plant species. John Oros replied that he would look at our current invasive species policy.

John stated that he would provide the Board with regular updates after he meets with Robert Urban, Chief Ranger, about the changes that will be necessary to the Park District Rules and Regulations as part of the implementation of this policy. Those changes will also come before the Board for approval.

HEALTH CARE PLAN

Mr. Bill Young, Geauga County Commissioner, was present to participate in the discussion about the Geauga County Health Care Plan policy which requires married couples employed by the County to take single plan coverage.

Mr. Curtin explained that Geauga Park District has two employees who are affected by the Geauga County Health Care Plan policy in place. It specifies that when there are two county employees who are married with no dependents they are required to take a single plan for coverage or receive the single plan waiver if they decline coverage. He expressed concern about the wording of the policy which refers to Park District employees as Geauga County employees. He asked if this practice was being applied equally to every employee who is participating in the plan.

Mr. Young responded that, based on an examination of the records, there are six couples with this classification including the two couples from Geauga Park District. It is the policy of the Geauga County Health Care Plan that if the employees do not have dependent children then each can have coverage as a single individual. He stated that they have audited their records and, to his knowledge, the Geauga Park District employees do not have dependent children.

Mr. Curtin stated that his concern is that this policy directly affects the Geauga Park District compensation plan and therefore the Park District's ability to attract and keep staff. He added that he does not want Geauga Park District policies and procedures to be jeopardized by another agency. Mr. Young replied that without this policy, the Park District would have paid an additional Thirteen Thousand Dollars (\$13,000.00) to provide family coverage for these employees and spouses.

Mr. Curtin stated that he did not understand why the employees were not notified of the implementation of this policy until one week prior to the adoption. Mr. Young stated that he could not say why it was not shared before the effective date and that he could not say that the County has always made everything clear. Mr. Curtin questioned whether the policy was a potential violation of discrimination laws. Mr. Young replied that he did not feel it was a violation of discrimination laws. He added that the County is treating everyone in the same category equally. The options were made clear and each employee in the same category gets the same coverage.

Mr. Curtin asked Mr. Young if the County had thought about doing away with the health care waiver. Mr. Young replied that it has been talked about in the collective bargaining units but those bargaining units would have to agree to any change. He said that there is some advantage to paying the waiver over paying full coverage for the employee but that it does not make sense to overpay and is not the way to administer the plan.

Dr. Rzeszotarski noted that the policy has been in place since December 17, 2002 however not implemented until this year. He stated that at issue is the fact that there is the Geauga County Personnel policy with stated eligibility requirements and the Geauga Park District Personnel Manual with stated benefits policies. He stated that the two are not connected and asked how the Park District could be governed by the County policies. He questioned whether there were other policies in conflict of which we are not aware. Mr. Young replied that Workers Compensation policies were standard for all County offices but that the Park District chose to participate in the health care plan with the County group. He added that the Park District could choose to get its own coverage but that the larger the group, the more competitive the rates.

Dr. Rzeszotarski stated that the Park District should check with our legal counsel to ask if, because we have adopted the County health care plan, this policy becomes part of our policy. It would also need to be determined if there are other Geauga County policies by which we would be governed. Mr. Young mentioned that the dental plan is part of the health care package. Dr. Rzeszotarski stated that the legal question involves the Park District's health care policy, the

Geauga County health care policy, and the health care contract. Mr. Curtin stated that he would forward these questions to our legal counsel and inform the Board and Mr. Young of the opinion.

Mr. Young stated that the key in these situations is to be straightforward in communication. Mr. Curtin stated that part of the Park District's concern was that questions regarding this issue were not being answered by the Commissioners' office or the County benefits administrator. Mr. Young replied that there were lots of calls to the benefits office because of the changes in the health care plan and the increased costs. He apologized for the lack of response. He stated that he chose to come to the Park Board meeting to discuss the details. Mrs. Pilarczyk stated that future problems could be avoided by sitting down right away at the time to resolve the problem rather than having time pass with the situation unresolved. Mr. Young said that he would relay this to David Lair, the County Administrator.

Miss Cope asked if we should seek the legal advice of the Geauga County Prosecutor's Office. Mr. Curtin responded that it would be better to seek our own counsel and added that we could seek out advice from legal counsel who specializes in this type of case.

PARK UPDATES

Mr. Curtin updated the Board on the following:

Affelder House Improvements

The plans are being revised for the completion of the improvements and will be presented to the Board at the February Board meeting. Mr. Curtin stated that the work should be completed before this fall. Dr. Rzeszotarski commented that he would like to see a gathering with the Affelder family and local artists to take place when the work is completed.

Beartown Lakes Reservation- Lower Bear Lake Dam Improvements

The plans for the repairs have been forward to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for review and approval. Once approved, we will then go out to bid for the project.

Frohring Meadows

Mr. Curtin presented a drawing of the plans to the Board for their review. The area to be developed is in the southern portion of the property and the entrance drive that will be located in the vicinity of an old farm lane off of Savage Road. We will increase the amount of plantings along Savage Road. The design firm proposed a grove of trees but we will plant tall prairie grass. There is a sixteen foot change in elevation from the park facilities to the road and only the roof line of the building will be seen from the road. Mr. Curtin explained that there will be one parking lot with the ability to increase it in the future if necessary. Dr. Rzeszotarski noted that it should be large enough for a bus to turn around. Only one pavilion is planned at this time with the possibility of adding a picnic area or another shelter in the future. Mr. McClintock added that screening for visual and noise will be done through mounding. Mr. McCullough asked if we would propose a "pack-in, pack-out" philosophy and Mr. Curtin replied in the affirmative. Dr. Rzeszotarski asked if consideration could be given to managing the property for butterflies having old field and new field habitats similar to Burton Wetlands. Mr. Curtin stated that he will talk the suggestions back to the design firm and they will redo the drawings.

Hyde Dam Repairs

Mr. Curtin advised the Board that we are seeking proposals for the design of the restoration of the dam on the Hyde Property. The design will be completed in 2006 with the repairs undertaken in the Summer of 2007.

The Maple Highlands Trail-Central

The bridge over Aquilla/Claridon Road has been placed. Placement of the panels to enclose the structure will be completed this month.

Mountain Run Station

Phase I of the project has been closed out. Plans and specifications will be developed for the asphalt paving, restroom, and landscaping. All will be contingent upon the completion of The Maple Highlands Trail.

Observatory Project

Mr. Curtin reported that the plans are moving along with the design firm. We have removed the overflow parking lot and relocated the picnic shelter. We will be receiving updated renderings for fundraising purposes.

Hart Property

Mr. Curtin stated that once the weather breaks we will be proceeding with the auction of the Hart property in Troy Township. The Geauga County Health Department stated that the new owners would be responsible for the septic system and Mr. McClintock said that will be so stated in the language of publicized information for the auction.

Kaplan Estate

Mr. Curtin reported that we have been notified of a donation of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) from the Kaplan estate. He has been talking with the lawyers for the estate who say that we should be receiving the donation in about one month.

Tupelo Pond Vandalism

Mr. Curtin provided the Board with a follow-up to the incident of vandalism to the sign at Tupelo Pond in Big Creek Park. The juvenile individuals involved were cited and ordered to make thirty to forty hours of community service in addition to a Fifty Dollar (\$50.00) fine. They were also required to send of letter of apology and write an essay regarding the consequences of their actions. Chief Ranger, Robert Urban, was pleased with the resolution of this incident.

The West Woods Nature Center Quilts

Mr. Curtin reported that Lake Metroparks has determined that the seasonal quilts created for The West Woods Nature Center were too large to be entered into their quilt show. Mr. Curtin said that he will speak with Andy Baker of Lake Metroparks to see if some special arrangements can be made for the show for next year.

SODA CONSTRUCTION INC.

CHANGE ORDER NO. 12

The Maple Highlands Trail-Central

Aquilla/Claridon Road Bridge

Mr. Curtin presented Soda Construction Inc. Change Order No. 12 which represents an increase of Two Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Dollars and Ten Cents (\$2,940.10). The increase is due to needing to borrow and move concrete barriers from the City of Chardon to the Taylor Wells Road Bridge in order to open the road for the Geauga County Fair traffic.

Miss Cope made a motion to approve Soda Construction Inc. Change Order No. 12 in the amount of Two Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Dollars and Ten Cents (\$2,940.10) 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

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

Mr. Curtin stated that the Geauga Park District tuition reimbursement policy states that if an employee takes a class which costs in excess of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) they will be reimbursed for Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) of the cost within six months of taking the class and receive the balance one year after the completion of the course. In practice, we have

reimbursed all costs within the first six months which has permitted the employee to use the reimbursement toward another class.

Mr. Curtin made the recommendation to change the policy to state that the employee will be totally reimbursed within six months of taking the class and to add language to the policy that will require the employee to reimburse the Park District if they leave employment within one year of the completion of the class.

Mr. McCullough made a motion to amend the Employee Tuition Reimbursement Policy 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

PERSONNEL POLICY 414.1-FLOATING HOLIDAY

Robin Pilarczyk presented the proposal to change the Employee Floating Holiday Policy to add the following language: "If an employee terminates employment with Geauga Park District and has taken a floating holiday before the exchanged holiday is worked, those hours will be paid back to Geauga Park District from their final payout."

Mr. McCullough made a motion to change the Employee Floating Holiday Policy 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

PERSONNEL POLICY 501.1 PAY INCREASE ELIGIBILITY

Robin Pilarczyk explained that current Personnel Policy 501.1 requires part-time employees to work Two Thousand Eighty hours (2,080) before the Board of Park Commissioners will consider any increase in pay or compensation. The Ranger Contract was recently changed to require part-time employees to work One Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-Seven hours (1,387) before an increase in compensation would be considered. Mrs. Pilarczyk presented a proposal to make the same minimum hours of One Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-Seven hours (1,387) for all non-bargained for part-time employees as well.

Mr. McCullough made a motion to amend Personnel Policy 501.1 Pay Increase Eligibility to require part-time employees to work One Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-Seven hours (1,387) before the Board of Park Commissioners will consider any increase in pay or compensation.

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

RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION & APPRECIATION NO. 02-06

TIMOTHY KALLAY

In anticipation of the retirement of Timothy Kallay from his position of Planning Director for Geauga Park District, Mr. McCullough proposed the following Resolution No. 02-06 in recognition and appreciation of Mr. Kallay's many years of dedicated service:

WHEREAS, Timothy Kallay has served Geauga Park District for 26 years; and,

WHEREAS, Timothy Kallay has devoted these years of service utilizing his knowledge, skills, and abilities beginning as a Field Technician and progressing to Construction

Technician, Project Coordinator, Planning and Contracts Administrator and finally as Planning Director in fulfillment of the mission of Geauga Park District; and

WHEREAS, Timothy Kallay has served Geauga Park District and the community with quiet strength, true dedication and exceptional professionalism; and

WHEREAS, Timothy Kallay is admired by his peers for his vision, unfailing commitment, dedication, and steadfastness in the planning, implementation, and maintenance of Geauga Park District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Geauga Park District expresses their sincere thanks and appreciation to Timothy Kallay for his service to the people of Geauga County and Geauga Park District.

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

Miss Cope added that Mr. Kallay did an incredible job in his work on The West Woods Nature Center project putting in long hours to see the project through to the final completion of the beautiful facility. She commented that the Board's resolution could not adequately acknowledge all that he has contributed to Geauga Park District. Mr. Curtin replied that the staff is planning other ways to acknowledge Mr. Kallay's retirement in keeping with his desire to leave quietly and without fanfare.

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT FOUNDATION REPORT

Jacqueline Samuel, Geauga Park District Foundation Trustee, updated the Board on recent Foundation activities. Mrs. Samuel explained that the Foundation has decided to meet on a bi-monthly basis instead of quarterly in an effort to increase communication. She stated that the Foundation has added four new Trustees including Mr. John Steigerwald whom she introduced to the Board. He is the CEO of his own company and Mrs. Samuel mentioned that he is eager to begin looking at the Foundation committee structure and for ways to work with the Geauga Park District Commissioners.

The Foundation has started fundraising efforts for the Bio-Centennial and has raised Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000.00) to date. They are working on several educational brochures including one focusing on conservation easements which will be used to approach residents who have land contiguous to Park lands. The Foundation had an orientation session that focused on the basics of fundraising and the cultivation of donors. She added that the Hospitality Committee will be changed to the Cultivation Committee whose members will initiate one-on-one talks with potential donors.

Mrs. Samuel reported that this year's membership drive was very successful. With a goal of Thirteen Thousand Dollars (\$13,000.00), the drive achieved a total of Twenty-Seven Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$27,280.00) in memberships. Mrs. Samuel acknowledged the fine job of Les Bednar, Development Officer, in reworking the solicitation letter.

Mr. John Steigerwald acknowledged that he was pleased to be a new Foundation Trustee and hopes to take the good model expressed in the Geauga Park District Foundation and give input and guidance to move to the next level.

2006 BUDGET DRAFT

Tom Curtin presented to the Board a draft of the 2006 budget for their review and comment. He directed any questions they might have to Keith McClintock or Sherry Bosworth, Business Affairs Director. The final budget will be brought to the Board at their February meeting for approval.

2006 SMALL RESEARCH GRANTS

Tami Gingrich explained that five research proposals were received this year. She stated that two members of the Naturalist Department and four members of the Natural Resources Department met to discuss and score the proposals. Three proposals were recommended for the Board’s approval.

Dr. Chris Stanton and April Sidoti – Baldwin Wallace College
“*Summer Reptile Survey of Sunnybrook Preserve*”- \$1,000.00 for one year

Kaloyan Ivanov and Joe B. Keiper Ph.D. – The Cleveland Museum of Natural History
“*Survey of the Ants of Geauga County, Ohio*” - \$1,129.00 for one year

Brian G. Redmond and Mark A. Kollecker – The Cleveland Museum of Natural History
“*Archaeological Identification and Investigation of the Bass Lake Site*” - \$3,000.00 for one year

Mr. McCullough made a motion to approve the 2006 research grant proposals 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

Mrs. Gingrich reported that two two-year research projects were awarded last year and are ongoing. The two topics were the crayfish of Ohio and the paleolimnology of Bass Lake. Dr. Rzeszotarski asked if the recipients would make a presentation at a public program. Mrs. Gingrich replied that this is part of the contract for the grant. Dr. Rzeszotarski added that he would like to see the research reports published on the Park District website.

Miss Cope suggested that, in the future, copies of the research grant proposals be sent to the Geauga Park District Foundation Trustees. She felt they would be very interested in reading about the research being done in the parks. Mr. Curtin agreed that this would be done in the future.

NEWSLETTER PRINTING CONTRACT

Ms. Hosier presented the proposed contract with Ballash Press Inc. for the printing of the *Treeline Telegraph* newsletter. She stated that the two-year contract is in the amount of Thirty-Three Thousand Six Hundred Eighteen Dollars (\$33,618.00) which is the same amount as last year. While paper costs have increased, the quantity required is lower than specified in the bid quote.

Miss Cope made a motion to approve a two-year contract with Ballash Press Inc. in the amount of Thirty-Three Thousand Six Hundred Eighteen Dollars (\$33,618.00) 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 made a motion to go into Executive Session at 5:32 p.m. for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and personnel matters involving compensation and legal issues. Miss Cope seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

The Board took a break from 5:35 p.m. to 5:50 p.m.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 6:25 p.m. No matters were brought forward for resolution.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Departmental reports from the Supervisors were submitted for the month of December 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 6:25 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