

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
August 12, 2008

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held on August 12, 2008 at The West Woods Nature Center, Russell, Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. Vice-President Dr. Rzeszotarski was in the Chair. Board members President Robert McCullough and Mr. Leech were present.

Employees present:

Tom Curtin, Executive Director
Keith McClintock, Deputy Director
Les Bednar, Development Officer
Dan Best, Senior Naturalist
Sherry Bosworth, Business Affairs Director
Cindy Ford, Marketing Assistant
Kathy Hanes, Executive Secretary
John Hayhurst, Lt. Ranger
Chris Lynn, Park Planner
Larry McKinnon, Sgt. Ranger
Robin Pilarczyk, Human Resources Manager
Diane Valen, Naturalist Services Director
Aaron Young, Planning Director

Visitors Present:

Todd Ray

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Leech moved to adopt the revised agenda for the meeting.

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

Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Mr. Leech	Yes

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF JULY 8, 2008

Mr. Leech moved to adopt the minutes of July 8, 2008 as written.

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

Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Mr. Leech	Yes

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Curtin introduced Todd Ray, Geauga Park District Foundation representative.

Geauga Park District
FINANCIAL STATEMENT MONTH ENDED
 JULY 31, 2008

GENERAL FUND
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE JULY 1, 2008 **1,611,110.52**

EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES **418,817.35**

Personnel	205,992.04
Medicare	2,841.74
Dental /Hospitalization	31,904.72
PERS	28,718.03
Vouchers	149,360.82

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES **2,785,422.05**

General Tax Collections

- Real Estate Tax	2,753,615.45
-------------------	--------------

Investment Income

3,292.56

Gifts & Donations

436.75

- Flea Market donation - Cooper (\$100)
- Regional PC books sponsorship - O'Reilly Equip (\$336.75)

Fees

- | | |
|--|----------|
| - Camping | 10.00 |
| - Shelters | 120.00 |
| - NAF Table Fees | 135.00 |
| - Lodge rental | 125.00 |
| - Workshops - General - Public program | 2,007.00 |
| - Programs - General - Public Program | 120.00 |

Sales

- | | |
|---|----------|
| - Tapper's Treasures - MC | 126.20 |
| - Tree Tops - TWW | 934.83 |
| - Credit Card - All facilities | 1,569.91 |
| - Water Vending Machine Sales - TWW | 23.00 |
| - Agriculture land use - Hi-Tech Extrusions | 1,000.00 |
| - Swine Creek house - Harry | 400.00 |
| - Burton Wetlands house- Kolar | 400.00 |
| - Hyde house - McKinnon | 400.00 |

Other Receipts

Citation Disbursement	128.00
Parking Ticket Collections	50.00
Recycling Proceeds	20.61
Local Government Funds	8,653.74

Miscellaneous Receipts	11,854.00	
- Annual service return - Kintera Fundware (\$569)		
- Auction proceeds - Misc patrons (Trucks, desk) (\$11,285)		
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF JULY 31, 2008		3,977,715.22
LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND		
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE JULY 1, 2008		5,013,174.59
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES		60,869.74
Vouchers	60,869.74	
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES		11,072.40
<i>Investment Income</i>	9,725.83	
<i>Grants</i>		
<i>Other Revenue</i> - Lawyer's Title return overage	439.13	
<i>Royalties</i>		
- Oxford Oil Co - Swine Creek property	250.80	
- Cedar Valley Energy - Hehmeyer property	304.19	
- Great Lakes Energy - Hart property	51.61	
- Cedar Valley Energy - Sunnybrook property	227.61	
- Power Gas - Farley property	73.23	
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF JULY 31, 2008		\$4,963,377.25

VOUCHER RESOLUTION NO. 31-08

The Board asked for clarification on some of the voucher items. All questions were answered satisfactorily.

Mr. McCullough moved to adopt Voucher Resolution No. 31-08, a copy of which is on file in the Park District office.

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

Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Mr. Leech	Yes

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Mr. Curtin shared the following communications with the Board:

A note was received from Carol Simmons thanking the Park District for the donation of benches to the Red Simmons Memorial Garden.

Doris Wintz of Chardon sent a letter congratulating the Park staff for the wonderful job they did organizing the Nature Arts Festival.

The Petricks of Chesterland enjoyed their day at The West Woods and commented that the shelter, grounds, and restrooms were clean and neat.

Many positive comments were received regarding the Lean-Tos at Big Creek, Timbertots Program, Hound Hikes, Toddler Time and Our Feathered Friends.

Mr. McClintock reported that he received recommendations from Marge Smits regarding the wheelchair accessibility at the Parks. Dr. Rzeszotarski suggested that if the recommendations have low-cost common elements then the Park should look at implementing them. The Board will send a letter to Mrs. Smits thanking her for her time and effort.

Mr. Curtin received a letter from Terry Zolco who is disappointed that the Park District is offering a hunter education course.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Mr. Curtin opened the floor to members of the public present at the meeting. There were no comments.

PRESENTATION ON PROTHONOTARY WARBLERS

Naturalist Dan Best gave an informative presentation on Prothonotary Warblers. The Board thanked Dan for his time.

Mr. Curtin congratulated Dan on receiving the National Master Interpretive Manager Award from The National Association for Interpretation (NAI). The award is presented to an NAI member who “demonstrates a mastery of interpretive technique, site or program and staff management and a respected ability to pass these skills on to others.”

EXECUTIVE SESSION – ROLL CALL

Mr. McCullough moved to go into Executive Session at 4:03 p.m. for the purpose of discussing pending litigation.

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

Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Mr. Leech	Yes

The Board returned from Executive Session at 4:53 p.m. and the following was brought forward for resolution:

Mr. Leech made a motion to appoint the Executive Director to serve as Park representative in all matters regarding the pending application before the Ohio Power Siting Board as it relates to construction of transmission lines through Geauga County. Dr. Rzeszotarski seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Mr. Leech	Yes

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PARK UPDATES

Budget Hearing

Mr. Curtin reminded the Board that the budget hearing for the 2009 budget will be held on August 20, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the Geauga County Auditor's Office.

Town Hall Meeting – Transmission Lines

A public meeting will be held on August 13, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Geauga Lyric Theatre to discuss the possibility of transmission lines being constructed through Chardon and The Maple Highlands Trail.

Strategic Plan

The Board will meet to review the Strategic Plan at a date and time to be determined.

Bass Lake Dam Improvements

Survey work will take place next week.

Bridge Inspections

Bridge inspections will take place in October.

Frohring Meadows

A one year walk through will take place in August.

Headwaters Park

Parking lot improvements are 65 percent complete and have been delayed temporarily due to rain.

Hyde Dam Improvements

Waiting for the schedule from the contractor.

Landscape Plans - The West Woods

Will be completed in the fall, prior to the Wild Nights opening.

Mountain Run Station

Some trees have died and will need to be replanted by the contractor.

Observatory Park, Phase I

The project is two to three weeks behind schedule due to inclement weather.

Sunnybrook Preserve

Construction is moving along nicely; however, it is behind schedule due to weather.

2009 Temporary Budget Appropriations, Revised

Sherry Bosworth, Business Affairs Director, presented revisions to the 2009 Temporary Budget based on recommendations from the Geauga County Auditor's Office.

Mr. McCullough made a motion to approve the revisions to the 2009 Temporary Budget. Mr. Leech seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Mr. Leech	Yes

Workers' Compensation

Robin Pilarczyk, Human Resources Director, updated the Board on estimated 2008 charge-backs for Workers' Compensation premiums payable in 2009.

The data was for informational purposes only and no Board action was taken.

Nature Arts Festival

Mr. Curtin reported that the Nature Arts Festival received many positive comments from both visitors and vendors alike, and that approximately 2,400 people attended the event.

Arms Trucking

Howard Baker of Arms Trucking has indicated that he is willing to build a small parking lot on the north side of Mayfield Road on the east side of the bike trail and allow the Park District to use it. The parking lot would alleviate problems with people crossing Mayfield Road and parking at First Energy's substation. The Park would enter into an agreement with Arms Trucking.

Transmission Lines

Mr. Curtin will participate in a deposition regarding construction of the transmission lines.

Clean Ohio Fund

The Clean Ohio Fund was established to preserve green space and a renewal of the Fund will appear on the ballot in November 2008. Mr. Curtin asked the Board if they would be willing to pass a resolution at the September meeting supporting the renewal bond package. The Board agreed by unanimous consent.

Wine at Special Events

Mr. Curtin presented a request from Teresa Runion, Special Events Coordinator, for permission to serve wine at Art Openings and other special events held on Park

property. The Board agreed, subject to the review and approval of each event by the Executive Director.

Mr. Leech moved to authorize the Executive Director to grant approval for the serving of wine at Art Openings and other special events on Park property. Each event would be subject to review by the Executive Director.

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

Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Mr. Leech	Yes

Concealed Handguns on The Maple Highlands Trail

Mr. Curtin shared information he received from a Burton resident asking if concealed handguns are permitted on The Maple Highlands Trail. The Park District responded that Ohio's Concealed Carry License allows for license holders to carry concealed weapons on park district lands, but that weapons are not permitted within posted buildings.

Lightning Arrestors for Frohring Meadows

Dr. Rzeszotarski asked for an update on the lighting arrestors for Frohring Meadows. Mr. Curtin stated the purchase of the arrestors is in progress.

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT FOUNDATION REPORT

Todd Ray, Geauga Park District Foundation representative, reported that the Wild Nights Fundraising Campaign was successful and surpassed the target goal of \$23,000.

The Major Gifts Committee reviewed and approved the request for a consultant for the Observatory Park Capital Campaign. The Request for Proposals (RFPs) will be mailed in the next two weeks.

The Annual Fund Campaign's goal for this year is \$40,000. Appeal letters will be going out in mid-September.

CONTRACT REVIEW

The Board was provided with the Contract Review documents prior to the meeting. Aaron Young, Planning Director, reported that all projects are behind schedule due to the inclement weather.

APPRAISAL OF PARK PROPERTIES

Sherry Bosworth updated the Board on the appraisal of park properties. The report issued by Industrial Appraisal Company will be used for budgeting and insurance purposes.

The report was for informational purposes only and no board action was required.

OBSERVATORY PARK, CONCEPT DRAWINGS

Park Planner Chris Lynn presented the Master Plan concept drawings for Observatory Park. Some changes were made to the original plan to reduce project costs. The Board thanked Chris for his presentation.

NEW BUSINESS

POWER OF ATTORNEY DESIGNATION

The Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS) has changed accounting procedures and now needs a power of attorney designation from the Park District for any NRCS contracts and payments. The designation gives the Executive Director, the Deputy Director, and the Business Affairs Director authorization to sign documents on behalf of the Park District.

Mr. Leech moved to designate the Executive Director, the Deputy Director and the Business Affairs Director as powers-of-attorney for any Natural Resource Conservation Services contracts and payments.

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

Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Mr. Leech	Yes

TRANSFER OF FUNDS, RESOLUTION NO. 32-08

Mr. Curtin informed the Board of the Geauga County Auditor's Office notification that the second half of tax revenue has been posted to the Park District's General S05 Account.

Mr. McCullough moved the adoption of Resolution 32-08, transferring \$1.1 million from the General S05 Account to the Q41 Land Improvement Fund.

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

Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Mr. Leech	Yes

HOUSE BILL 511

House Bill 511 allows park commissioners to prescribe penalties for violations to park rules, regulations and ordinances. It automatically prescribes fines of \$150.00 for the first offense and \$1,000.00 for subsequent offenses if the Park Board does not set a fee schedule.

After some discussion, action on House Bill 511 was deferred until the Park's current violation and fine schedule could be reviewed.

ENCROACHMENT AT BURTON WETLANDS

John Hayhurst, Lt. Ranger, advised the Board that a barn and driveway on property adjacent to Burton Wetlands are encroaching on Park property. The Board discussed options and determined that the best approach would be to send a letter to the property owners asking them to move the barn and reimburse the Park District for reforestation of the trees which were destroyed.

SURPLUS PROPERTY

The Board reviewed the list of surplus property slated for the Geauga County auction. The items include 32 used cloth chairs, 15 used picnic tables, one lazy susan cabinet, and two bath cabinets.

Mr. Leech moved to declare the 32 used cloth chairs, 15 used picnic tables, one lazy susan cabinet, and two bath cabinets as surplus property.

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

Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Mr. Leech	Yes

COMMISSIONERS' TIME

Mr. McCullough asked if the bridge over Swine Creek could be painted. Mr. Curtin responded that costs for painting the bridge are prohibitive and that it will be painted if funds become available in the future.

Mr. McCullough asked for Board approval to attend the Conservation Symposium at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Mr. Leech made a motion to approve Mr. McCullough's request.

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

Mr. McCullough	Abstained
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Mr. Leech	Yes

The Commissioners commented that they enjoyed the Nature Arts Festival and thought this year's layout was very nice.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – ROLL CALL

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to go into Executive Session at 6:38 p.m. for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and compensation of a public employee.

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

Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Mr. Leech	Yes

The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:21 p.m. and the following was brought forward for resolution:

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion to accept the bid of Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000) from Robert A. Detweiler for the purchase of seven acres and the house from the auction of the former Hart Property located in Troy Township.
Mr. Leech seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Mr. Leech	Yes

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion to participate as owners and managers for the Orchard Hills property in Chester Township and the BAK Property in Middlefield.
Mr. McCullough seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. McCullough	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Mr. Leech	Yes

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

There were no reports from committees of the Board.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOARD

Departmental reports from the Supervisors were submitted for the month of July 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 7:47 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

