

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 10, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held on March , 2009 at the Donald W. Meyer Center, Chardon, Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m. President Robert McCullough was in the Chair. Board member Dr. Mark Rzeszotarski was present. Mr. Leech was absent.

Employees present:

Tom Curtin, Executive Director
Keith McClintock, Deputy Director
Brett Bellas, Maintenance Manager
Mike Benesh, Ranger
Sherry Bosworth, Business Affairs Director
Cindy Ford, Communications Manager
Steve George, Construction Manager
Emilie Gottsegen, Development Officer
Kathy Hanes, Executive Secretary
Shawn Harry, Zone Leader, North Operations
John Hayhurst, Lt. Ranger
Paige Hosier, Marketing Director
Vicky Liptak, Graphic Designer
Robin Pilarczyk, Human Resources Manager
Paul Pira, Park Biologist & NRM Zone Leader
Holly Sauder, Volunteer Coordinator
Aaron Young, Planning Director

Visitors Present:

Ray Edward Boulware
John Ferrara
Vince Messerly, Ohio Wetlands Foundation
Ed Meyers, Western Reserve Land Conservancy
Julia Musson, Western Reserve Land Conservancy

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

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

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

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 10, 2009

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to adopt the minutes of February 10, 2009 as written.

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

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Curtin introduced visitors Vince Messerly of the Ohio Wetlands Association and John Ferrara, resident of the Bass Lake community.

Board President Robert McCullough asked to modify the agenda so that the Wetland Mitigation and Banking Instrument (Unfinished Business, Agenda Item a.) could be discussed prior to the Presentation of the Resolution and Certificate of Appreciation. The Board agreed by unanimous consent.

WETLAND MITIGATION AND BANKING INSTRUMENT, RESOLUTION NO. 13-09

Keith McClintock, Deputy Director, presented the Pine Brook Mitigation Banking Instrument documents to the Board for their approval. The documents define the terms and conditions for the establishment, operation and maintenance of Pine Brook, Inc., as a mitigation bank site.

Mr. McCullough moved to approve the Pine Brook Wetland Mitigation and Banking Instrument. Dr. Rzeszotarski seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

The Ohio Wetlands Foundation has entered into an agreement with the owner of Pine Brook, Inc. and will acquire an Environmental Covenant assuring the permanent protection of the Pine Brook property.

Mr. McCullough moved to approve the Environmental Covenant for the Pine Brook property. Dr. Rzeszotarski seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Mr. McCullough signed the Mitigation Banking Instrument and the Environmental Covenant Agreement on behalf of the Board.

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION AND CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Mr. McClintock introduced Ed Meyers and Julia Musson of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC). Dr. Rzeszotarski read a Resolution honoring and expressing appreciation to the Western Reserve Land Conservancy for their assistance to the Park District over the years. Mr. Meyers and Ms. Musson accepted the resolution on behalf of the WRLC.

Dr. Rzeszotarski also presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Junior Girl Scout Troup 355 for completing a conservation project at Frohring Meadows. Holly Sauder accepted the certificate on behalf of Girl Scout Troop 355.

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Geauga Park District
FINANCIAL STATEMENT MONTH ENDED
FEBRUARY 28, 2009

GENERAL FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE FEBRUARY 1, 2009

1,296,730.88

EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES

405,577.22

Medicare	3,178.90
Dental /Hospitalization	33,676.30
PERS	30,484.61
Vouchers	111,220.71

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES

38,914.75

General Tax Collections

Grants

300.00

- Grants - OJP Vest Grant

Investment Income

1,044.64

Gifts & Donations

14,981.49

- Unrestricted donation - Anonymous (\$2)
- Transfer of donations - GPD Foundation (\$14,979.49)

Fees

- Programs - Schools - Out-of-county 448.00
- Shelters 405.00
- Bid Plans 3,030.00
- Lodge heat fee 575.00
- Workshops - General - Public program 93.00
- Programs - General - Public Program 8.00

Sales

- Tapper's Treasures - MC 87.18
- Tree Tops - TWW 1,276.02
- Credit Card - All facilities 799.09
- Water Vending Machine Sales - TWW 25.50

Other Receipts

- Swine Creek house - Harry 400.00
- Burton Wetlands house- Kolar 400.00
- Hyde house - McKinnon 400.00
- Chickagami house - Mast 400.00
- Citation Disbursement 198.00
- Parking Ticket Collections 20.00
- Recycling Proceeds 24.41
- Refunds- Other - BWC refund, Precious Cargo Bus 1,223.43

- Local Government Funds	9,168.99	
- Miscellaneous Receipts	3,607.00	
Regional Parks Conference registration - Lake, Holden, Cleveland (\$3,480)		
Postage Reimb. - GPD Foundation (\$90.59)		
Western Reserve Farm Co-Op - year end equity (\$36.41)		
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2009		930,068.41
LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND		
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE FEBRUARY 1, 2009		3,875,540.80
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES		1,102.00
Vouchers	1,102.00	
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES		40,699.33
<i>Investment Income</i>	2,352.51	
<i>Gifts & Donations</i>	35,350.00	
- Transfer of Observatory donations - GPD Foundation		
<i>Royalties</i>		
- Oxford Oil Co - Swine Creek property	282.38	
- Cedar Valley Energy - Hehmeyer property	468.83	
- Great Lakes Energy - Hart property	20.75	
- Cedar Valley Energy - Sunnybrook property	463.44	
- Power Gas - Farley property	677.61	
<i>Other</i>		
- Other - First Energy Rebate on Sunnybrook	1,083.81	
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2009		3,915,138.13

VOUCHER RESOLUTION NO. 09-09

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

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to adopt Voucher Resolution No. 09-09, 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:

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

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

There were no communications to the Board.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

John Ferrara of the Bass Lake Community asked if the level of Bass Lake was going to be adjusted. Paul Pira, Park Biologist, explained that the Ohio EPA evaluated the property and recommended raising the level of the lake approximately one to one-and-a-half feet. The Park District will continue monitoring the situation. The Board thanked Mr. Ferrara for his comments.

PRESENTATION BY GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT MARKETING STAFF

The Marketing Department provided the Board with an update on marketing plans for 2009 and how the "Voices of Nature" message will be incorporated into all marketing materials. The Board thanked the Marketing Department for their informative and interesting presentation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PARK UPDATES

Annual Lease Agreement for Russell Park

The Park has received the annual lease agreement from the City of Akron for the Russell Park property. The 2009 lease fees are \$132.00.

Trail License Agreement

A trail licensing agreement has been sent to the Dennis family for their signature. The agreement would establish a connector trail from Frohring Meadows to the Ellerin property.

Interpreter Award

John Kolar, Geauga Park District Naturalist, was awarded the Regional NAI (National Association of Interpreters) Master Front Line Interpreter Award at the recent conference in Canada. The Board extended their congratulations to John.

Erroneous Lawsuit

The Park District was erroneously named as a defendant in a lawsuit filed by a mortgage company. The lawsuit identified right-of-way property owned by the Park District as part of the legal description. Geauga Park District legal counsel, David Ondrey, has responded to the complaint and has asked that the railroad right-of-way property be removed from the legal documents.

RFPs for Observatory Park, Phase II

The Park received three RFPs for architectural design and engineering services for Observatory Park, Phase II. Proposals were submitted by E.G. & G., Inc. of Akron in the amount of \$99,000.00, URS Corporation of Cleveland in the amount of \$163,500.00 and Anthony Paskevich and Associates of Cleveland in the amount of \$147,939.00. The Planning Department recommended accepting the proposal from E.G. & G., Inc. for architectural and engineering services for Observatory Park, Phase II.

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to accept the proposal from E.G. & G., Inc. in the amount of \$99,000.00 for architectural design and engineering services for Observatory Park, Phase II.

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

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

Deer Management Update

The Board will be provided with an update on the Deer Management Plan at the April Board meeting.

Bear and Bobcat Survey

Mike Sustin, a teacher at West Geauga Schools, has received a Toyota TAPESTRY grant for \$10,000.00 to conduct a bear and bobcat survey. He and his students will be working with the Park's Natural Resources Management department.

Union Chapel

Mr. Curtin met with representatives from Union Chapel to discuss options for the future of the property, possibly raising funds to construct a visitor center and parking area.

Buckeye Searchers

A member of the Buckeye Searchers, a metal-detecting club, asked if the Park District would allow metal detecting in any of the parks. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to permit metal detecting on a trial basis subject to review after a few months.

Strategic Plan

Mr. Curtin distributed the draft of the strategic plan. He asked the Board to review it for discussion at the April Board meeting.

Best Preserve

Bid opening for Best Preserve improvements is scheduled for April 9, 2009.

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT FOUNDATION REPORT

The next Foundation meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2009 at The West Woods.

CONTRACT REVIEW

Mr. Curtin reported that there were no contract review items that needed to be discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

PERSONNEL POLICY REVISION, OVER TIME WORK, RESOLUTION NO. 11-09

The Board was provided with recommended changes to Section 503.1 of the Personnel Policy. The revised policy identifies staff positions which are exempt from overtime compensation.

Dr. Rzeszotarski made a motion to adopt the changes to Personnel Policy, Section 503.1, Over Time Work, Resolution No. 11-09.

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

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

CONTRACT AWARDS, RESOLUTION NO. 12-09

2009 Asphalt Improvement Project

Aaron Young, Planning Director, presented the bid award recommendation for the Asphalt Improvement Project. Three bids were received and Mr. Young recommended the Board accept the contract from Chagrin Valley Paving in the amount of \$10,857.00, in that it was the lowest and best bid.

Mr. McCullough moved to accept the bid from Chagrin Valley Paving in the amount of \$10,857.00 for the 2009 Asphalt Improvement Project.

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	Absent

Big Creek Park Parking Improvements

Aaron Young, Planning Director, presented the bid award recommendation for the Big Creek Park Parking Improvements project. Eleven complete lump sum bids were received and Mr. Young recommended the Board accept the contract from Mr. Excavator in the amount of \$225,643.10, in that it was the lowest and best bid.

Mr. McCullough moved to accept the bid from Mr. Excavator in the amount of \$225,643.10 for the Big Creek Park Parking Improvements project.

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	Absent

Camp Chickagami, Phase I

Aaron Young, Planning Director, presented the bid award recommendation for Camp Chickagami, Phase I. Nineteen bids were received and Mr. Young recommended the Board accept the contract from Morris Building Company in the amount of \$119,768.70, in that it was the lowest and best bid.

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to accept the bid from Morris Building Company in the amount of \$119,768.70 for Camp Chickagami, Phase I.

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	Absent

Bass Lake Dam Improvements

Aaron Young, Planning Director, presented the bid award recommendation for Bass Lake Dam Improvements. Twelve bids were received and Mr. Young recommended the Board accept the contract from Mark Haynes Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$125,873.00, in that it was the lowest and best bid.

Mr. McCullough moved to accept the bid from Mark Haynes Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$125,873.00 for Bass Lake Dam Improvements.

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	Absent

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ray Boulware, who arrived after the “Open to the Public” portion of the meeting, asked if he could address the Board. The Board agreed.

Mr. Boulware identified himself as a resident and taxpayer who is representing Jim and Mary Lou Strathern. He stated that he does not believe the Park District has fulfilled its promise to the Stratherns in regard to the mounding at Sunnybrook Preserve. He also asked the Board about the safety of a gas well and propane tank on the Sunnybrook property and what would happen if the well or propane tank exploded. Mr. Curtin explained that the gas well was on the property before the Park District bought the property.

Mr. Boulware reiterated his concern in regard to the mounding at Sunnybrook Preserve and then informed the Board that he was going to “bring in” local newspapers and other media. Mr. McCullough stated that he felt Mr. Boulware was threatening the Board and asked Mr. Boulware to leave the meeting. Mr. Boulware responded by stating that the Board was arrogant and that the Board would hear more from him. Mr. McCullough thanked Mr. Boulware for attending the meeting.

DONATION OF TILT TRAILER

A request was received from the Geauga County Agricultural Society asking if the Park District would be willing to donate the 1983 Reids Tilt Trailer which was declared surplus property (with a minimum bid of \$100.00) at the Board of Park Commissioners meeting in January. Because the Agricultural Society is a non-profit organization, the Board agreed to rescind the minimum bid of \$100.00 and donate the trailer to the Agricultural Society at no cost.

Mr. McCullough made a motion to donate the 1983 Reids Tilt Trailer at no cost to the Geauga County Agricultural Society.

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	Absent

DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

The Board was asked to declare the following items as surplus property for the Geauga County auction: 2001 Ford Windstar Van, Craftsman Cordless Drill, DeWalt Cordless Drill (2), 2002 Dodge Intrepid, Loppers (2), and a Milwaukee Heavy-Duty Electric Drill.

Mr. McCullough moved to declare the 2001 Ford Windstar Van, Craftsman Cordless Drill, DeWalt Cordless Drill (2), 2002 Dodge Intrepid, Loppers (2), and a Milwaukee Heavy-Duty Electric Drill. as surplus property for the Geauga County auction.

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

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

COMMISSIONERS' TIME

Dr. Rzeszotarski commented that he would like see a virtual tour of the parks put on the Geauga Park District website.

Mr. McCullough asked if the Park's picnic tables could be designed so Senior Citizens don't have to step over the table bench. He also commented that he enjoyed attending the diversity conference with the Naturalist staff.

The Board took at break at 4:54 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – ROLL CALL

Mr. McCullough moved to go into Executive Session at 5:17 p.m. for the purpose of discussing land acquisition. There were no personnel items to be discussed.

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

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

The Board returned from Executive Session at 5:34 p.m. There were no items brought forward for resolution.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

There were no reports from committees of the Board.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOARD

Mr. Curtin reported that the Industrial Commission of Ohio (ICO) has denied Workers' Compensation to a Park District employee as it is ICO's opinion that the employee's medical condition is not related to a work injury. As part of the Workers' Compensation process, the matter will be litigated through the Court of Common Pleas.

Departmental reports from the Supervisors were submitted for the month of February 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 5:45 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