

Geauga Park District
September 11, 2001

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held on September 11, 2001, 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 present was Mark Rzeszotarski. Board President Robert McCullough was absent. Employees present were Tom Curtin, Keith McClintock, Paige Hosier, Sylvia Neptune and Eileen Smith. Guest present was Edna Davis.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

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

Mr. McCullough	Absent
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Miss Cope moved that the minutes of August 14, 2001, be approved as amended.

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

Mr. McCullough	Absent
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE MONTH ENDED AUGUST 31, 2001**

GENERAL FUND

BALANCE AUGUST 1, 2001 **391,520.86**

EXPENDITURES **184,277.71**

Personnel 128,375.55

Medicare 1,565.65

Hospitalization/Dental -July 16,663.85

PBX 185.06

Vouchers -August/September 37,487.60

RECEIPTS **2,120,423.45**

Fees:

Shelters 40.00

Camping 30.00

Kayak/ Canoe Participants 385.00

Fern Foray Workshop 77.00

Clay Leaf Windchimes 52.00

Holly Days Happenings Table Fees 460.00

WCNAF Food Vendor 200.00

Rental Properties

- McKinnon- Swine Creek house-August 350.00

- Scott - Krehlik House - August 350.00

- Kolar - Burton Wetlands House August	350.00	
- McClintock - Hyde House August	350.00	
Citation Disbursement - Chardon Muni Court	126.00	
Second Half Real Estate Tax	2,107,508.64	
Sales: Gift Cart	978.86	
Art Commission - Bonnie Lanesa	7.00	
Donation: David Mullet Reunion	50.00	
Anthony Paskevich - for 40th Anniversary Picnics	1,000.00	
Local Government Funds	5,424.06	
Interest earned	2,684.89	
BALANCE AUGUST 31, 2001		2,327,666.60

CONSTRUCTION FUND

BALANCE AUGUST 1, 2001		5,724,440.71
EXPENDITURES		707,439.40
Vouchers -July/August	830,439.40	
RECEIPTS		120,180.14
Interest Earned	19,880.84	
Donations:		
TWWNC - GPD Foundation	100,000.00	
TWWNC-Lila Meacham	20.00	
Memory of Lucinda Post- K & M Post	100.00	
Choice Chid Care Inc.	25.00	
Royalties: Oxford Oil Co	154.30	
BALANCE AUGUST 31, 2001		5,137,181.45

PARK DEBT FUND

BALANCE AUGUST 1, 2001		343,575.78
EXPENDITURES		0.00
RECEIPTS		338,683.63
Interest Earned	1,183.63	
Second Half Real Estate Tax	337,500.00	
BALANCE AUGUST 31, 2001		682,259.41

VOUCHER RESOLUTION 17-01

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. 17-01.

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

Mr. McCullough	Absent
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Mr. Curtin shared with the Board a ready-reference explaining the revenue funds. Dr. Rzeszotarski suggested this reference sheet be placed in the budget.

The Director shared correspondence he had received from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. They would like to hold a 6.2-mile walk-a-thon on Saturday, May 4, 2002. This walk would be in

conjunction with a similar walk in over 600 cities. Mr. Curtin expressed that he did not see any reason why we should not allow this walk-a-thon. Staff will meet with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation for details. Mr. Curtin also shared that the Heart Association has also expressed interest in holding a walk the same day.

THE WEST WOODS

Campaign Update

Mrs. Neptune informed the Board that the campaign total as of today's meeting is \$628,734.00.

Miss Cope questioned Sylvia Neptune as to the possibility of future fundraising events. Mrs. Neptune responded that she would be meeting with Foundation trustees, Linda Henry and Isabelle Boland, to work on plans for the preview grand opening event for The West Woods Nature Center, which has been scheduled for October 5, 2002.

Change Order No. 1 – J. G. Johnson Construction Co.

At the August Board Meeting, Tom Curtin shared with the Board that when the architect, Tony Paskevich, put together specifications for The West Woods Nature Center, they bidded out for shiplap siding. Mr. Paskevich would prefer using board and batten siding on the Nature Center and the support building. Mr. Kallay was in agreement with Mr. Paskevich's preference. Mr. Curtin presented to the Board Change Order No. 1. This Change Order reflects an increase in the amount of \$5,430.00 for the board and batten siding. It is also reflected in this Change Order a credit of \$15,000.00, representing the revision of the geothermal system, resulting in an overall contract decrease in the amount of \$9,570.00.

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to approve Change Order No. 1 for J. G. Johnston Construction Co., general contractors for The West Woods Nature Center, which will provide board and batten siding on the Nature Center and the support building in lieu of the shiplapped siding, as well as crediting this contract for the change in the geothermal system, resulting in a contract decrease in the amount of \$9,570.00.

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

Mr. McCullough	Absent
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes

Green Roof Update

Miss Cope questioned Mr. Curtin as to the status of the green roof. Mr. Curtin responded that Tim Kallay has been in contact with Roofscapes Inc., a subcontractor for The West Woods Nature Center. Tim Kallay is looking for a firm price for the roof. Originally, the cost estimate for the roof was \$37,500.00. We are now looking at approximately \$47,500.00 for the green roof. Mr. Curtin shared with the Board that we are still looking at preliminary figures. This roof will be a valuable interpretive tool. Mr. Curtin will keep the Board apprised on the status of the green roof.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS

RESOLUTION NO. 18-01

Mr. Curtin asked the Board for authorization to transfer monies from the general fund (SO5) to the construction fund (Q41) in the amount of \$1,232,800.00, for the purpose of covering construction expenses for The West Woods Nature Center and other construction projects. Dr. Rzeszotarski questioned whether this figure would include the close out figure for the Meyer Center expansion and the architect's fees. Tom Curtin responded that it would.

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to authorize the transfer of monies from the general fund (SO5) to the construction fund (Q41) in the amount of \$1,232,800.00, for the purpose of covering construction expenses for The West Woods Nature Center and other construction projects.

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

Mr. McCullough	Absent
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes

MEYER CENTER EXPANSION

Change Order No. 5 – A.H. Stowe Construction Co.

Mr. Curtin brought before the Board Change Order from A.H. Stowe Construction Co., the general contractor for the Meyer Center expansion, reflecting the contract has been changed to delete the three custom built-in cabinets. This would then be a decrease in the amount of \$15,470.00. Dr. Rzeszotarski questioned what would be done in lieu of the contracted cabinets. Mr. Curtin responded that we have two avenues to consider: pre-made cabinetry or have the cabinets made in-house. Dr. Rzeszotarski further questioned Mr. Curtin on the balance of the contract. Mr. Curtin responded that we are meeting with representatives of A.H. Stowe Construction Co. to put a closure on unresolved issues regarding the punch list and determine the final payment amount.

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to approve Change Order No. 5 from A.H. Stowe Construction Company reflecting a change in the contract by deleting three custom built-in cabinets, decreasing the contract by \$15,470.00.

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

Mr. McCullough	Absent
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes

REGIONAL OPEN SPACE UPDATE

Tom Curtin reminded the Board about the Regional Open Space workshop on October 12, 2001, at Lakeland Community College. Various conservation organizations and developers will be discussing working together to preserve open space and river corridors. In the evening, there will be an invitation-only dinner at Manakiki Golf Course Clubhouse. Invitations have been sent out to politicians, board members, and business leaders. Tom Curtin expressed his interest in attending this workshop/dinner and encouraged one of the Commissioners to join him.

The Director also updated the Board that the Regional Open Space Coalition has moved away from using the brochure that was previously shown to the Board. Mr. Curtin showed the Board a poster map of the seven counties, which depicts possible green space corridors and includes text addressing changes in the region.

LEGAL COUNSEL CONTRACT

Mr. Curtin informed the Board that we are approaching the time when we review various contracts. One of which is our contract for legal counsel. Currently, we are billed at a rate of \$165.00 per hour. Tom Curtin shared with the Board his discussion with our current legal counsel that should we have a situation that would require expertise that they could not provide us with, they would not have any objections to us working with another law firm.

Mr. Curtin asked the Board if we should go out for bid to other law firms to see what they have to offer. Dr. Rzeszotarski responded that he thinks it is important to see what talents are out there. He suggested the Director ask law firms to provide us with a list of their expertise and hourly rate.

BURTON STATION HONOR ROLL

Tom Curtin advised the Board at the August meeting that the veterans of Burton Station would like to place a sign along the railroad right of way in Burton honoring the veterans who served in the various wars. Mr. Curtin shared with the Board renderings of what the sign would look like. If installation took place before the trail was built, the sign would have to be moveable. Dr. Rzeszotarski questioned whether these veterans were taking the leadership role and whether

zoning and set back requirements were met. The Director responded that this group would be taking the lead.

PARK UPDATES

The West Woods Nature Center

Keith McClintock updated the Board on the progress of The West Woods Nature Center. Mr. McClintock reported that the lower level walls are approximately 75% complete. Footer drainage is approximately 80% complete. The water well location has been approved and construction will commence before fall. Mr. McClintock also reported that the stream revetment plan has been completed for the area near the vehicular bridge.

Springbrook

Mr. McClintock reported that Jennifer Windus of ODNR has submitted comments on the Springbrook Management Plan to Phil Gingrich. These comments are under review. The Management Plan will be changed where appropriate.

Maple Highlands Trail

The Deputy Director reported that the final stage drawings are nearly complete. We need to indicate the direction for use of bollards along SR 44. These barriers may be more hazardous to vehicular traffic.

Meyer Center Addition

Keith McClintock reported that we are working on putting closure on unresolved issues.

Biologist Position

Mr. McClintock informed the Board that we are conducting second interviews, with one interview scheduled for later this evening. We are also waiting for responses to reference checks.

Yoder and Ruh Properties

The Director informed the Board of the completion of the purchase of real property owned by Mahlon D. and Fannie Yoder, located in Middlefield Township, known as Permanent Parcel No. 18-087500, for approximately 74 acres; and real property owned by Peter and Jean Ruh, located in Chester Township, known as Permanent Parcel Nos. 11-291600 and 11-291610, for 74 acres.

Board Pictures

The Director inquired of the Board as to their availability to have professional pictures taken. Miss Cope suggested having these pictures taken one half hour before the next Board meeting.

Fair

Mr. Curtin reported that the attendance at the Fair Building was over 7,000 people. The attendance was up from past years. The addition of the paved walkway allowed accessibility for wheelchairs and strollers, as well as other programs hosted in the Natural Resource area.

FRANKLIN COUNTY METRO PARKS

Tom Curtin asked the Board if they had seen the article in the August 17th edition of The News Herald, which featured a billboard of Franklin County Metro Parks. This billboard was an advertisement for a beer company, stating that their beer was as refreshing as Franklin Country Metro Parks. Mr. Curtin informed the Board that this form of advertising is legal. This beer company has the right to advertise in this fashion using public lands.

FEE SCHEDULE FOR 2002

Tom Curtin brought to the attention of the Board prior discussions on the picnic shelters, especially the Great Blue Heron Lodge. Recently heat was installed at the Great Blue Heron Lodge. In order to defray the expense of heating the lodge, the Board approved a fee of \$20.00 for out-of-county residents. Mr. Curtin brought up for discussion making this fee relative to all reservations requesting heat. This fee would also be non-refundable. Mr. Curtin explained that

this fee would help defray the cost of heating the building, as well as maintenance and patrolling expenses. Mr. McClintock added that people would look at this fee as a convenience fee. Dr. Rzeszotarski brought up for discussion the building use fee for the Great Blue Heron Lodge. The suggestion was addressed to raise the fee for the building use from \$50.00 to \$75.00 for out-of-county residents. Dr. Rzeszotarski also suggested doing an assessment of the shelters to determine which shelters are requested and how many people are turned down for their preferred choice of shelter facilities. This assessment should also indicate whether county residents or out-of-county residents are making the reservations.

Miss Cope made a motion to increase the building use fee for the Great Blue Heron Lodge to \$75.00 for out-of-county residents, and a non-refundable fee of \$20.00 be attached to all reservations requesting heat at the Great Blue Heron Lodge.

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

Mr. McCullough	Absent
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes

COASTAL WATERWAYS

Dr. Rzeszotarski questioned Keith McClintock concerning the Coastal Waterways Grant. Mr. McClintock responded that several million dollars would be made available, if certain criteria are met. Dr. Rzeszotarski asked to be updated on whether we might be eligible for this grant.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to go into Executive Session at 4:55 p.m. for the purpose of discussing land acquisitions and personnel.

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

Mr. McCullough	Absent
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes

The Board returned from Executive Session at 6:20 p.m.

LAND ACQUISITION

Farley Property

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion for the Director to proceed with the purchase of real property owned by Evelyn Farley, located in Parkman Township, containing approximately 102 acres, known as Permanent Parcel No. 25-018800, for the amount of \$400,000.00, plus closing costs. Miss Cope seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. McCullough	Absent
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes

Ruh Property

The Director informed the Board that the Ruh family would like to have the naming rights to the property that Geauga Park District purchased from them. The Ruh family has been an integral part of the Geauga Park District from its inception and has a life-long commitment to conservation. The family would like the property to be named "*Sunnybrook Preserve*".

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion that the property that was sold to Geauga Park District by Jean and Peter Ruh, Permanent Parcel Nos. 11-291600 and 11-291610, be known as Sunnybrook Preserve.

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

Mr. McCullough	Absent
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes

FOUNDATION

There was a discussion among Tom Curtin, Keith McClintock and the Board concerning possible candidate names to go to the Foundation. The Board suggested the possibility of assigning a point value to the potential candidates. The Board shared its eagerness to meet with the Foundation to discuss these potential candidates. Dr. Rzeszotarski and Miss Cope agreed that one Commissioner be designated to attend the Foundation meeting regarding potential candidates.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Departmental reports from the Supervisors were submitted for the month of August to the Director and a summary sheet was forwarded to the Board in their mailing packet prior to the Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 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, Director

Betty Cope, Vice President

file: A-minutes 9-11-01