

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES
June 6, 2006

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held on June 6, 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
Sherry Bosworth, Business Affairs Director
Barb Emch, Executive Secretary
Les Bednar, Development Officer
Paige Hosier, Marketing Director
Bob Lange, Land Steward
John Oros, Natural Resource Manager
Robin Pilarczyk, Human Resources Manager
Dru Siley, Park Planner

Visitors present:

Ginger Azzolina
Lillian Fecek
Sofie Horvath
Mary Hubert
Randy James
Myra Janda
Ray Janda
Patrick McCarthy
Ann Myers
Faith Pescatore
Todd Petersen
Patrick Robinson
Denver Sallee
Amy Sancetta
Sharon Schnall
Tom Stanley

Gauga Park District Foundation Representative: No Representative

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 MAY 9, 2006

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved that the minutes of May 9, 2006 be approved as amended.

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Curtin introduced Dru Siley as the Park District's new Park Planner.

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

GENERAL FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE MAY 1, 2006 \$2,064,089.40

EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES 320,262.45

Personnel	164,987.21
Medicare	2,257.95
Dental /Hospitalization	34,593.33
PERS	23,046.60
Vouchers	95,377.36

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES 77,678.22

General Tax Collections

- State Reimburse Tax	943.03
- Personal Property Tax	27,284.29

Investment Income 9,086.92

Gifts & Donations 200.00

- Dublin Management - Wellness Day (\$200)

Fees

- Programs - Schools - Out-of-County	106.00
- Shelters	160.00
- Bid Plans	60.00
- NAF Table Fees	1,730.00
- Facility Utilities	25.00
- Workshops - General - Public Program	130.00
- Programs - General - Public Program	91.00

Sales

- Tapper's Treasures - MC	152.63
- Tree Tops - TWW	2,263.64
- Syrup Sales	1,173.80
- Credit Card - All Facilities	12,884.73
- Water Vending Machine Sales - TWW	63.00

Rental Properties

- Agriculture land use - Petersen, Kaplan property	540.00
- Swine Creek house - Harry	400.00
- Burton Wetlands House- Kolar	400.00
- Hyde House - McKinnon	400.00

Other Receipts

Citation Disbursement	100.00
Parking Ticket Collections	30.00
Recycling Proceeds	332.37
Refunds- Other - Women In Outdoors program	265.92
Local Government Funds	9,230.11
Miscellaneous Receipts	9,625.78

- ImagePro, copier buy-out (\$9,177)
- Castrol - Oil Change Refund (\$5)
- GPD Foundation - Postage, Bio-C Pledge Card Reimb (\$443.78)

ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF MAY 31, 2006 \$1,821,505.17

LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE MAY 1, 2006		\$3,145,225.56
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES		21,047.92
Vouchers	21,047.92	
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES		27,785.08
<u>Investment Income</u>	12,347.46	
<u>Gifts & Donations</u>	2,050.00	
- Cleveland Foundation, Bessie Benner Metz Fund (\$2,000)		
- Holmes, Loretta Mae (\$50)		
<u>Royalties</u>		
- Oxford Oil Co - Swine Creek	330.37	
- Cedar Valley Energy - Hehmeyer property	323.60	
- Great Lakes Energy - Hart property	99.87	
- Power Gas - Farley property	33.78	
In Lieu Fees - Silver Creek	12,600.00	
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF MAY 31, 2006		\$3,151,962.72

RETAINAGE FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE MAY 1, 2006		192,930.31
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES		742.50
<u>Investment Income</u>	742.50	
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF MAY 31, 2006		\$193,672.81

VOUCHER RESOLUTION NO. 14-06

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. 14-06.

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

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Mr. Curtin relayed that he received a thank you note from Joy Keco of the Ohio Horsemen's Council for the sign they requested for the upper parking lot at The West Woods which gives notice to horse patrons to clean up after their horses. She appreciated the sign and the timeliness of the fulfillment of the request.

Mr. Curtin read a letter from Ellen Pickard, a neighbor of Frohring Meadows, who expressed her concern regarding the development of the park. She is opposed to the use of herbicides and would like to see alternative methods used. She added that she would be open to a having a parking lot with minimum trails but is opposed to having a shelter and restroom.

Mr. Curtin shared the document package that he received from the Cuyahoga Valley National Park which was labeled as an "Owner's Guide" to the features that this national park offers.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Curtin opened the meeting to the public. Lillian Fecek, Myra Janda, Sharon Schnall and Ginger Azzolina expressed concerns regarding the spraying of herbicide at Frohring Meadows. Amy Sancetta, Ray Janda, Ann Myers, and Mary Hubert made comments about the location and size of the facilities. Linda White, Bainbridge Township Trustee, made a point of asking the Board to listen to the residents' concerns.

Tom Stanley and Patrick Robinson spoke in support of the Wildlife Management policy while Sofie Horvath voiced opposition.

A complete transcript of the public comments is available in the Park District office.

RESPONSE TO THE PUBLIC

John Oros, Natural Resource Manager

John Oros, Natural Resource Manager, gave a presentation which outlined the reasons why the Park District made the decision to create a prairie at Frohring Meadows and the process for creating such a habitat. He stated that a prairie will allow visitors to enjoy a beautiful grass and flower community that will serve a variety of wildlife species and provide an opportunity for education and programming. He explained that the process involves eliminating the non-native vegetation, planting of native grasses and flowers, and mowing and controlled burning to maintain the habitat.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are used as a standard for natural resource management and apply to ecological restoration, wildlife management and fisheries management. Resources such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) were consulted about the elimination of non-native invasive species at Frohring Meadows. The USFWS recommended at least three herbicide applications of Roundup and 2-4-D. ODNR recommended two herbicides applications with Roundup, Journey or Plateau. Other consultants suggested three to four herbicide applications with similar products. Metro Parks of Franklin County, who restored a prairie habitat called Darby Plains, recommended herbicide applications. Hamilton County Metroparks and the Michigan Audubon Bird Sanctuaries recommended herbicide applications of Roundup as well. Mr. Oros explained that Journey and Plateau are soil active products and we chose not to use them. Mr. Oros showed photographs of the spraying of a meadow which showed the demarcation of sprayed and non-sprayed areas. He reiterated that we will use only licensed contractors and Best Management Practices for the upcoming sprayings.

Mr. Oros went on to explain that seeding of the meadow will be done with Truax drill equipment and the grasses and flowers will grow through the summer. Mowing and prescribed burning will help with the propagation of grassland areas and eliminate the woody species. Burns will be conducted after rigorous staff training and establishment of firebreaks. One week after a prescribed burn the area will start to green. It is the hope that once the prairie is established, it will never have to be treated with an herbicide again. Mr. Oros showed photographs of a prairie habitat in the Toledo area with short and tall grasses, purple coneflower and Echinacea among others plants which attract songbirds, butterflies and meadowlarks.

Mr. Oros addressed the concerns expressed by the visitors regarding the Wildlife Management Policy. He stated that our challenge is to maintain ecosystem health for all wildlife and plant species. He indicated the Eastern Wild Turkey population in Geauga County is 18.6 turkeys per square mile while the state average is 5 turkeys per square mile. Research shows the biological carrying capacity for deer populations to be at 5 to 10 deer per square mile. Photographs were shown of the impact of deer browse in various Geauga Park District locations: Swine Creek Reservation – 7 deer per square mile; The Rookery – 21 deer per square mile; Beartown Lakes Reservation – 52 deer per square mile; Frohring Meadows – 164 deer per square mile. Mr. Oros stated that Natural Resource staff members took notice of the lack of birds and bird sounds at Frohring Meadows when the Park District acquired the property. Because deer densities at this

park are at 164 deer per square mile they over browse the vegetation resulting in a lack of habitat for ground dwelling/nesting songbirds. The same is true in the lack of diversity in the wildflower community. There were very few Trillium species on the property. Trillium wildflowers are a preferred food for deer.

Faith Pescatore asked if Frohring Meadows would be subject to deer culling in the future. Mr. Curtin responded that this may be one of the parks that we may need to consider for a controlled hunt in the future. She asked if deer would be attracted to the meadow plants. Mr. Oros stated that there may be impact but that these meadow plants are rapidly growing species.

Mr. Curtin's Response to the Public

Mr. Curtin began by clarifying that the implementation of the Wildlife Management policy was not a sudden decision. The Park District has been conducting aerial surveys for four years which have cost the Park District Four Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty Dollars (\$4,730.00). The Natural Resource staff has also been studying the impact of deer browse on park habitats.

Regarding the issue of spraying herbicides at Frohring Meadows, Mr. Curtin stated that the property had been in agricultural production for years and, as such, had been routinely sprayed with herbicides. Establishing the prairie will bring an end to the need for herbicide application.

Regarding the posting of notices of spraying, Mr. Curtin stated that notice will be given for all future sprayings and an effort will be made to give everyone a one-week notice. Notice will also be given to the Bainbridge Township Trustees. He added that signs will be placed on the roads bordering Frohring Meadows.

Lillian Fecek stated that she is still against the spraying and is concerned about the drift onto neighboring properties. Mr. Curtin replied that the weather conditions must be suitable and reiterated that we want to establish the prairie and end the need for herbicides. Mrs. Fecek asked why the Park District left the field fallow for so long. Mr. Curtin replied that we offered an agricultural lease for the property but did not have a feasible offer.

Mr. Curtin then spoke to the location of the facilities at Frohring Meadows. The new location of the parking lot, shelter and restroom will have plantings and mounds that block the view from the road. He gave examples of the distance of facilities to neighboring homes for several of our parks. At Bass Lake the nearest home is 350 feet; at Beartown Lakes the distance is 500 feet. At Frohring Meadows the distance from the nearest home to the restrooms is 640 feet and 760 feet to the shelter. He stated that consideration was given to going north with the facilities, but as the focus of the park is the prairie, we would need to duplicate amenities to accommodate patrons and provide accessibility. He added that the area north of the shelter will be a wet meadow habitat.

Randy James, Ohio State University extension agent, commented that other grasses such as timothy would be better suited to soils in our area. Mr. Stanley, former Chief of Natural Resources with Cleveland Metroparks, acknowledged Mr. James point of view but added that the prairie can be managed for grassland species that are native to Ohio.

Dr. Rzeszotarski stated that there are prairie habitats in southern Ohio which have phenomenal species of butterflies and are worth visiting. He added that the Park District is creating a new and unique habitat that will provide many educational opportunities.

Regarding the concerns about future controlled burns, Mr. Curtin stated that conditions must be right for burning and a fire break will be established.

Mr. Curtin stated that the shelter at Frohring Meadows will accommodate 75 patrons with 10 tables and will be equipped with electricity. Alcohol will be permitted in the shelter only and dogs must be leashed according to Park policy. It is anticipated that groups will be permitted to use the

shelter until closing at 11:00 p.m. The neighbors present expressed concern about noise. Mr. Curtin stated that we have rules and regulations about shelter use and that our rangers will conduct patrols. He added that we do not have a problem in any of our parks.

Mrs. Horvath asked what the budget was for the Frohring Meadows project. Mr. Curtin replied that it was approximately Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00).

Mr. Janda asked if the concerns expressed at this meeting will be considered. Mr. Curtin replied that we will discuss the issues presented and hold a public meeting in Bainbridge for the residents. He added that the Board of Commissioners and the Bainbridge Township Trustees will visit the Frohring Meadows site and will take into consideration the concerns expressed.

Mr. Curtin thanked the visitors for coming to the meeting and giving their comments.

Miss Cope expressed the desire to have a model or mock-up of the site design of Frohring Meadows and a document supporting our actions to establish the prairie for the public meeting to be held in Bainbridge Township.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to go into Executive Session at 5:50 p.m. for the purpose of discussing land acquisition.

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

Dr. Rzeszotarski left the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:10 p.m. The following was discussed for resolution:

Legal Services Contract

Thompson Hine LLP

Mr. McCullough made a motion to contract with the legal firm of Thompson Hine LLP to assist with land acquisition matters.

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	Absent

The amount of the contract is to be determined and will be brought before the Board at their next meeting.

Conservation Easement with Grand River Partners, Inc.

Robertson Property

Parkman Township

Mr. McCullough moved to approve the amount of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) to be paid to Grand River Partners, Inc. in a partnership agreement toward the purchase of a conservation easement on property in Parkman Township comprising One-Hundred and Ten (110) acres identified as parcel numbers 25-190367, 25-038400, and 25-038600. Grand River Partners, Inc. will use this amount toward the total purchase price of One Hundred Thirty-Eight

Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$138,750.00) and will hold the conservation easement. This partnership with Grand River Partners, Inc. will allow for future development of trails and educational programming on the property.

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	Absent

Land Acquisition

Chardon Township

Mr. McCullough moved to authorize the Executive Director to enter into negotiations for real property in Chardon Township.

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	Absent

PARK UPDATES

Life Insurance Proposal

Sherry Bosworth presented a suggestion for the Board to consider regarding life insurance provided to full-time Park District employees. Currently we pay a premium to an insurance company in Oregon to provide a Twenty Thousand Dollar (\$20,000.00) death benefit to the beneficiary of an employee who dies while employed at the Park District. We have paid over Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) in premiums over the last twelve years and have had the good fortune of not having a claim. Mrs. Bosworth is suggesting that the Park District become self-insured for life insurance for full-time employees. We currently pay Four Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$4,800.00) per year in premiums. Setting aside that amount in a contingency fund each year would grow the fund to Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) in about 4.2 years barring no claims. This would mean a cost savings to the Park District once that amount is reached. Mrs. Bosworth added that if the Board is supportive of pursuing this option then she will conduct more research and ask for feedback from the employees regarding this proposal. Miss Cope agreed that more research would be helpful.

Location of Board Meeting

Miss Cope proposed that the Board consider, where practical and possible, conducting their monthly Board meeting in a location in Geauga County where projects are being considered. Mr. McCullough stated that a formal motion to do so would not be required at this time, but he agreed that consideration could be given to moving the meeting location given enough notice to the public.

Affelder House

The Affelder House improvement project is at seventy-five percent (75%) completion and has been delayed somewhat due to rain. The project is expected to be completed by the first of July.

Beartown Lakes

Lower Bear Lake Dam Improvements

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Dams has approved the plans. The documents are being prepared to bid the work.

Frohring Meadows

We are waiting for the Ohio Historical Society to sign off on the archeological survey. We are also waiting for a wetlands permit from the United States Army Corp of Engineers.

House Auctions

We have decided to move ahead with auctioning the Miller property on Swine Creek Road once the Geauga County Planning Commission gives approval. There are still issues that must be worked out before the parcel split of the Hart property in Troy Township can be approved.

Wildlife Management Policy

Fact Sheet

Mr. Curtin reported that the final revisions have been made and the final document will be distributed in the next Board update packet.

Kostelec, Pete & Darlene

Arbitration

Mr. Curtin reported that the arbitration panel awarded Pete and Darlene Kostelec Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) in the case they filed regarding the loss of screening of The Maple Highlands Trail which they claim was affected by the clearing for the project.

The Maple Highlands Trail

Bridges

The signs on the bridges on The Maple Highlands Trail will be placed by the contractor once all the sewer work by the City of Chardon is completed.

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

RESCIND RESOLUTION NO. 12-06

BIENNIUM FUNDING RESOLUTION NO. 15-06

Mr. Curtin explained that Resolution No. 12-06, which was approved at the May 9, 2006 meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners, enabled the Park District to accept 2006-2007 Ohio Department of Transportation Biennium funds in the amount of Forty-Five Thousand Four Hundred Forty-One Dollars (\$45,441.00). The amount of the Biennium Funding was increased to Forty-Six Thousand One Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars (\$46,195.00) requiring a new resolution from the Board. This resolution allows the Park District to enter into the Metropolitan Park Project Agreement with the State of Ohio, Department of Transportation in order to use the funds for the construction of the entrance road at Frohring Meadows.

Mr. McCullough made a motion to rescind Resolution No. 12-06 to accept Biennium Funds in the amount of Forty-Five Thousand Four Hundred Forty-One Dollars (\$45,441.00) as the amount of funds has increased 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	Absent

Miss Cope made a motion to approve Resolution No. 15-06 for the purpose of entering into the Metropolitan Park Project Agreement with the State of Ohio, Department of Transportation as stated below.

WHEREAS, the Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation, in accordance with ORC 5511.06, has approved discretionary funding for the ODOT- Geauga Park District Road Improvement Allocation for the 2006-2007 Biennium.

WHEREAS, a funding distribution formula approved by the Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation based upon motor vehicle registrations within each county allocates Forty-Six Thousand One Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars (\$46,195.00) to the Geauga Park District for the 2006-2007 Biennium.

WHEREAS, Geauga Park District has received approval from Ohio Parks and Receptions Association (OPRA), the state's program manager, for the allocation of state funds for said project.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Park Commissioners of Geauga Park District, Geauga County, Ohio that:

Section 1: Geauga Park District hereby enters into the Metropolitan Park Project Agreement with the State of Ohio, Department of Transportation dated April 25, 2006 with a project reference number of PID 81291.

Section 2: The funds will be used for construction, reconstruction, improvement, repair and maintenance of park district drives or roads in accordance with ORC 5511.06. The funds will be utilized for said work as part of the Frohring Meadows Site Improvements Project (PID 81291).

Section 3: Any costs greater than the allocated amount of Forty-Six Thousand One Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars (\$46,195.00) for Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Park District Highway Funds, in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Transportation, will be paid in full by the Geauga Park District and;

Section 4: The proposed projects will be initiated with the current 2006-2007 fiscal year.

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	Absent

SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

Mr. Curtin presented the following list of equipment to be declared surplus in order to be destroyed or placed in the Geauga County auction.

Items to be declared surplus for auction	Inventory Number
- 1996 Gravely commercial walk-behind mower	705
- 1988 John Deere 52" walk-behind mower	226
- (3) 2000 Compaq Computer Workstations	1210, 1253, 1252
- 2003 Dell Optiplex Computer Workstation	1767
- 2001 Dell Computer Workstation	1447
- 2004 Dell 19" Monitor	1808
- 1999 Viewsonic 17" Monitor	1160
- 1997 Viewsonic 17" Monitor	792
- 2002 Compaq 17" Monitor	1603

Items to be declared surplus to be destroyed	Inventory Number
- Front pan for sugaring	1324
- Horn from S-10 truck which was traded in	638
- Battery back-up for computer – not working	-

Mr. McCullough made a motion to declare the above listed items as surplus property for the purpose of destroying or placing in the Geauga County auction.

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	Absent

2007 TEMPORARY BUDGET

A copy of the 2007 Temporary Budget was distributed to the Board members. Mr. Curtin asked them to review the document and refer questions to either him or Sherry Bosworth. The budget will then come up for approval at the July 2006 meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners so that it can be forwarded to the Geauga County Budget Committee. Miss Cope asked several questions at this time and received clarification from Mrs. Bosworth.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN GROUP, INC. (FLOYD BROWN GROUP)

CHANGE ORDER NO. 1

FROHRING MEADOWS

Mr. Curtin presented Environmental Design Group, Inc. (Floyd Brown Group) Change Order No. 1 for an increase of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) which will include the planting and technical specifications for the prairie at Frohring Meadows. This work had originally been in a separate contract.

Mr. McCullough made a motion to approve Environmental Design Group, Inc. (Floyd Brown Group) Change Order No. 1 for an increase of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) 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	Absent

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Departmental reports from the Supervisors were submitted for the month of May 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 7:45 p.m.

SUNSHINE LAW COMPLIANCE

The rules of the Park Board were complied with by sending notice pursuant to the rules adopted by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas G. Curtin, Executive Director

Robert McCullough, President