

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
July 8, 2008

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held on July 8, 2008 at Donald W. Meyer Center, Chardon, Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. President Robert McCullough was in the Chair. Board member Mr. Leech was present.

Employees present:

Tom Curtin, Executive Director
Les Bednar, Development Officer
Cindy Ford, Marketing Assistant
Kathy Hanes, Executive Secretary
Paige Hosier, Marketing Director
Larry McKinnon, Sgt. Ranger
John Oros, Operations Director
Michele Pennell, Accountant
Robin Pilarczyk, Human Resources Manager
Bob Urban, Chief Ranger
Aaron Young, Planning Director

Visitors Present:

Chris Parker
Mary Beth O'Neill

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Leech moved to adopt the 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	Absent
Mr. Leech	Yes

Dr. Rzeszotarski arrived at 3:35 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 11, 2008

Mr. Leech moved to adopt the minutes of June 11, 2008 as amended.

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 Chris Parker. He also introduced Mary Beth O'Neill, Geauga Park District Foundation representative.

Geauga Park District
FINANCIAL STATEMENT MONTH ENDED
 JUNE 30, 2008

GENERAL FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE JUNE 1, 2008 **1,940,586.14**

EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES **368,093.50**

Personnel	200,584.39	
Medicare	2,761.80	
Dental /Hospitalization	31,904.72	
PERS	28,813.58	
Vouchers	104,029.01	

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES **38,617.88**

General Tax Collections

- Personal Property Tax 17,837.49

Investment Income 4,229.61

Gifts & Donations 6,100.00

- Observatory Park Transfer Donations - GPD Foundation (\$125)
- Biennial Transfer Donations - GPD Foundation (\$5,925)
- Program donation - Chagrin Valley Herb Society (\$50)

Fees

- Camping 40.00
- Shelters 120.00
- NAF Table Fees 410.00
- Lodge rental 50.00
- Workshops - General - Public program 189.00
- Programs - General - Public Program 30.00

Sales

- Tapper's Treasures - MC 64.06
- Tree Tops - TWW 438.20
- Credit Card - All facilities 545.53
- Water Vending Machine Sales - TWW 23.00
- Swine Creek house - Harry 400.00
- Burton Wetlands house- Kolar 400.00
- Hyde house - McKinnon 400.00

Other Receipts

Citation Disbursement	35.00	
Parking Ticket Collections	55.00	
Recycling Proceeds	27.48	
Local Government Funds	7,043.01	
Miscellaneous Receipts - O'Reilly overpayment	180.50	

ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF JUNE 30, 2008 **\$ 1,611,110.52**

LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE JUNE 1, 2008 **5,433,809.96**

EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES **432,385.00**

Vouchers 432,385.00

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES **11,749.63**

Investment Income 10,236.78

Gifts & Donations 453.50

Grants

Royalties

- Oxford Oil Co - Swine Creek property 326.52

- Cedar Valley Energy - Hehmeyer property 288.06

- Great Lakes Energy - Hart property 83.90

- Cedar Valley Energy - Sunnybrook property 220.04

- Power Gas - Farley property 140.83

ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF JUNE 30, 2008 **\$ 5,013,174.59**

VOUCHER RESOLUTION NO. 28-08

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

Mr. McCullough moved to adopt Voucher Resolution No. 28-08, 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 letter was received from Notre Dame Cathedral Latin School thanking the Naturalist Department for their presentation to the LEAD Summer Program.

Chardon City Manager David Lelko sent a note thanking the Park District for the donation of two picnic tables to the Chardon Square Association.

The Aquilegia Garden Club thanked The West Woods staff for their assistance during a recent meeting.

Jack Snyder of Chardon emailed the Park to say he used Swine Creek Lodge and had a wonderful time there.

Many positive comments were received from those that participated in the Summer Solstice Dog Stroll at The Rookery.

Mr. McCullough commented that he attended a wonderful butterfly program at Eldon Russell Park.

Dr. Rzeszotarski invited everyone to the *Burgers and Butterflies, Dogs and Dragons* program to be held at Swine Creek Lodge on July 13th from noon until 3:30 p.m. He will be facilitating the program, along with Naturalist Linda Gilbert and Field Naturalist Tami Gingrich.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

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

Chris Parker asked the Board to continue their opposition to placement of the transmission lines within The Maple Highlands Trail.

Mr. Leech mentioned that two women were on The Maple Highlands Trail asking people to sign a petition opposing the use of the bike path for the transmission lines.

Agenda Item X, Executive Session, was deferred until the arrival of Christine Belz, President of Belz and Associates, Business Management Consultants.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS **PARK UPDATES**

Asphalt Improvements

Asphalt improvements are complete.

Camp Chickagami

A public meeting to discuss the Camp Chickagami Master Plan is scheduled for September 17, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Parkman Community Center.

Frothing Meadows

A one year walk-through will be conducted in August.

Headwaters Park

Clearing began on July 8, 2008 for the parking lot improvements.

Observatory Park, Phase I

Excavation began on July 8, 2008.

Sunnybrook Preserve

Construction is moving along well.

Railroad Right-of-Way Encroachment

Mr. Curtin reported that Park legal counsel is working on an agreement with Hardwood Lumber Company to resolve some encroachment issues. Part of the company's building and electrical service is encroaching on the railroad right-of-the-way north of Burton-Windsor Road.

Transmission Lines

Mr. Curtin provided the Board with an update on the status of First Energy's proposal to run transmission lines within The Maple Highlands Trail linear park. Public meetings will be held at the end of August and the adjudicatory hearings will be held in September.

The Park District has contracted with the law firm of Bricker and Eckler, located in Columbus, Ohio, to represent the Park in proceedings related to the transmission lines.

Mr. Curtin reported that Miami County Park District, Lake MetroParks, Portage County Park District and the Buckeye Trail Association have sent letters to the Ohio Power Siting Board expressing their opposition to construction of the power lines within the bike path.

Case Western Reserve University Property

Case Western Reserve University has asked the Park District for permission to place a plaque at Nassau Observatory to recognize Dr. Nassau and his efforts in promoting astronomy in Northeast Ohio. The plaque would read as follows:

This was the site of the Nassau Astronomical Station from 1957 to 2008. It was named in honor of Dr. Jason John Nassau, director of the Warner and Swasey Observatory, Case Western Reserve University, from 1924 to 1959. Under Dr. Nassau's leadership, the Observatory became a great center for research and a place to share the excitement of astronomy with the general public.

The Board agreed by unanimous consent to place a plaque at Observatory Park with the wording as stated above. Dr. Rzeszotarski suggested using similar wording on a plaque to be placed inside the building.

Staff Wellness Day Training

This year's Staff Wellness Day Training is scheduled for September 25, 2008. Cost of the training will not exceed \$2,500.00.

Mr. McCullough made a motion to approve the Staff Wellness Day Training expenses, not to exceed \$2,500.00.

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

Lightning Arrestors for Frohring Meadows

Dr. Rzeszotarski asked if the lightning arrestors would be installed this year. Mr. Curtin responded that the Park is moving forward with the installation and that the estimated cost is \$2,730.00.

Heat Fees

A decision on the heating fees for Park lodges was deferred until more information is available on energy prices for the winter.

Bass Lake Dam Improvements

Mr. Curtin presented the Board with the engineering recommendation from MS Engineering in the amount of \$49,390. The contract includes services for a topographical survey, design development and other related services for improvements to Bass Lake Dam.

Mr. Leech made a motion to accept the engineering contract from MS Engineering in the amount of \$49,390.00 for improvements to Bass Lake Dam.

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

Dr. Rzeszotarski inquired as to what park development projects are planned for 2009, but not yet started. Aaron Young, Planning Director, replied that Bass Lake, Best Preserve, Camp Chickagami and Orchard Hills are the parks included in the preliminary 2009 Park Development Plan.

Internal Revenue Service Mileage Reimbursement Increase

The Internal Revenue Service has increased the mileage reimbursement to 58.5 cents per mile, beginning July 1, 2008.

2009 Budget Meeting

The 2009 budget meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the Geauga County Auditor's Office.

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT FOUNDATION REPORT

Mary Beth O'Neill, Foundation representative, reported that the Walk in the Woods held in May raised over \$4,000.00 for the Naturescopes program. The event was coordinated by Foundation member, Erin Martin, and was attended by approximately 400 people.

The Wild Nights Fundraising Campaign is very close to achieving its goal of \$22,675.00.

The Foundation is planning a picnic after their next meeting.

Two more Point of Entry events will be scheduled in the near future.

CONTRACT REVIEW

The Board was provided with the Contract Review documents prior to the meeting. Mr. Young reported that due to the inclement weather, the projects are a week behind schedule.

2009 TEMPORARY BUDGET, RESOLUTION NO. 29-08

The Board reviewed the temporary budget documents prior to the meeting and commended the staff on a great job.

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion to accept the 2009 Temporary Budget, Resolution No. 29-08. 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

NEW BUSINESS

DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

The Board reviewed the list of surplus property. Items to be sent to auction include two Troy-Bilt 20" mulching push mowers, Sears Brush cutter, miscellaneous cabinets, two Dell Optiplex GX400 computers with monitor, Dell Precision 340 computer with monitor, HP Laserjet 4m Plus printer, Epson Stylus Photo printer, HomeLite Trimlite weed whip, Blueprint machine – Blu Ray, and miscellaneous computer items.

Mr. Leech moved to declare the items noted above as surplus property. 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

COMMISSIONERS' TIME

Mr. Leech asked if different Park departments could provide a 10-15 minute presentation at each board meeting. Mr. Curtin replied that departments could be rotated throughout the year and that Naturalist Dan Best will be presenting at the August meeting.

Dr. Rzeszotarski commented that he would like to review the strategic plan during the annual board retreat.

It was the consensus of the Board that hosting the Board meetings at different venues within the Park District was not conducive to increased attendance. Therefore, all Board meetings will be scheduled at the Meyer Center for the remainder of 2008 (with the exception of the August 12th board meeting which will still be held at The West Woods).

EXECUTIVE SESSION – ROLL CALL

Mr. McCullough moved to go into Executive Session at 4:10 p.m. for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and compensation of a public employee.

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

The Board returned from Executive Session at 6:10 p.m.

The following items were brought forward for resolution:

LAND ACQUISITION

Phillips/Langfellow Property, Resolution No. 30-08

Mr. Leech moved to authorize the Executive Director to purchase 58.5 acres of real property located in Montville Township, identified as Permanent Parcel No.20-010030, from Robert J. Phillips and Patricia A. Langfellow in the amount of Two Hundred Ninety-Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$292,500.00), based on a purchase price of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) per acre with final purchase price based on a survey of the above-listed split from Permanent Parcel No. 20-010030.

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

Mr. McCullough signed the agreement on behalf of the Board.

Hambden Township

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to enter into negotiations for real property located in Hambden Township.

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 OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOARD

Departmental reports from the Supervisors were submitted for the month of June 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 6:23 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