

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
November 18, 2008

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held on November 18, 2008 at Donald W. Meyer Center, Chardon, Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m. Vice-President Dr. Rzeszotarski was in the Chair. President Robert McCullough and board member Mr. Leech were present.

Employees present:

Tom Curtin, Executive Director
Keith McClintock, Deputy Director
Dan Best, Senior Naturalist
Sherry Bosworth, Business Affairs Director
Steve George, Construction Supervisor
Emilie Gottsegen, Development Officer
Kathy Hanes, Executive Secretary
Paige Hosier, Marketing Director
Bob Keesecker, Development Officer
Don Lombardy, Information Systems Coordinator
John Oros, Director of Operations
Michele Pennell, Accountant
Robin Pilarczyk, Human Resources Manager
Paul Pira, Park Biologist & NRM Zone Leader
Robert Urban, Chief Ranger
Aaron Young, Planning Director

Visitors Present:

Craig Lanese
Glen Miller, The Maple Leaf

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mr. McCullough moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting.

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

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 14, 2008

Mr. Leech moved to adopt the minutes of October 14, 2008 as amended.

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 OCTOBER 22, 2008

Mr. Leech moved to adopt the minutes of October 22, 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 Craig Lenese, member of the Bass Lake Trustees Board and Glen Miller, reporter from The Maple Leaf. He also welcomed new Geauga Park District Development Officers Emilie Gottsegen and Bob Keesecker.

Geauga Park District FINANCIAL STATEMENT MONTH ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2008

GENERAL FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE OCTOBER 1, 2008

2,717,073.52

EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES

502,936.60

Personnel	297,719.26
Medicare	4,212.00
Dental /Hospitalization	28,745.26
PERS	46,138.95
Vouchers	126,121.13

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES

198,279.11

General Tax Collections

- Real Estate Tax	1,495.73
- State Reimbursed Personal Property Tax	178,156.04

Investment Income

6,028.95

Gifts & Donations

1.04

- General donation - Unknown

Fees

- Programs - Schools - Out-of-county	120.00
- Camping	40.00
- Shelters	40.00
- Lodge heat fee	600.00
- Workshops - General - Public program	241.00
- Programs - General - Public Program	150.00

Sales

- Tapper's Treasures - MC	275.47
- Tree Tops - TWW	614.59
- Credit Card - All facilities	709.64
- Water Vending Machine Sales - TWW	10.00

Other Receipts

- Swine Creek house - Harry	400.00
- Burton Wetlands house- Kolar	400.00
- Hyde house - McKinnon	400.00
- Chickagami house - Mast	400.00

- Parking Ticket Collections	35.00	
- Recycling Proceeds	38.14	
- Local Government Funds	7,383.80	
- Auction Proceeds	299.71	
- Miscellaneous Receipts	440.00	
Regional Parks Conference registration - Cleveland MetroParks (\$400), Holden (\$40)		
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF		\$ 2,412,416.03
LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND		
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE OCTOBER 1, 2008		4,551,976.50
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES		254,590.32
Vouchers	254,590.32	
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES		59,452.93
<u>Investment Income</u>	9,808.01	
<u>Grants</u>		
<u>Other Revenue</u>	48,330.34	
- Lawyer's Title house sale proceeds (\$48,091.29)		
- Lawyer's Title overage payments (\$239.05)		
<u>Royalties</u>		
- Oxford Oil Co - Swine Creek property	452.09	
- Great Lakes Energy - Hart property	151.82	
- Cedar Valley Energy - Sunnybrook property	159.27	
- Power Gas - Farley property	551.40	
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF OCT 31 2008		\$ 4,356,839.11

VOUCHER RESOLUTION NO. 48-08

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

Mr. Leech moved to adopt Voucher Resolution No. 48-08, a copy of which is on file in the Park District office.

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

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Patron comments were sent to the Board for their review prior to the meeting. There were no additional communications.

The Board members expressed their appreciation for the thank you notes received from various Geauga Park District staff.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Mr. Lanese of the Bass Lake Club asked if the Board would consider changes to the current Bass Lake fishing limits. Mr. Curtin stated that after discussions with the Park District's Natural Resources Management staff, as well as the Ohio Division Wildlife/Division of Fisheries staff, the following recommendations will be implemented:

- A daily bag limit of 15 crappie/sunfish per angler/day
- No harvesting of black bass between 12-15"
- Black bass limit of 5 per angler/day
- Make filing the creel survey form mandatory in 2009, with spot checking by Geauga Park District Natural Resources Management Staff
- Post regulation signage at the boat launch, along with a fishing survey drop box for angler convenience
- Update permits on web site to reflect new regulations

Mr. Leech suggested that the new regulations state that the daily bag limit is 15 fish in the aggregate. Dr. Rzeszotarski mentioned that feedback would be appreciated after the regulations are put in place. The Board thanked Mr. Lanese for his comments.

PRESENTATION BY STEVE GEORGE, CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR

Steve George, Construction Supervisor, updated the Board on recent activities within the Construction Department. The PowerPoint presentation highlighted past construction projects including picnic tables, recycling centers, trail work, sugar bush management and the Wild Nights Exhibit. Mr. George also discussed the implementation of a shop organizational system which has led to greater efficiency and safety in the shop.

The Board thanked Mr. George for an informative and interesting presentation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PARK UPDATES

Sunnybrook Preserve

Mr. Curtin presented an update on the mounding and screening done at Sunnybrook Preserve. The mounding and screening is now complete, as per the plan specifications.

Mr. Curtin noted that Sunnybrook Preserve will be open to the public on November 21, 2008.

Affelder House

The Planning Department is developing plans for landscape improvements for the Affelder House.

Asphalt Improvements

Asphalt improvements for 2009 are currently in the design phase.

Bass Lake Dam Improvements

The Planning Department is reviewing plans for dam improvements scheduled for 2009.

Bridge Inspections

The Planning Department received several bids for the bridge inspection contract.

Camp Chickagami

The second public input meeting for Camp Chickagami was held September 17, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Parkman Community House. Aaron Young, Park Planner, reported that the meeting went well and there were a few questions regarding availability of water on the property. Mr. Young indicated that there is a well on the property that may provide water in the future. Mr. McClintock mentioned that Parkman residents would like to have a connector trail from Camp Chickagami to Parkman Community Park.

Frohring Meadows

Some minor erosion problems will be corrected.

Mountain Run Station

The contractor replaced shrubs and trees that had died.

2009 Projects

Mr. Curtin distributed an overview and budget analysis of the projects scheduled for 2009. A special board meeting will be held to discuss the projects in greater detail. Projects include:

- Asphalt improvements for Swine Creek Reservation and Beartown Lakes Reservation
- Improvements at Bass Lake, including construction of a restroom in 2009 and renovations to the lodge in 2010
- Improvements to the parking lot at Big Creek Bridle Trail
- Installation of a pergola at Tupelo Pond and improvements to the parking area
- Improvements to the parking lot and addition of a pergola at Big Creek Spur
- Addition of a small picnic shelter and picnic table at Linton Cascade
- New picnic area, parking lot and camping areas at Camp Chickagami
- Construction of entrance off Mulberry Road for Orchard Hills Park
- Construction of public building and observatory at Observatory Park (Phase II)
- Rehabilitation of Nassau Observatory at Observatory Park (Phase III)
- Construction of trail system and connectors to Nassau Observatory (Phase IV)

Wild Nights Exhibit

Dan Best, Senior Naturalist, provided an update on the Wild Nights Exhibit. The exhibit has been popular with students and six out of seven school districts in Geauga County will be attending the Open Houses for the exhibit in the next few weeks. Total attendance to date is 4,800.

Dr. Rzeszotarski read a resolution honoring Dan's service to the Park District:

IN RECOGNITION OF DAN BEST Resolution No. 49-08

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the Board of Commissioners of Geauga Park District recognize those individuals who have dedicated their careers to nature education;

WHEREAS, Geauga Park District Senior Naturalist Dan Best has been furthering the cause of nature education for over twenty-five years, first as a Naturalist at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes and then as Chief Naturalist and Senior Naturalist at Geauga Park District;

WHEREAS, Dan's unique ability to engage people of all ages and from all walks of life has garnered him both regional and national recognition from the National Association for Interpretation (NAI);

WHEREAS, Dan's creative spirit and tireless determination has led to the development of large-scale exhibits, such as *Engage the Ice Age*, *Bio-Centennial* and *Wild Nights*, visited by tens of thousands of people from Northeast Ohio;

WHEREAS, throughout Dan's tenure with Geauga Park District, he has committed himself to advancing heritage interpretation by connecting people to the natural world in new and exciting ways;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Park Commissioners of Geauga Park District, on this eighteenth day of November, 2008, hereby honor and congratulate Dan Best on his exemplary service and years of dedication to Geauga Park District.

Other Park Updates

Dr. Rzeszotarski mentioned that he was pleased to see that the Geauga County Arts Council has activities scheduled at Affelder House for 2009.

Mr. Curtin showed the Board the Provisional Certificate, Silver Tier designation, from the International Dark Sky Association awarded to Observatory Park. He thanked Kathy Hanes for her work on the certification proposal.

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT FOUNDATION REPORT

A meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2008 at the Meyer Center.

CONTRACT REVIEW

The Board was provided with the Contract Review documents prior to the meeting. Aaron Young, Planning Director, reported that all projects are substantially complete.

NEW BUSINESS

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT FOUNDATION APPOINTMENTS

The Board reviewed the list of Foundation Trustee candidates prior to the meeting and stated that they were very pleased with the three candidates.

Mr. McCullough moved to accept the appointment of Shamus Hurley, Cynthia VerDuin, and Bill Franz as Geauga Park District Foundation Trustees.

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

2009 BUILDING CLOSURES

The Board was presented with the following schedule of building closure dates for consideration: April 12, 2009 (Easter Sunday), November 27, 2009 and December 24, 2009.

Mr. Leech made a motion to approve the following building closures for 2009: April 12, 2009 (Easter Sunday), November 27, 2009 and December 24, 2009.

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

SURPLUS PROPERTY

The Board reviewed the list of surplus property slated for the Geauga County auction. The items include a pair of moon boots and various ink cartridges for equipment no longer in use.

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to declare the moon boots and various ink cartridges as surplus property. 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

COMMISSIONERS' TIME

Dr. Rzeszotarski asked about the status of signs for Frohring Meadows regarding lightning storms. Mr. Curtin indicated that Park legal counsel has reviewed the text and provided recommendations for the proposed signs.

Mr. McCullough asked if wildlife observation blinds could be provided in the Parks, specifically at Frohring Meadows and Observatory Park. Mr. Curtin advised the Board that he will follow-up on Mr. McCullough's suggestion.

It was the consensus of the Board to hold a special meeting on December 6, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at The West Woods Nature Center to review the 2009 Park projects.

Mr. McCullough suggested posting a sign at Bass Lake indicating that there will be no limit on carp.

The Board took a break at 4:42 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – ROLL CALL

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to go into Executive Session at 5:15 p.m. for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and compensation of public employees.

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 5:48 p.m. and the following was brought forward for resolution:

Compensation of Public Employees

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to authorize an increase of Three and One-Half Percent (3.5%) to the merit matrix, effective with the first pay period of the 2009 calendar year.

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 October 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 6:05 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