

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES
October 10, 2006

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held on October 10, 2006 at the Park District office, Chardon, Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. Vice- President Betty Cope was in the chair. Board member Mark Rzeszotarski was present. Mr. McCullough was absent.

Employees present were:

Tom Curtin, Executive Director
Keith McClintock, Deputy Director
Les Bednar, Development Officer
Brett Bellas, Park Manager
Sherry Bosworth, Business Affairs Director
Barb Emch, Executive Secretary
Cindy Ford, Marketing Assistant
Paige Hosier, Marketing Director
Bob Lange, Land Steward
John Oros, Natural Resource Manager
Paul Pira, Park Biologist
Robin Pilarczyk, Human Resources Manager

Visitors Present:

Sofie Horvath
Joe Koziol, *The Times Courier*
Glen Miller, *The Maple Leaf*
Linda O'Brien
Faith Pescatore
Diane Ryder, *The News Herald*
Denver Sallee
Mike Vielhaber

Geauga Park District Foundation Representative: No Representative

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to accept the revised agenda 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	Absent
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2006

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to accept the minutes of September 12, 2006 as written.

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

Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Absent
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 3, 2006

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to accept the minutes of October 3, 2006 as written.

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

Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Absent
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Curtin welcomed the visitors present.

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

GENERAL FUND		
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE SEPTEMBER 1, 2006		\$ 3,548, 379.67
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES		411,553.17
Personnel	254,220.60	
Medicare	2,290.56	
Dental /Hospitalization	34,668.14	
PERS	35,316.89	
Vouchers	85,056.98	
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES		532,901.07
<u>General Tax Collections</u>		
- State Reimburse Tax	373,739.47	
- State Reimbursed Personal Property Tax	68,896.15	
<u>Investment Income</u>		
	9,663.48	
<u>Gifts & Donations</u>		
	33,719.76	
- GPD Foundation - Nature Scopes (\$2,200), Observatory (\$27,550)		
- GPD Foundation - Bio-Centennial (\$3,100), Paver Sales (\$664), Postage (\$80.76)		
- In memory of Imhoff - Wilson (\$25)		
- In memory of Kinder - TWW critter care (\$50)		
- Poe, Carol (Country View Garden.- \$50)		
<u>Fees</u>		
- Camping	50.00	
- Shelters	200.00	
- Canoe and Kayak	70.00	
- Bid Plans	40.00	
- Facility Utilities	333.00	
- Workshops - General - Public Program	326.00	
- Programs - General - Public Program	243.00	
<u>Sales</u>		
- Tapper's Treasures - MC	200.00	
- Tree Tops - TWW	312.30	
- Credit Card - All Facilities	11,748.08	
<u>Rental Properties</u>		
- Swine Creek house - Harry	400.00	
- Burton Wetlands House- Kolar	400.00	
- Hyde House - McKinnon	400.00	

Other Receipts

Citation Disbursement	240.00	
Recycling Proceeds	40.09	
Refunds- Other -	25,856.68	
- Exempt parcel tax refund		
Local Government Funds	6,011.06	
Miscellaneous Receipts	12.00	
- Mann - Auction proceeds (\$12)		
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2006		\$ 3,669,727.57

LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE SEPTEMBER 1, 2006		\$ 2,555,950.05
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES		14,999.00
Vouchers	14,999.00	
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES		13,828.92
<u>Investment Income</u>	11,744.45	
<u>Gifts & Donations</u>	490.75	
-Browne, Thomas & Colleen - unknown (\$100)		
- Affelder Trust Interest (\$390.75)		
<u>Royalties</u>		
- Oxford Oil Co - Swine Creek	1,331.71	
- Cedar Valley Energy - Hehmeyer property	155.15	
- Range Resource Energy - Hart property	106.86	
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2006		\$ 2,554,779.97

RETAINAGE FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE SEPTEMBER 1, 2006		\$ 196,129.40
EXPENDITURES		0.00
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES		881.35
<u>Investment Income</u>	881.35	
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2006		\$ 197,010.75

VOUCHER RESOLUTION NO. 22-06

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. 22-06.

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

Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Absent
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Mr. Curtin had several communications to report to the Board.

Mr. Larry Baker emailed to thank the Park District for the nice bridle trails at Beartown Lakes Reservation.

Mr. Curtin read from several emails from recent park patrons complimenting the Park District on the excellent facilities. The Swine Creek Lakeside Shelter and Lodge, the Lodge at Bass Lake Preserve, and the Great Blue Heron Lodge were specifically mentioned. The Swine Creek Lodge patron asked about whether water could be made available in the Lodge and if lighting could be placed on the bridge. The Bass Lake Lodge patron would like to see indoor plumbing at that facility. Kathy Justice of the Pilgrim Lutheran Women's Group was especially grateful for the opportunity to hold their event in the Cherry Room of the Meyer Center and commented on the helpfulness of the staff.

David Russell posted a comment on a local web blog in response to an article in *The Plain Dealer* about the objection of two local women to the controlled bow hunting of deer. He stated that he found bow hunting to be a humane way to control the deer population.

Ms. Jeanette Giles wrote to say that the Park District is doing a great job to save land and that she enjoys reading the newsletter.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Mr. Curtin opened the floor to the members of the public present.

Denver Sallee stated that he obtained information about how wildlife management is done elsewhere. He stated that in Iowa City, Iowa members of the community are part of a deer management task force that recommends action to the city. Mr. Sallee distributed copies of the 2005/2006 report of the Iowa City Deer Task Force. He stated that the responsibilities of the members of the task force are to review the data, chart deer/vehicle accidents, population counts and herd health and make recommendations to the city as to the lethal and non-lethal methods to be used to reduce the population. Mr. Sallee asked the Board to read the report and determine what information might be valuable for wildlife management in our county. He requested that the Board appoint a task force to examine future turkey and whitetail deer management initiatives. He stated that he agrees that changes such as this are always met with resistance but that residents may be less fearful and less reactive with a task force making the recommendations. Dr. Rzeszotarski asked Mr. Sallee if the Iowa City officials can approve or decline the recommendations of the task force. Mr. Sallee replied that the city can approve or deny their recommendations. Mr. Sallee urged the Board to give serious consideration to the proposal of a wildlife management task force. Mr. Curtin thanked Mr. Sallee for his comments and stated that the report will be read and discussed and the Board will take his comments under consideration when Mr. McCullough returns.

Linda O'Brien stated that she strongly supported the proposal from Iowa City, Iowa. She stated that the document showed sound decision making on the part of the city officials and an analysis of resources and cost justification. She asked about the results of the controlled hunt to date. She also shared a report on bow hunting which implies that bow hunting is inhumane and wasteful and that the death to the animal is not instantaneous. She added that the report is full of details that show that bow hunting is not humane. Dr. Rzeszotarski asked about the origin of the article as he wanted to be sure of the validity of its source. He added that the Board will read and review the article and take Ms. O'Brien's comments under advisement.

Ms. O'Brien stated that she spoke with Anthony J. DeNicola, President of White Buffalo Inc. which is a firm that conducts sharpshooting of whitetail deer. Ms. O'Brien stated that Mr. DeNicola gave her different information about the costs of sharpshooting than what had been earlier stated by the Park District. Mr. Curtin asked her to provide the information in writing as he had information directly from Mr. DeNicola which stated his recommendations and costs. Ms. O'Brien asked if the Park District was going to take over management of LaDue Reservoir. Mr. Curtin responded that the Park District has no current plans to take over management of this property as it is owned by the City of Akron and they have recently entered into an agreement with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for the management of the land.

Ms. O'Brien then stated that she did not feel that best management practices are being following in terms of appointing members to the Park Board. She added that she feels that a larger board is needed to provide greater diversity of opinion. She recommended that the Board consider adding members and that members be rotated off as she stated is done in corporate settings. Mr. Curtin replied that in the last year the Board has discussed the topic of increasing the size of the Board and has gathered research on the advantages and disadvantages of doing so.

Mr. Mike Vielhaber of Munson Township stated that he is a neighbor Bass Lake Preserve and that he and his neighbors object to bow hunting. He stated that he has always supported the Park District but objects to this policy. He asked if the Bass Lake Preserve hunting areas will be clearly delineated so that the hunters will understand where the protected wetlands and the property lines exist. He stated that he observed people dressed in camouflage walking near the southwest end of Blue Heron Trail which is a road that runs off of Sherman Rd. and borders Bass Lake Preserve. Mr. Curtin stated that the hunters are told about the property lines and protected areas. He added that he would ask our Ranger Department to follow up regarding Mr. Vielhaber's observation of hunters on his road.

Sofie Horvath questioned why the reported aerial deer surveys showed no deer at Walter C. Best Preserve. Mr. Oros replied that the survey captures a point in time and that there were no deer there at that time.

Ms. Horvath asked if the selection of hunters was random or if only the best hunters were chosen or those that may have made a donation to the Park District such as Ducks Unlimited. Mr. Curtin replied that the selection was done by lottery and that the Park District does occasionally provide organizations such as Ducks Unlimited and the Wild Turkey Federation with the donation of a Park District canoe program or bird walk. Sofie asked if the Amish community was informed. Mr. Curtin replied that they were notified through articles in *The Good News*, a weekly publication that serves the Amish area.

Ms. Horvath also had questions about the acquisition of the Bass Lake Preserve. Mr. Curtin explained how the property was acquired through arrangements with the Chagrin River Land Conservancy and The Trust for Public Land. She asked about the comments made in local newspapers at the time about the development of that park. Mr. Curtin stated that the plans are underway to create a new enclosed facility and trails in the future.

Ms. Horvath asked why the Park District was using a deer in the advertisement for the Bio-Centennial exhibit opening on November 1st at The West Woods Nature Center. Paige Hosier replied that the picture was that of an elk which was present in 1806 in our county. Dr. Rzeszotarski explained that the theme of the BioCentennial exhibit is "200 Years of Living with our Wild Neighbors" and focuses on what the land and life was like in 1806, 1906 and now in 2006. He added that the planning for this exhibit began nearly two years ago.

FALL SHARPSHOOTING PROPOSAL FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Curtin relayed the costs of sharpshooting whitetail deer as provided by Anthony J. DeNicola of White Buffalo Inc., a firm that specializes in population control of that species. The options are as follows:

- \$200-\$250 per deer if the sharpshooting is done from a vehicle
- \$250-\$300 per deer if sharpshooting is done from a deer stand.

Mr. Curtin stated that the properties designated for hunting this year do not have road access so the higher rate would apply. He added that if we estimate approximately forty (40) deer to be harvested, the cost will be Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00). Geauga County Meats will charge Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to process the meat at a cost of One Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$125.00) per deer. Mr. Curtin stated that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources requires a management plan before approval of a sharpshooting plan. The approval

time could take up to one year. Costs to develop this plan are estimated at Seven Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$760.00) in addition to approximately Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00) for field work. The total minimum cost for sharpshooting would amount to Sixteen Thousand One Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$16,160.00). The costs would increase as the deer population drops and it takes more time to cull deer.

Linda O'Brien stated that she talked with Mr. DeNicola and that he gave her different numbers which were significantly lower. She said that Mr. DeNicola stated that he could harvest fifty (50) deer for Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00). Mr. Curtin replied that he had a copy of an email from Mr. DeNicola to John Oros which itemized the costs for sharpshooting as well as recommendations for a combination of methods to harvest the deer.

Mr. Curtin asked Ms. O'Brien to provide him with a copy of Mr. DeNicola's comments in writing. Ms. O'Brien replied that she had a verbal conversation with Mr. DeNicola who said that the use of archery to harvest deer would alter the success of sharpshooters.

Mr. Curtin again asked Ms. O'Brien to get Mr. DeNicola's comments in writing so that he could then get together with her and discuss the matter further. Mr. Curtin stated that we could use different parks for sharpshooting. Ms. O'Brien asked if the Park District would implement the sharpshooting option in 2007. Mr. Curtin and Dr. Rzeszotarski both commented that a plan would need to be developed and approved by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources six months before the beginning of the sharpshooting. Dr. Rzeszotarski added that we need to gather all the facts and discuss the options.

Mr. Curtin reported on the deer harvest to date. Two hunters have reported harvesting 3 deer, 2 does and one buck, from the Montville Township property. He stated that we feel that some of the hunters who took the permits have not gone out as there may still be too many leaves on the trees. He added that we have received no complaints or questions from the public regarding the hunting to date. Mr. Curtin stated that we will continue to collect information about the deer harvest and analyze the information at the end of the season, determine the success rate, and re-work the plan for next year.

Ms. O'Brien asked how the harvest information is obtained. Mr. Curtin replied that the hunters are asked to report to the Park District. Dr. Rzeszotarski commented that hunters are more likely to go out after the leaves fall and the best time would be in November and early December. Mr. Oros said that it is important to note that hunters are not always successful and that we expected that the number of deer harvested by bow hunting would be lower than what could be achieved with sharpshooters. Mr. Curtin stated in answer to Ms. O'Brien's question that a monthly hunting report would be given at the meeting of the Park Board.

Mrs. Horvath asked who monitors the hunting activity in the parks. Mr. Curtin replied that our Rangers told the hunters at the mandatory meeting that they will not know when the Rangers will appear. The Rangers will do random checks at the hunted properties.

Mr. Curtin concluded the discussion by once again asking Ms. O'Brien to obtain the information she received verbally from Mr. DeNicola in writing. Mr. Curtin would then set up a meeting with Ms. O'Brien and Mr. DeNicola to go over the options.

HEALTH CARE PLAN & WAIVER

Robin Pilarczyk informed the Board about the costs of the Employee Health Care Plan for 2007. She stated that 2007 will be the second year of the two-year contract. There are no changes in the medical coverage with Medical Mutual but there is a 3.5% increase in the dental insurance through Delta Dental. Mrs. Pilarczyk recommended that the Board keep the cost to the employee the same and that the Park District absorb the cost increase, which would be approximately Eleven Hundred Dollars (\$1,100.00) for the year.

The employee contribution amounts and waiver amounts are as follows:

Plan	Type	Total Premium	Board Contribution	Employee Contribution	
				Monthly	Bi-Weekly
Enhanced	Single	\$366.44	\$345.04	\$21.40	\$10.70
	Family	\$919.12	\$865.32	\$53.80	\$26.90
Basic	Single	\$315.64	\$315.64	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Family	\$791.98	\$791.98	\$0.00	\$0.00

The 2006 Delta Dental rates and contribution amount is listed below:

Both Plans	Single	\$26.75	\$26.75	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Family	\$74.11	\$74.11	\$0.00	\$0.00

The 2007 Healthcare Insurance Waiver amounts were established by the Geauga County Board of County Commissioners as follows:

Waiver amount for all coverage	\$2,505.00 Family	\$990.00 Individual
Waiver amount for medical & prescription	\$2,289.00 Family	\$912.00 Individual

Dr. Rzeszotarski asked if there were any complaints from the employees regarding their health care plan. Mrs. Pilarczyk reported that there were none. Dr. Rzeszotarski asked about the timing for the next round of health care contract discussions. Mrs. Pilarczyk reported that the discussions will begin in June.

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion to approve the health care waiver amounts and to keep the employee contribution rates for 2007 at the same rate with the Park District absorbing the 3.5% increase in Dental Delta.

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

Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Absent
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT FOUNDATION REPORT

Les Bednar reported that the recent "Night Vision" fundraiser for the Observatory Park project saw 170 attendees. She added that many new friends were made and everyone had a good time. Current estimates indicate that it took one dollar to raise three dollars which is well above the norm for a special event.

Mrs. Bednar reported that the response to the membership drive is coming in. Two upcoming event dates were announced. The Fall Friends Hike will take place on October 14th at 10:00 a.m. at Beartown Lakes Reservation. November 30, 2006 is the last scheduled Geauga Park District Foundation Trustee meeting for this year beginning at 4:00 p.m. with a reception to follow.

Dr. Rzeszotarski stated that several attendees at the "Night Vision" event who lived outside of Geauga County mentioned that they no longer received the Park District newsletter. He asked to make sure that all volunteers, donors, and active participants in park functions receive the newsletter regardless of where they live. Ms. Hosier replied that the newsletter does get sent to out-of-county residents including those in the 44022 zip code. An effort has been made to match all the lists of volunteers, donors, and friends. Ms. Hosier will also double check with the mailing company.

APPOINTMENT OF GEUGA PARK DISTRICT FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

Mr. Curtin stated that the Geauga Park District Foundation has requested that the Park Board give consideration to the appointment of Glenn Frohring and Todd Ray to serve 3-year terms as Foundation Trustees beginning January 1, 2007 and ending December 31, 2009.

Miss Cope made a motion to appoint Glenn Frohring and Todd Ray as Trustees for the Geauga Park District Foundation 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	Absent
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS) UPDATE AND CORRESPONDING PERSONNEL POLICY CHANGES

Mr. Curtin stated that at the September 2006 Board meeting the subject of the IRS ruling on taxable fringe benefits was discussed. The policies that are affected by this ruling were briefly discussed and several changes were suggested but no action was taken at that time. A copy of the policies with the changes was provided to the Board members in their packet prior to the meeting.

Mr. Curtin reported that Sherry Bosworth developed a proposal for defraying the costs of the income taxes incurred by employees for the uniforms which they are required to wear and are provided by the Park District. The proposal provides that commencing in November 2007, a check will be issued to each non-law enforcement employee in the amount of Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) for the purpose of covering out-of-pocket expenses for the taxable uniform cost. Excluded from this payment would be any new hires for the current year. In addition, each November, commencing November 2007, new hires for the current year who are non-law enforcement personnel will receive an amount equal to 18% of the funds spent on taxable uniforms for that individual, for the purpose of out-of-pocket expenses for the taxable uniform cost. Uniforms for law enforcement personnel and some safety equipment are not considered a taxable fringe benefit.

Dr. Rzeszotarski commented that the proposal seems reasonable and stated that it would be important to communicate the process to the staff.

The following personnel policies were amended to reflect the IRS ruling on taxable fringe benefits:

Uniforms	Policy No. 605.1
Travel	Policy No. 602.1
Training Evaluation	Policy No. 602.2
Training/Tuition Reimbursement	Policy No. 801.1 -801.5
Professional Licenses & Dues	Policy No. 803.1
Park Owned Vehicle Use	Policy No. 609.1
Use of Phone & Mail Systems	Policy No. 711.1
Life Insurance	Policy No. 302.1
Miscellaneous Employee Gifts & Awards	

A complete list of the Personnel Policy Manual with the above revisions is on file in the Park District Office.

The Board members offered comments regarding the policies. Minor wording changes were suggested.

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion to approve the above named policies contingent upon the minor changes being made to the wording as suggested.

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

Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Absent
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

Mr. McClintock stated these changes will be presented to the staff at the next All-Staff meeting on October 19, 2006.

PARK UPDATE

Mr. Curtin updated the Board on the following:

Generator for Big Creek Park Meyer Center

Mr. Curtin reported that one quote was received from Peerless Electric for a diesel generator in the amount of Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$85,000.00) which includes all labor and materials. Dr. Rzeszotarski commented that it would be important to have enough power to keep the Ranger Department in full operation and to keep the building from freezing. He asked if our electrical systems could be mapped in order to identify those necessary services. Mr. Curtin responded in the affirmative. Miss Cope asked about the generator situation at The West Woods Nature Center. Mr. Curtin replied that we have a small generator that will provide power for the lights and the radio system.

Dr. Rzeszotarski asked Mr. Curtin to get more quotes and to evaluate the power needs for HVAC, water, and staff work stations. He added that he is concerned that we meet the needs for infrastructure and emergency services and budget for this for 2007. Miss Cope asked if our Ranger Department is made available to the Emergency Management Administration of Geauga County. Mr. Curtin replied that our Rangers have been available and actively participate in county wide drills.

Affelder House

Mr. Curtin reported that we are waiting for project close-out paperwork from Burton Scot Construction. The power company will be removing poles along the driveway. The expanded parking lot is also completed. The final completion notice will be sent to Zeigler Ltd. which is the contractor doing the dry hydrant work. A change order for Zeigler Ltd. will be brought forward later in this meeting.

Beartown Lakes Reservation

The Planning Department is looking to include all the work that is necessary for the Lower Bear and Middle Bear Dam improvements for the contract for next year.

Frohning Meadows

The Army Corp of Engineers (ACE) has not yet made their site visit. Mr. Curtin stated that we can go to bid on this project but cannot begin construction until the Army Corp of Engineers completes their review.

Headwaters Park

The re-construction of the service road is completed

The Maple Highlands Trail-Central

Mr. Curtin reported that the paving is at seventy-five percent (75%) completion. Safety fencing is going up and paving for the road crossings has begun.

Saps-A-Risin' Sundays

Mr. Curtin stated that we are giving thought to reducing the number of Sundays for the Saps-A-Risin' event to either two or three rather than every Sunday in March. Mr. Curtin recommended reducing the event to three Sundays as the first Sunday typically has more inclement weather and the sap has not yet begun to run. Ms. Hosier commented that the decision would need to be made soon with *The Treeline Telegraph* deadline of November 1st. The Geauga County Tourism Council also has a looming deadline. Dr. Rzeszotarski suggested dropping the first weekend and having the event on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th weekends. Miss Cope asked for consideration of the reaction of our patrons such as when we eliminated the Holly Days event adding that some people wait all year for the Saps-A-Risin' event. Mr. Curtin commented that the history program could be taken to a different location such as Burton's Century Village. Mr. Curtin suggested that we experiment with the three Sundays in 2007 dropping the first Sunday. Mr. McClintock stated that the sugarbush will still be open on the first Sunday if sap is being collected. Mr. Curtin replied that the oxen will be used once again in 2007 for the collection of sap on the three designated Sundays. Dr. Rzeszotarski concluded by saying that we should go with the three Sundays as there is also the big draw on our volunteer staff for the BioCentennial which will be going on during the month of March as well.

Dix & Eaton Media Consultant Proposal

Mr. Curtin explained that he received the proposal from the firm of Dix & Eaton to provide services to assist the Park District with media relations. The proposal outlined three areas in which they could help. The three areas and contract amounts are as follows:

- 1.) \$5000.00 -Review external media and incident response and review Best Management Practices.
- 2.) \$3000.00- Conduct media and communication training for key management personnel – one-half day session
- 3.) \$6000.00 – Develop strategies for communicating plans for the development of Frohring Meadows and the Observatory Park

Mr. Curtin commented that he does not feel that the third option is necessary. The Geauga Park District Foundation has offered to fund the training for the first and second options. Miss Cope asked Paige Hosier for her comments regarding the proposal. Ms. Hosier stated that she and her department are open for input and training opportunities. Mr. Curtin added that the firm of Dix & Eaton is very reputable and has had experience in handling regional and national crises. The Board members agreed that the proposal and training opportunities are worth pursuing. Miss Cope stated that she would like the Foundation Trustees to be involved in the training as well. Paige Hosier asked if the Foundation Trustees would be handling their own communication. Mr. Curtin stated that he would want to be certain of how and what is being said. Dr. Rzeszotarski also stated that it is better to speak with one voice for the Park District. Miss Cope emphasized the importance of having a Foundation representative at the Board meetings. Cindy Ford stated that the Foundation Trustees receive copies of all media releases.

Sunnybrook Preserve

A meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 8, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Geauga West Library to gain input from the public regarding the development of Sunnybrook Preserve.

Vandalism on The Maple Highlands Trail

Mr. Curtin reported that he received a letter of apology from the juveniles who vandalized the Taylor Wells bridge on The Maple Highlands Trail. He added that he received the official paperwork from the court which states that both individuals were admonished, received 32 hours of community service and will need to pay Two Hundred Eighty-Five Dollars and Thirteen Cents (\$285.13) each in fines. The individuals received a thirty-day (30) sentence to the detention center which was suspended and will be on court ordered probation for two years. Both individuals are not permitted to enter Geauga Park District property not open to the public. Mr.

McClintock commented that the graffiti found on the Claridon Elementary school building had the same signature as that of the graffiti on the bridge.

The Maple Highlands Trail Access Policy

Mr. Curtin distributed a draft of the Trail Access Policy that will be used when land owners and developers ask to link with or cross The Maple Highlands Trail. The policy will detail the procedure for requesting access and assure that these crossing and drainage areas will not damage or negatively impact the trail. Mr. Curtin asked the Board members to read the document for future discussion.

Swine Creek Lodge

Dr. Rzeszotarski asked how to address the earlier stated concern from a Swine Creek Lodge patron regarding the availability of water in the lodge and lighting on the bridge. He asked if there was enough volume to put a water vending machine at the Lodge. Mr. Curtin replied that we have not received any previous comments about water but having some type of low level light on the bridge would be appropriate. Dr. Rzeszotarski added that a light with a motion sensor that would not be triggered by the movement of trees could be considered. Mr. McClintock said that he would check into how some lighting could be tapped into the existing service.

Mountain Run Station

Mr. Curtin reported that we still anticipate a draft of the proposal for the Phase II Site Improvements at Mountain Run Station.

**Walter C. Best Preserve
Dam Clearing Project**

The dam clearing project is underway with substantial completion expected November 17, 2006.

Impact Communications Project

Mr. Curtin explained that a company called Impact Communications contacted the Park District to be a pilot site for developing podcasts in a park setting. This company will be accepting an award at the National Association of Interpreters (NAI) conference for their podcasts in a museum setting. Four different videos were developed which will be one to two minutes in length, and when completed, will be downloadable through iTunes. The four features are: Ansel's Cave Geology; A Chat with Ansel Savage; Silver Creek Restoration; and Brook Trout Reintroduction. We will provide a link to this download from the Park District website. Impact Communications donated their services for this project.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS RESOLUTION NO. 23-06

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved the adoption of Resolution No. 23-06 transferring One Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,600,000.00) from the General Fund (S05) to the Land Improvement Fund (Q41) for various land acquisition and construction projects.

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

Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Absent
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

Mr. Curtin brought forward a list of items to be declared surplus by the Park Board in order that they be auctioned or destroyed. The items are as follows:

Inventory No.	Description	Status
1347	North Star Pressure Washer	Auction
	Ink Cartridges- various	Auction
	Compaq DeskPro computer w/ Viewsonic monitor	Auction
1293	Dell Optiplex GX200 w/ 19" Dell monitor	Auction
1733	HP Business Inkjet 2280	Auction
1946	2003 17" monitor	Destroy

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion to declare the above items surplus equipment to be disposed of as stated.

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

Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Absent
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

2007 FEE SCHEDULE

The 2007 fee schedule was brought forward with no changes from this year. Geauga County residents are not charged fees for shelters. All lodge patrons are charged a heat fee. Programs are otherwise free for in-county residents. The fee schedule for out-of-county patrons is as follows:

OUT OF COUNTY SHELTER & PROGRAM FEES

Picnic Shelter	\$40.00
Lodge Building	\$50.00 per session
with heat, add	\$25.00 per session- mandatory November through February (heat fee applies to all county patrons as well)
Camping	\$10.00 per site per visit

Outdoor Programs –
 \$2.00 per person with a minimum fee of \$25.00 per school or group for Signs of the Season Walks and other programs.
 \$3.00 per person with a minimum fee of \$25.00 per school or group for Natural Communities, Geology, and Wetlands which are more intensive and longer in duration.

Indoor Programs –
 \$50.00 for speaker programs for passive (seated) audiences.

RANGER DEPARTMENT FEES

Parking Fine	\$10.00
Handicapped Parking Fine	\$25.00

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to adopt the above stated fee schedule for 2007.

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

Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Absent
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

NATURE CENTER CLOSINGS ON HOLIDAYS

Mr. Curtin requested a motion be made to close the Meyer Center and The West Woods Nature Center for the upcoming holidays.

Miss Cope made a motion to close the Meyer Center and The West Woods Nature Center for Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 23rd, Christmas Day, Monday, December 25th, and New Year's Day, Monday, January 1st.

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

Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Absent
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

ZEIGLER LTD. CHANGE ORDER NO. 2

Mr. Curtin brought forward Change Order No. 2 for Zeigler Ltd. for an increase in the amount of Four Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-One Dollars (\$4,251.00) for the installation of the dry hydrant, creation of additional parking spaces and additional seeding and mulching.

Miss Cope made a motion to approve Zeigler Ltd. Change Order No. 2 in the amount of Four Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-One Dollars (\$4,251.00) 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	Absent
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

BLAUGRUND HERBERT & MARTIN

INCREASE IN CONTRACT

Mr. Curtin asked the Board to consider an increase in the contract with Blaugrund Herbert & Martin, Park District legal counsel for personnel matters, in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00).

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion to approve an increase in the contract with Blaugrund Herbert & Martin in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00).

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

Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Absent
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

Dr. Rzeszotarski expressed concern regarding the legal advice being received from other Park District legal counsel especially with regard to the recent litigation involving construction on The Maple Highlands Trail. Miss Cope added that it would be beneficial to be able to define our needs in the area of legal matters and look for the best legal firms but she acknowledged that our needs may also be hard to predict. Mr. Curtin stated that he would like to keep the Park District legal counsel work in Geauga County but that it may be necessary to look to other firms.

SODA CONSTRUCTION CO.
CHANGE ORDER NOS. 17 & 18

Mr. Curtin brought forward Soda Construction Co. Change Order Nos. 17 & 18 for the Board's consideration. Change Order No. 17 represents an increase of Two Thousand Five Hundred Seventeen Dollars and Seventy-Four Cents (\$2,517.74) for the installation of screening on the bridge over Claridon/Aquilla Rd.

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion to approve Soda Construction Co. Change Order No. 17 in the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Seventeen Dollars and Seventy-Four Cents (\$2,517.74) 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	Absent
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

Soda Construction Co. Change Order No. 18 represents an increase of seven days extending the completion date to October 18, 2006. Mr. Curtin stated that other extension may be likely due to weather. The punch list of items may not be addressed until Spring 2007.

Miss Cope made a motion to approve Soda Construction Co. Change Order No. 18 for an increase of seven days extending the completion date to October 18, 2006.

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

Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Absent
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

The Board took a break from 5:42 p.m. to 6:05 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to go into Executive Session at 6:05 p.m. for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and pending litigation regarding personnel issues.

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

Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Absent
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

The Board returned from Executive Session at 6:40 p.m.

Dr. Rzeszotarski asked if all was in place for The West Woods Nature Center to be used once again as a polling place for the November 7, 2006 election. Mr. Curtin replied that arrangements were made with the Board of Elections for space.

Mr. Curtin reported that he has been working with the local chapter of the Ohio Horseman's Council on a project to identify all of the horse trails throughout the county. Thanks to Nora Stanton and Peggy Lahner, local horsemen, all of the trails in the townships have been penciled in on a map. They have been in contact with a firm called Geoplex Consulting which can digitize the map for a fee. The local horse organizations and riding clubs have been approached to cover the cost of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for this process. A small map could then be obtained for Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00). Mr. Curtin recommended that the Park District purchase a copy of the map. Miss Cope and Dr. Rzeszotarski agreed that this would be beneficial.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Departmental reports from the Supervisors were submitted for the month of September 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 6:45 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