

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES
May 9, 2006

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held on May 9, 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
Les Bednar, Development Officer
Paige Hosier, Marketing Director
John Oros, Natural Resource Manager
Robin Pilarczyk, Human Resources Manager

Visitors present:

Jim Bissell
Dennis Hill
Sofie Horvath
Jon Hunter
Bev Kruiger
Pat Leech
Ken Lewis
Bill McCullam
Jane McCullam
John McMillan
Bebe Ober
Linda O'Brien
Faith Pescatore
Denver Sallee
Al Schienke

Gauga Park District Foundation Representative: Jacqueline Samuel

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

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

Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 11, 2006

Miss Cope moved that the minutes of April 11, 2006 be approved as amended.

Dr. Rzeszotarski seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE MONTH ENDING
APRIL 30, 2006**

GENERAL FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE APRIL 1, 2006		\$ 2,435,304.66
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES		410,239.94
Personnel	158,401.66	
Medicare	2,165.95	
Dental/Hospitalization	33,360.32	
PERS	22,123.07	
Unemployment Transfers	340.40	
Vouchers	193,848.54	

REVENUE & OTHER SOURCES		\$ 39,124.68
<u>General Tax Collections</u>		
- Real Estate Tax	11,417.83	
- Grants	4,380.01	
<u>Investment Income</u>	4,162.35	
<u>Gifts & Donations</u>	2,000.00	
-Geauga Farm Bureau-Oxen for parade, video (\$1000)		
- Hawken School- tree seedlings (\$1000)		
<u>Fees</u>		
- Programs- Schools- Out-of-County	212.00	
- Camping	20.00	
- Shelters	180.00	
- Facility Utilities	170.00	
- Workshops- General-Public Program	70.00	
- Programs- General- Public Program	349.00	
<u>Sales</u>		
- Tapper's Treasures – MC	2,297.96	
- Tree Tops – TWW	5,126.65	
- Credit Card- All Facilities	607.25	
- Water Vending Machine Sales – TWW	22.00	
<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>		
Recycling Proceeds	21.79	
Refunds- Other- Klyn Nursery, refund overpayment	280.00	
Local government Funds	6,607.84	
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF APRIL 30, 2006		\$2,064,089.40
LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND		
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE APRIL 1, 2006		\$3,213,986.56
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES		76,014.70
Vouchers	76,014.70	
REVENUE & OTHER SOURCES		7,253.70
<u>Investment Income</u>	6,450.23	
<u>Gifts & donations</u>		
<u>Royalties</u>		
- Oxford Oil co. – Swine Creek	390.36	
- Cedar Valley Energy – Hehmeyer property	284.62	
- Great Lakes Energy – Hart property	128.49	
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF APRIL 30, 2006		\$3,145,225.56
RETAINAGE FUND		
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE APRIL 1, 2006		\$ 192,190.70
REVENUE & OTHER SOURCES		739.61
Investment Income	739.61	
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF APRIL 30, 2006		\$ 192,930.31

VOUCHER RESOLUTION NO. 11-06

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. 11-06.

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

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Mr. Curtin had no communications to report.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Curtin opened the meeting to the public. Visitors were given an opportunity to speak regarding the controlled hunt of wild turkey which began on April 22, 2006 on Park property in Montville Township. Comments were made both in support and in opposition. A record of the comments is on file in the Park District office.

To answer the questions and comments posed by the various members of the public in attendance, Mr. Curtin explained that the current wildlife management concern is about two populations, turkey and deer. He added that we began with the turkey hunt on park land which is not open to the public. Aerial deer surveys have been conducted for the last five years to monitor the deer populations and we have seen negative impact in our parks. We do not have aerial surveys for turkey but visual data indicate that the population is quite large. Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife reports that in Geauga County typical turkey populations are approximately Eighteen (18.6) turkeys per square mile. Park land comprises less than three percent (3%) of the land in the county yet if we do nothing the damage to plant species, meadow animals and insect populations will continue. In several of our parks we have rare and threatened plant species which could be lost due to turkey scratching and/or deer browse.

Regarding concerns about the safety of the turkey hunt, Mr. Curtin explained that of 188 applications received only 14 were selected with no more that one hunter per day in the park. Those selected were required to attend a meeting at the Park District prior to the hunt where all the safety requirements were outlined. On the day of their hunt, they were met by our Rangers to be assured that the permit was not transferred, taken to the hunting area and made aware of the boundaries. Rangers monitored at the end of the period to be sure that the hunters were out of the property. Our Ranger staff did not monitor the actual hunt but were on duty during that time. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources wildlife officers were also available. Mr. Oros reported that hunters are required to report any harvested birds to the checking station. Two male birds have been taken thus far.

Regarding the possibility of deer hunting on park land, Mr. Curtin stated that after reviewing the outcomes of the spring turkey hunt and if all proves well, he will recommend that the Board give consideration to a controlled deer hunt on park land in the fall. He added that if hunting had to be conducted adjacent to residential areas at The West Woods it would be bow hunting only. Mr. Curtin added that this wildlife management policy is not about serving the hunting population although their support has been positive. He stated that it is better to implement the wildlife management policy with the help of county residents. Other park districts have used sharpshooters to cull their deer populations. Cleveland Metroparks has been doing this for years. Metroparks serving Summit County and Five Rivers Metroparks have been culling for several years as well. Controlled hunts at Holden Arboretum are also working. Other methods such as birth control have not proven to be effective.

Mr. Curtin explained that the Park District wants to maintain a healthy population of wildlife. If a controlled deer hunt takes place, the public will be made aware of the time frame and any trail closings that may be required. Staff may be placed on the trails to assure the safety of the public. Every effort will be made to assure that the hunt is safe for hunters and the public.

Dr. Rzeszotarski explained that we have been monitoring aerial deer surveys for some time. A healthy number would be 5 deer per square mile and would begin to be of concern at 10 deer per mile. We have some lands in our park that have more than 25 deer per square mile. Dr. Rzeszotarski stated that we have three choices. First, we could do nothing and risk the loss of plant species which results in loss of insect, bird, and butterfly species. Second, we could conduct controlled hunts in a safe manner with local hunters. Lastly, we could bring in sharpshooters to cull the populations at a cost of approximately One Hundred to Four Hundred (\$100-\$400) per deer which would be a significant budget item. He added that in the past the Park District has controlled muskrat and beavers as part of our wildlife management. Controlled hunts are yet another method of implementation of a comprehensive wildlife management policy.

Mr. Curtin thanked those present for their comments.

The Board took a break from 5:25 to 5:45 p.m.

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT FOUNDATION REPORT

Jacqueline Samuel reported that the recent Foundation sponsored trip to the Smoky Mountains with Diane Valen, Naturalist Services Director, was a tremendous success. The participants have planned a reunion in a few weeks to share pictures and are already asking about a trip for next year.

The Foundation Board has not met since the last Geauga Park District Board meeting. Mrs. Samuel stated that she and Les Bednar, Development Officer, attended a board match event sponsored by Leadership Geauga and United Way. Several non-profit organizations were represented and attending individuals could investigate the needs of each organization. One individual expressed interest in the Geauga Park District Foundation and the Foundation Development Committee will be following up on this.

The Transition Committee is currently reviewing the Foundation organizational chart and committee assignments.

PARK UPDATES

Mr. Curtin updated the Board on the following:

Wildlife Management

Mr. Curtin referred the Board to the packet of information they received prior to this meeting regarding the costs incurred by park districts which have culled deer. Mr. Curtin reported that there is a range in terms of the costs related to culling among the park districts reporting. This is largely due to the fact that in some cases not all of the expenses are included. Expenses can include dressing and storage facilities, processing charges, waste removal, supplies, equipment and staff time.

Cleveland Metroparks reported that their total costs for the 2005-2006 winter effort was approximately One Hundred Twenty-Six Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$126,400.00) or Four Hundred Thirty-Nine Dollars (\$439.00) per deer for 288 deer. They added that eighty-five percent (85%) of their culling costs are in staff time. This also takes staff away from other duties. They calculate that the cost of the 2005-2006 deer culling program exclusive of staff time is approximately Forty-Four Thousand Dollars (\$44,000).

Five Rivers Metroparks in the Dayton, Ohio area reported costs for the 2004-2005 season. Total costs were Thirty-Three Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$33,370.00) or One Hundred Fifty-Three Dollars (\$153.00) per deer for 218 deer.

Columbus MetroParks provided information on their initial equipment and set-up costs which totaled \$78,805.00 and \$85,332.00 respectively for the first two years of their deer culling program. Their total costs for 2005-2006 were Thirty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$39,400.00) to cull 374 deer for approximately One Hundred Five Dollars (\$105.00) per deer.

Mr. Curtin stated that officials in DuPage County, Illinois created a facility for staff to dress deer. Their annual costs for the last four years average approximately Thirty-Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00); however, they budget Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) annually for the processing and removal of deer.

The above information is summarized below:

	Total annual costs	Deer culled	Cost per deer
Cleveland Metroparks	\$ 126,400.00	288	\$439.00
Five Rivers Metroparks	33,370.00	218	153.00
Columbus Metroparks	39,400.00	374	105.34
DuPage County, Illinois	30,000.00	NA	NA

Mr. Curtin asked the Board to review the material and respond to him with any questions they may have.

Special Events

Les Bednar provided the Board members with a written proposal to establish annual special events that would be conducted once or twice per year. She explained that the Foundation and several volunteers have expressed interest in conducting a signature event this fall. Mrs. Bednar asked the Board to review the document and give their feedback to Mr. Curtin or Mr. McClintock.

Dr. Rzeszotarski commented that the Taste of Geauga fundraiser at The West Woods Nature Center was a success and could perhaps be combined with an art auction. Miss Cope added that it would be good to have an annual event identifiable with the Park District and if the Foundation Board was in agreement regarding conducting special events than they could move the idea forward.

River Oaks Development

Mr. Curtin informed the Board that Mr. Todd Petersen will be in attendance at their June meeting for a discussion regarding a road crossing over The Maple Highlands Trail for the River Oaks Development in Claridon Township.

The Maple Highlands Trail-Central

Mr. Curtin shared a photograph depicting how the signs will look when installed on the bridges over The Maple Highlands Trail. He reported that the central section of the trail is approximately fifty-five percent (55%) completed. Aaron Young, Planning Director, is coordinating with the City of Chardon regarding their sanitary sewer project which required access from our bike trail.

Tax Expenditure Limitation (TEL) Amendment

Mr. Curtin explained that an amendment to the Ohio Constitution is being proposed that will put a cap on the amount that taxing authorities can raise through taxes. This limits park districts to a three and one-half percent (3 ½%) maximum increase in their budgets each year. Further, if large projects needed to be funded, we would need to get the vote of fifty percent (50%) of the registered voters. This would prohibit the Park District from doing large projects such as The West Woods. Mr. Curtin gave the Board members information regarding this proposed amendment and stated that this could be very detrimental to local governments and park districts.

He stated that Colorado enacted such legislation with some negative effects. They then had to pass legislation to put the amendment aside in order to fund their infrastructure and educational needs.

Mr. Curtin has requested copies of a DVD presentation from an organization that is working to block this amendment. He will forward a copy to each Board member.

Affelder House

Mr. Curtin reported that the project is at approximately ten percent (10%) completion. Change orders for the electrical work and porch roof will be presented later in the meeting.

Beartown Lakes Reservation

Lower Bear Lake Dam Improvements

We are awaiting final drawings from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Dams.

Frohing Meadows

We are still awaiting the results of the Ohio Historical Society archeological survey. We cannot go to bid on this project until we have been given the approval which may come in the next two weeks.

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BIENNIUM FUNDING RESOLUTION NO. 12-06

Mr. Curtin explained that Resolution No. 29-05, which was approved at the September 20, 2005 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 Board must now consider a resolution 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 Frohling Meadows.

Mr. McCullough made a motion to approve Resolution No. 12-06 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-Five Thousand Four Hundred Forty-One Dollars (\$45,441.00) 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 Frohling Meadows Site Improvements Project (PID 81291).

Section 3: Any costs greater than the allocated amount of Forty-Five Thousand Four Hundred Forty-One Dollars (\$45,441.00) 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.

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

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION-SHERRY BOSWORTH
25 YEARS SERVICE- RESOLUTION NO. 13-06

Mr. Curtin asked the Board to consider a resolution to recognize Sherry Bosworth, Business Affairs Director, for completing twenty-five years of service to Geauga Park District.

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion to approve Resolution No. 13-06 to acknowledge the contribution that Sherry Bosworth has made to Geauga Park District as stated below:

WHEREAS, Sherry Bosworth has served Geauga Park District for 25 years; and,

WHEREAS, Sherry Bosworth has played a significant role in the growth and development of Geauga Park District by performing any and all duties that needed to be done to complete the project at hand and to achieve the goals of Geauga Park District; and

WHEREAS, Sherry Bosworth has devoted these years of service utilizing her knowledge, skills, and abilities beginning as the secretary and right hand of Donald Meyer, its first Director, and expanding her role throughout the years to guide and manage the administrative and business affairs of Geauga Park District in fulfillment of its mission; and

WHEREAS, Sherry Bosworth has served Geauga Park District with unfailing dedication, efficiency, trustworthiness and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, Sherry Bosworth is admired and respected by her peers for her dependability, honesty, creativity, humor, and steadfastness in managing the administrative and business affairs 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 Sherry Bosworth for her service to the people of Geauga County and Geauga Park District.

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

R.D. JENKINS ELECTRIC LLC CHANGE ORDERS NOS. 1 & 2
AFFELDER HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Curtin presented two change orders for the contract with R. J. Jenkins Electric, LLC for the Affelder House improvement project. Change Order No. 1 is in the amount of One Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$1,100.00) due to revisions required to conform to the revised drawings.

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion to approve Change Order No. 1 in the amount of One Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$1,100.00) as stated above.

Mr. McCullough seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

Mr. Curtin presented R. J. Jenkins Electric, LLC Change Order No. 2 in the amount of Two Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$2,650.00) to install path lighting, which was not budgeted for in the original contract, on the ADA accessible trail.

Miss Cope made a motion to accept Change Order No. 2 in the amount of Two Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$2,650.00) 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

BURTON SCOT CONTRACTORS CHANGE ORDER NO. 1
AFFELDER HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Curtin explained that Burton Scot Contractors Change Order No. 1 is in the amount of One Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$1,800.00) to provide a peaked roof over the doorway to the Affelder House which was not included in the original contract.

Mr. McCullough made a motion to approve Burton Scot Contractors Change Order No. 1 in the amount of One Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$1,800.00) 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

STREAM MITIGATION PROPOSAL

Mr. McClintock explained that he met with Greg Eastridge of HzW Environmental Consultants, LLC who has a client, Granite Development, LLC, who will take the remaining stream mitigation credits for Phase II of the Silver Creek restoration project. Funds could be received in the area of One Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Dollars to One Hundred Eighty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$136,000.00-\$186,000.00) for approximately 800 feet of stream restoration. Keith explained that he has requested the specific information about the project which involves mitigation for impact at the Thornbury Residential Development in Solon, Ohio.

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion to approve the stream mitigation proposal from HzW Environmental Consultants, LLC contingent on the receipt of a satisfactory proposal.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to go into Executive Session at 6:25 p.m. for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and pending litigation involving personnel.

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 returned from Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. The following was discussed for resolution:

Land Acquisition

Munson Township

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

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

June 2006 Board Meeting Date

Mr. Curtin reminded the Board that the June meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, June 6, 2006.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Departmental reports from the Supervisors were submitted for the month of April 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 7:20 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