

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
May 13, 2008

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held on May 13, 2008 at Donald W. Meyer Center, Chardon, Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. Vice-President Mark Rzeszotarski was in the Chair. President Robert McCullough and Board Member John Leech were present.

Employees present:

Tom Curtin, Executive Director
Keith McClintock, Deputy Director
Les Bednar, Development Officer
Mike Benesh, Park Ranger
Cindy Ford, Marketing Assistant
Kathy Hanes, Executive Secretary
John Hayhurst, Park Ranger
Paige Hosier, Marketing Director
Larry McKinnon, Park Ranger
John Oros, Operations Director
Michele Pennell, Accountant
Robin Pilarczyk, Human Resources Manager
Dru Siley, Park Planner
Robert Urban, Chief Ranger

Visitors Present:

Dawn Bastulli
Randy Bennett
Sharon Blankenship
Marsha Carpenter
Virgil Carpenter
Gayla Cleversy
Julie Crocker
Mary DeFranco
Rocco DeFranco
Jim Evert-Kish
Jim Galm
Debra Guren
Audrey Heinen
Pat Jonath
Joe Kozial, Times Courier
Lynn Kriessler
Pat Leech
Rachel McKinney
David Ondrey
Carolyn Schue
Marilou Strathern
Ignacio Villa
Michael Youshak
Bass Lake Neighbors

Gauga Park District Foundation Representative: John Steigerwald

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	Yes
Mr. Leech	Yes

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 8, 2008

Mr. Leech moved to adopt the minutes of April 8, 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

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 19, 2008

Mr. Leech moved to adopt the minutes of April 19, 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 recognized numerous visitors in the audience representing Citizens Advocating Responsible Energy (CARE), residents from the Bass Lake community, and Sunnybrook Preserve neighbors.

**Geauga Park District
FINANCIAL STATEMENT MONTH ENDED
APRIL 30, 2008**

GENERAL FUND

**BEGINNING FUND BALANCE
APRIL 1, 2008**

3,479,596.83

**EXPENDITURES & OTHER
USES**

1,560,568.50

Personnel	192,118.65
Medicare	2,639.07
Dental /Hospitalization	31,204.72
PERS	27,501.32
Transfer to Land Improvement Fund	1,100,000.00
Vouchers	207,104.74

**REVENUES & OTHER
SOURCES**

425,274.32

General Tax Collections

- Real Estate Tax 9,724.94
- State Reimburse Tax 397,868.30

Investment Income

2,566.45

Gifts & Donations

1,840.00

- Bat box donation - Geauga Credit
Union (\$1,000)

- General donations - Mattlin, West
Gauga Plaza

Ridgeview Farm (\$190)

- Snake care TWW - Kinder (\$50)

- In mem of D. Felton - Plime (\$200)

- Wild Nights donation - Blackbrook

Audubon Society (\$50)

- Nature Scopes donation - Blackbrook

Audubon Society (\$100)

- Training donation - GPD Volunteers
(\$250)

Fees

- Programs - Schools - Out-of-
county

50.00

- Camping

10.00

- NAF Table Fees

45.00

- Lodge rental

218.00

- Workshops - General - Public
program

246.00

- Programs - General - Public

Program

82.00

Sales

- Tapper's Treasures - MC

184.06

- Tree Tops - TWW

1,555.83

- Syrup Sales

1,973.25

- Credit Card - All facilities

897.55

- Swine Creek house - Harry

400.00

- Burton Wetlands house- Kolar

400.00

- Hyde house - McKinnon

400.00

Other Receipts

Citation Disbursement

98.00

Parking Ticket Collections

40.00

Recycling Proceeds

25.91

Local Government Funds

6,387.29

Miscellaneous Receipts

261.74

- Maple winning proceeds - GC

Maple Festival (\$88)

- Reimb class fees - Lakeland

Community College (\$15)

- Jury duty reimb - Morgan

(\$154.74)

- Auction proceeds - Misc (\$4)

**ENDING FUND BALANCE AS
OF APRIL 30, 2008****\$ 2,344,302.65**

**LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE
APRIL 1, 2008**

4,240,033.11

**EXPENDITURES & OTHER
USES**

39,927.97

Vouchers 39,927.97

**REVENUES & OTHER
SOURCES**

1,213,617.15

Investment Income 12,702.32

Transfer from General Fund 1,100,000.00

- Kaplan Estate - D Kevin O'Reilly (\$628.44)
- Affelder Trust - Cleveland Foundation (\$453.50)
- Observatory transfer donations GPD Foundation (\$30,000)

Grants

- Orchard Hills grant - ODNR 100,000.00

Royalties

- Oxford Oil Co - Swine Creek property 206.78
- Cedar Valley Energy - Hehmeyer property 368.36
- Great Lakes Energy - Hart property 84.14
- Cedar Valley Energy - Sunnybrook property 255.55

**ENDING FUND BALANCE AS
OF APRIL 30, 2008**

\$ 5,413,722.29

VOUCHER RESOLUTION NO. 23-08

The Board asked for clarification on a number of voucher items. All questions were answered satisfactorily.

Mr. McCullough moved to adopt Voucher Resolution No. 23-08, 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:

John Armbruster had a great experience at The Rookery.

Dave Schmucker from Hambden enjoyed the new lean-to at Big Creek Park.

Monica Farabaugh reserved Swine Creek Lodge and enjoyed her visit, even though she had some problems with the fireplace. Park staff will follow up on her concerns.

A resident called and stated that the neighborhood meetings conducted by the Park Rangers are a wonderful idea and a great venue for sharing concerns.

Dr. Rzeszotarski stated that he received several communications from residents regarding Sunnybrook Preserve and the transmission lines, both of which will be discussed later in the meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF RANGER - MICHAEL BENESH, RESOLUTION NO. 24-08

Mr. McCullough made a motion for the adoption of the following resolution, so marked Resolution No. 24-08:

RESOLVED, that in accordance with Section 1545.13 of the Ohio Revised Code, Michael Benesh be appointed as Ranger of Geauga Park District, effective April 30, 2008, and

RESOLVED, that his appointment be in effect until such time as his commission expires or he is no longer employed by Geauga Park District.

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

Mr. Curtin called Michael Benesh forward and administered to him the Oath of Office.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

PUBLIC COMMENTS - SUNNYBROOK PRESERVE

Mr. Curtin asked for comments from the public regarding Sunnybrook Preserve.

Lynn Kriessler introduced herself as the attorney representing James and Marilou Strathern of Chesterland. Ms. Kriessler sent a letter to the Board of Park Commissioners and also to Mr. Curtin and Mr. McClintock expressing concern about Sunnybrook Preserve and various elements of the project. Ms. Kriessler asked for an update on the status of improvements and any changes to the plans for Sunnybrook Preserve.

Mr. Curtin stated that the walled tribute garden will not be constructed and the restroom will be relocated east of the picnic shelter near the parking lot. The exact site for the restroom will be determined during later phases of construction.

Ms. Kriessler asked if the parking lot, pavilion and trails will remain in the current location. Mr. Curtin responded in the affirmative.

Ms. Kriessler asked if there would be any changes to the Park rules and regulations in regard to Sunnybrook Preserve. Mr. Curtin stated that the Park rules would not be modified.

Dawn Bastulli who lives across the street from Sunnybrook commented about the method (postcards) the Park District uses to notify residents about park development. She was not notified and suggested that the Park send notification by certified mail. Although she is not opposed to the Sunnybrook project, the lack of notification did not provide an opportunity for residents to express their opinions. She is also concerned about light pollution, alcohol usage, the hours of operation, people being disruptive in the park and the proposed parking lot which will be visible to other residents. Mr. Curtin responded that all lighting would be shielded and that alcohol usage and park hours have not been a problem in other parks managed by Geauga Park District.

Marilou Strathern of Heath Road commented that she can see where the parking lot will be located when looking out her window and that the proposed trails would be within 30 feet of her driveway. Mr. Curtin stated that the trails would be within 30 feet of the property line. Mrs. Strathern expressed concern about the demolition plans for the barn and that it would create an exposed, open area.

Ms. Kriessler asked for clarification about the screening and mounding, as she has not seen the final plans. Dru Siley, Park Planner, responded that the plans show the existing topography and the final grading plan. The difference in elevation is four to five feet and will call for conifers approximately eight feet tall. Ms. Kriessler asked if there would be any additional screening on front of Heath Road and Mr. Siley replied that there would not be screening on Heath nor in the area where the barn is going to be torn down.

Mrs. Strathern stated that she has a petition with 150 signatures opposing alcohol consumption and the late hours of operation at Sunnybrook Preserve. Mr. Curtin responded that approximately 75,000 people use the shelters in Geauga Park District and that alcohol usage has been permitted for decades. Chief Ranger Robert Urban stated that alcohol violations are few and far between and that most citations issued are for alcohol consumption outside of the shelter areas. He also stated that Park rules would have been changed if there were problems with alcohol in the parks.

Mrs. Strathern commented that she did not know about the Sunnybrook plans until reading it in the paper in March. She stated that people attended the public meetings but were not listened to and that to her knowledge, no drawings were presented. Mr. Curtin responded that people were pleased at the second public meeting and that public meetings were started as an attempt to obtain input from residents. Mr. Curtin also stated that the Park has tried sending notification by registered mail but many people refuse to pick up registered mail.

Ferdinand Jereb of Heath Road commented that he has had problems in the past with getting his mail distributed properly and it is possible that some postcards were sent but not delivered.

Commissioner John Leech responded that he has talked with the Stratherns and understands their concerns. He stated he lives near a park and there have not been any

adverse ramifications. He feels the Park District has "bent over backwards" by putting in screening, moving the restroom and doing away with the walled tribute garden. The property has a conservation easement on it which restricts the Park from moving features to certain locations. Mrs. Strathern stated she appreciates Mr. Leech's concern and his guidance.

Sandra Mueller, a resident of Heath Road, stated that she is not opposed to the construction of a park, but raised concerns about the 11:00 p.m. closing time, potential noise and security problems. Mr. Curtin explained that the Park District sets policies which provide as much public access to the parks as possible and that Rangers patrol the parks throughout the day. Chief Ranger Urban added that Rangers are on patrol until 1:00 a.m. or 2:00 a.m. during peak usage months and that security checks are done on shelters, restrooms and other areas in the parks. He emphasized that problems in the parks are relatively minor (e.g., dog off leash).

Craig Lanese of Brookside Road said that since Geauga Park District took over Bass Lake Preserve, the nuisance level has decreased. He noted that people should contact the Rangers for assistance if there are problems.

Dr. Rzeszotarski mentioned that the Ranger Department works with local law enforcement and that if there are problems at Sunnybrook, the Chester Police Department will respond as well. He also stated that history has shown that patrons who reserve shelters in the parks do so for family-oriented functions, such as reunions, graduations, First Communion, and birthday parties. Normally, the only people in the parks at 11:00 p.m. are astronomers. Dr. Rzeszotarski reiterated that if problems would arise, the Board would deal with them.

Mr. Leech stated that he has not experienced any problems with noise living next to The Rookery.

Kevin Plank, resident of Sperry Road, advised the Board that there is an archery range on private property to the west of Sunnybrook.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – TRANSMISSION LINES

Julie Crocker, attorney representing Citizens Advocating Responsible Energy (CARE), stated that CARE acknowledges that the transmission lines will be built, but questioned if it makes sense to carve up new farmland or use an existing corridor. She also stated that extension of the transmission lines down The Maple Highlands Trail does not have to look like the picture which was in the paper and that other possibilities exist, such as putting in a bridle path adjacent to the trail. She also stated that the deed restriction on The Maple Highlands Trail would not prohibit construction of the lines; the lines could be placed on the property adjacent to the deed restriction.

Jim Galm, CARE member and resident of Huntsburg, thanked the Board for their consideration of this issue and stated that the two proposed routes maximize destruction and mayhem by cutting through forests, wetlands, and farmland. Mr. Curtin responded that the proposed Clay Street Route does not cut through land like the 528 route does. Mr. Galm responded that the Clay Street route will probably take six residences and create an intrusion on the area and that CARE believes existing corridors should be used. Mr. Galm stated that the computer-generated photo depicted something that is

not real and that CARE members have researched and visited other parks where this has been done and found that bike trails and transmission lines can co-exist. He requested the Board continue to oppose the two routes and not summarily reject the possibility of a sharing agreement.

Marcia Carpenter of Leggett Road in Montville stated that she has checked with other parks and that Heritage Rail Trail in Hilliard, Ohio has power lines running down the bike route. Mr. Curtin stated that it is important to note that the trail was constructed after the power lines were there. He also mentioned that when the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) walked The Maple Highlands Trail, representatives pointed out numerous trees that would need to be removed if the power lines were constructed.

Randy Bennett, who lives on Clay Street in Huntsburg, thanked the Park District for providing a wonderful park system. Mr. Bennett pointed out that the ranking system used for the routes included ecological and agricultural factors. He commented that the 528 route ranks lower because of agricultural impacts and the Clay Street route ranks lower because of social impact, but that there would still be agricultural impact.

Mrs. Carpenter distributed a picture of her property to the Board. She stated that construction of the lines would go through five to six generations of virgin land and that the route chosen needs to be the best and least invasive.

Jim Crocker of Madison Road stated that he visits the parks and believes that Geauga Park District does an excellent job. He feels the Park District has the opportunity in this situation to share the burden and asked the Board to look at the issue from an economic standpoint before making a decision.

Adie Hinton of Leggett Road thanked the Park District for the beautiful bridle trails that have been constructed and would like the Park to use this opportunity to construct a bridle path along The Maple Highlands Trail.

Karen Schue, resident of Madison Road, stated that creation of a bridle path was promised during the construction of The Maple Highlands Trail. She commented that trees will have to be removed, either by First Energy's construction of the power lines within The Maple Highlands Trail or by the Park District when they construct the bridle path. Mr. Curtin stated that a path for horse riding would have minimal impact and not the same type of destruction that would be generated by construction of the power lines.

Don Miller of Clay Street asked that the Board look at the impact on people. He stated that there is limited use of the parks in winter versus the potential impact to residents who would have to look at and travel by the power lines twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Mr. Bennett commented that the OPSB must make a decision based on the routes presented to them. He asked that the Board consider leaving the options open and think about future generations. He pointed out that the Greenway between Orwell and Warren has not been constructed and could be looked at.

Chardon Mayor Karen Simpson informed the Board that the Chardon City Council passed a resolution opposing any route down The Maple Highlands Trail and through

the City of Chardon. She stated that many residents expressed their opposition to the route.

Ms. Crocker stated that CARE would like the Board to keep options open so First Energy can examine other choices.

Mr. Curtin responded that First Energy is totally opposed to the third route. Mr. Curtin recommended that a letter be sent to OPSSB and First Energy urging them to consider overbuilding on top of the current lines on Route 528.

Mr. Bennett responded that the Ohio Department of Transportation opposes those voltages along limited access highways because of the possibility of an errant car taking a pole down.

Mr. Miller reported that the transmission lines will do nothing for service because they only feed the southern portion of Madison to Middlefield. There would be no overbuilding or upgrading capacity.

Dr. Rzeszotarski stated that the Board has been on record many times opposing all three routes and has sent resolutions opposing all three routes. He noted that because of deed restrictions the Board is obligated to oppose the route. He does not believe it is appropriate for a Park District to choose one route over the other.

Ms. Crocker responded that the deed restriction requires the Park to oppose the lines only if appropriations have commenced.

Mr. Leech stated the Board is opposed to Clay Street, Route 528 and the bike path routes. Mr. Leech reiterated that he would oppose any request that would permit construction of the power lines within The Maple Highlands Trail.

Sharon Blankenship of Madison Road commented that folks choose to ride the bike path and there would be limited impact. She questioned how many people riding the bike path are Geauga County residents and feels the existing corridor should be the first alternative. She stated that it could be a multi-use path (i.e., bikes, horses and power lines) and that the Park owes as much to property owners as it does to bike riders. She stated that First Energy doesn't want to share and it sounds as though Geauga Park District doesn't want to either.

Mr. Galm explained that CARE is trying to consider alternatives for co-existence without harming the bike path and requested the Park keep in mind multiple uses for the path.

Pat Jonath of Madison Road commented that since the routes cut through farm acreage and wetlands, the Park District should consider the impact on wildlife. The Park owes it to the taxpayers to allow use of the bike trail.

Mr. Lanese stated that he is not unsympathetic and has no axe to grind, but thinks that if Geauga Park District Board does nothing, it would be sending the wrong signal.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – BASS LAKE

Mr. Lanese expressed concern about the lake level at Bass Lake and asked the Board to consider temporary repairs. Mr. McClintock responded that stop logs were put in, but that they began to bow and it was feared that they could fail. The logs were taken out and the lake level was brought back to where it was before. Engineers found the structure to be sound; however, the drop logs and housing need to be repaired. Geauga Park District hopes to repair it as soon as it is feasible.

Mr. Leech thanked the public for their comments and for attending the meeting.

The Board took a break at 5:24 p.m.

The Board resumed the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Board agreed by unanimous consent to change the agenda and move item (d) Transmission Lines, Resolution 20-08 to the first item under Unfinished Business.

TRANSMISSION LINES, RESOLUTION 20-08

Mr. Curtin asked the Board if the word "underground" should be stricken from the resolution. The Board agreed by unanimous consent.

The revised Resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, after twenty years of discussion and planning, Geauga Park District constructed The Maple Highlands Trail;

WHEREAS, The Maple Highlands Trail is a linear park which provides a high quality nature experience and a unique opportunity for its users to view nature and Geauga County's countryside;

WHEREAS, The Maple Highlands Trail linear park is a significant part of Geauga Park District's efforts to preserve the natural areas of Geauga County and to link communities to those natural areas;

WHEREAS, Geauga Park District has purchased additional acreage along The Maple Highlands Trail to buffer the trail from encroachment by development and to preserve the natural features along this linear park;

WHEREAS, the staff of the Ohio Power Siting Board has requested American Transmission Systems, Inc. to consider constructing high voltage transmission lines within The Maple Highlands Trail linear park;

WHEREAS, the construction of overhead transmission lines within The Maple Highlands linear park is not consistent with the mission of Geauga Park District to preserve, conserve and protect the natural features of Geauga County while providing the opportunity for people to enjoy and appreciate those features;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on this thirteenth day of May, 2008, the Board of Park Commissioners of Geauga Park District opposes the use of

The Maple Highlands Trail linear park for construction of overhead transmission lines by American Transmission Systems, Inc.

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to adopt the resolution opposing the construction of transmission lines within The Maple Highlands Trail, Resolution 20-08.

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

Mr. Curtin asked the Board if they would be interested in having Geauga Park District become an intervener with the Ohio Power Siting Board. David Ondrey, Park legal counsel, explained that becoming an intervener would provide opportunities for the Park to obtain information (discovery information and reports) on the latest developments. Mr. Leech asked if there were any downsides and Mr. Ondrey replied the only issue would be that it would incur legal costs.

Mr. Leech made a motion for Geauga Park District to become an intervener with the Ohio Power Siting Board.

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

Dr. Rzeszotarski commented that an almost identical resolution was passed in 1996 and that the resolution passed today updates what was done before. Dr. Rzeszotarski inquired if a resolution opposing the other two routes was needed and Mr. Curtin responded that the Park is already on record with letters of opposition, so a resolution is not necessary.

PARK UPDATES

Asphalt Improvements

Seal coating and striping of Bessie Benner Metzenbaum Park is in progress.

Bass Lake Preserve

Received the preliminary design for improvements to the dam.

Camp Chickagami

The Western Reserve Council of the Boy Scouts of America are currently in the process of obtaining permits for removal of the dam in September or October.

Headwaters Park Parking Improvements

The project will begin in June and will include construction of handicap accessible parking and a small parking lot which will provide better access to The Maple Highlands Trail.

Hyde Property

Clearing will take place beginning in June.

Landscaping Improvements

Landscaping has been completed at the Meyer Center. Landscaping at The West Woods Nature Center will be completed in October, prior to the opening of The Wild Nights exhibit.

Observatory Park, Phase I

Phase I construction will begin in mid-June.

Naming of Observatory Park

Mr. Curtin asked the Board to consider the name "Explorers Preserve" for the Observatory Park property.

Orchard Hills

The request for proposal for engineering services is in progress and work will begin in the fall.

Sunnybrook Preserve

Surveying has begun and clearing will start the week of May 19, weather permitting.

Adopt a Park for 2008 Program

The Operations and Volunteer Departments are coordinating an *Adopt a Park* program. A Cub Scout Pack from Bainbridge has adopted Beartown Lakes Reservation and Frohring Meadows. Best Sand has adopted Walter C. Best Preserve.

Sediment on Park Property

Mr. Curtin referenced a letter from David Lipstreu, a resident on Auburn Road in Newbury. Mr. Lipstreu expressed concern about damage being done to a portion of The West Woods and Silver Creek from erosion and sediment being deposited from an area cleared for a subdivision. Mr. Lipstreu asked the Park to take action to address the situation. Mr. Curtin reported that Park staff is working on the issue.

Arms Trucking Parking Lot

Mr. Curtin informed the Board that he was approached by Howard Baker of Arms Trucking. Mr. Baker is offering the Park District a small parking lot on the north side of Mayfield Road on the east side of the bike trail. This parking lot would alleviate problems with people crossing Mayfield Road and parking at First Energy's substation. The Park would enter into a license agreement with Arms Trucking and assume all responsibility for any improvements. Dr. Rzeszotarski asked if the improvements could be made next year and Mr. Curtin explained that improvements could possibly be made at the same time as the scheduled park improvements at Headwaters.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

Mr. Curtin reported that he received an email from Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown regarding funding for the LWCF. Senator Brown has pledged his support for full funding of the LWCF.

Geauga Park District Telephone Survey Results

The Board was provided with the preliminary results of the recent telephone survey conducted by Triad Research. Mr. McClintock indicated that the survey results will be incorporated into the strategic plan which will be updated this summer.

Wild Nights

Dr. Rzeszotarski asked about the progress of the Wild Nights exhibit. Mr. Curtin stated that structures have been completed and that work is now being done on the electronics.

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT FOUNDATION REPORT

John Steigerwald, Geauga Park District Foundation President, reported that Foundation activities are moving along quite well on both friend-raising and fundraising. The Wild Nights exhibit fundraising goal is 75 percent complete and the Major Gifts Subcommittee has been active with the Observatory Park project. The Foundation is initiating a new outreach program for large donors at special venues. The first program was hosted by John and Pat Leech and was very successful. Foundation Trustees have set a new goal for the Annual Fund Campaign and one-seventh of the goal has already been met.

The Foundation is active at special events and will provide representation at the upcoming *Walk in the Woods* and at the *Nature Writer's Conference*.

Dr. Rzeszotarski commented that the Foundation is doing a great job supporting the special exhibits.

CONTRACT REVIEW

The Board was provided with contract review documents prior to the Board meeting. Mr. Curtin explained that the increase in the cost of asphalt improvements was due to problems with the base at the trail in Bessie Bennie Metzenbaum Park. Even with the increase, the project was under budget and has been completed. Some modifications have been made to the Sunnybrook Preserve project, but it is moving forward. All projects are on schedule.

Dr. Rzeszotarski and Mr. Leech commended the Planning Department on the good job they are doing putting the bid packages together and overseeing the projects.

EAGLE SCOUT COMMENDATION, RESOLUTION NO. 21-08

WHEREAS, Jonathan A. Eckman completed his Eagle Scout Board of Review and was found worthy of the rank of Eagle Scout;

WHEREAS, the Eagle Scout is the highest rank of recognition offered in Scouting;

WHEREAS, Jonathan A. Eckman, whose commitment and dedication to scouting began when he was five years old and has continued until this day;

WHEREAS, Jonathan A. Eckman coordinated a conservation project to refurbish one mile of trail at Big Creek Park in Chardon, Ohio;

WHEREAS, through his efforts, Jonathan raised over \$300.00 to fund the project and organized a team of volunteers to help spread gravel, dig up timbers and replace steps;

WHEREAS, Jonathan A. Eckman worked over 100 hours completing the project;

WHEREAS, refurbishing the trail will benefit the residents of Geauga County for many years to come;

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that Jonathan A. Eckman be recognized for his achievement in obtaining the highest honor awarded by the Boy Scouts of America;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Geauga Park District on this thirteenth day of May, 2008, commends Jonathan A. Eckman for his service to the community and to the Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. McCullough made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 21-08 honoring Jonathan A. Eckman on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

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 INJURY REPORT

The Board was provided with a report detailing the charge back program, claims information, and types and costs of injuries specific to Geauga Park District. The information was provided for informational purposes only and no action was taken.

RESCIND RESOLUTION NO. 21-07, RESIGNATION OF RANGER KLINGER

Mr. McCullough moved to rescind Resolution No. 21-07, dated August 14, 2007 (*Geauga Park District Minutes*, Book 7, Page 56) pertaining to the appointment of Frank Klinger as Ranger. Ranger Klinger resigned, effective March 15, 2008, and moved to Idaho to pursue a Master's Degree in Wildlife Management.

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

SURPLUS PROPERTY

The Board reviewed the list of surplus property slated for the Geauga County auction. The items include a 1999 Ford F250, 2001 Ford F350, 2001 Dodge 3500, 2001 Ford Crown Vic, 2003 Ford Crown Vic, 2001 Dodge 2500 Ram, Drafting Machine and 1997 Ford 150.

Mr. Leech moved to declare the 1999 Ford F250, 2001 Ford F350, 2001 Dodge 3500, 2001 Ford Crown Vic, 2003 Ford Crown Vic, 2001 Dodge 2500 Ram, Drafting Machine and the 1997 Ford 150 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. McCullough asked if the Park District would consider studying the West Branch of the Cuyahoga River as a future ecological pathway. He commented that it would be a nice corridor to protect because of the unique wildlife habitats. Dr. Rzeszotarski suggested gathering information to show existing land and potential land. He said it would also be helpful to compile a biological importance map of the area.

A horse rider asked if the Park would provide horse mounting blocks if the horse riders would underwrite the cost. Mr. Curtin responded that Park staff is looking into the request.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to go into Executive Session at 6:22 p.m. for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and for personnel to discuss the 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 7:20 p.m. The following was presented for resolution:

LAND ACQUISITION

Mr. McCullough made a motion to purchase 281 acres of real property located in Montville Township and owned by Case Western Reserve University, known as permanent parcels 20-701400, 20-701920, 20-701930, 20-701963, 20-701940, 20-701950, 20-701910. The agreement also includes the 1957 Observatory Building and Dome known as the Nassau Observing Station, the 36 inch reflecting telescope and its mount, the telescope control system (the computers and software associated), the rack and pinion eyepiece holder, the eyepieces including the wide field eyepiece, the finder-guider filter box, and all miscellaneous equipment, furnishings, and fixtures not listed above but on site. The purchase price is \$915,000.

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

Hambden Township

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

Montville Township

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

RIVER OAKS LAWSUIT

Mr. Curtin informed the Board that Chardon has reached a settlement agreement with River Oaks. The suit has been dismissed with prejudice.

The June Board meeting was changed to June 11, 2008 due to a scheduling conflict.

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 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 7:35 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