

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
May 7, 2009**

The special meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held on May 7, 2009 at the Donald Meyer Center for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and park development. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. Mr. McCullough presided as Chair for the meeting. Board members John Leech and Mark Rzeszotarski were present.

Employees present:

Tom Curtin, Executive Director  
Keith McClintock, Deputy Director (arrived at 3:26 p.m.)  
Cindy Ford, Communications Manager  
Kathy Hanes, Executive Secretary  
Paige Hosier, Marketing Director  
Michele Pennell, Accountant  
Robin Pilarczyk, Human Resources Manager

Visitors Present:

John Karlovec, The Maple Leaf

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Dr. Rzeszotarski 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:

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

**ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

No minutes were presented for adoption at this time.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Mr. Curtin introduced John Karlovec of The Maple Leaf.

**COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

Mr. McCullough stated he received a letter from the Fair Board thanking the Park District for the donation of the tilt trailer.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC**

There were no comments from the public.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Consultant Contract – Observatory Park**

Mr. Curtin asked the Board for approval to enter into a contract with Roy Kaelin who will provide consulting and training services for the Geauga Park District Naturalist staff. Mr. Kaelin is the former Director of Astronomy Education at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History and will assist with Observatory Park programming and curriculum development. Mr. Leech commented that the Park was fortunate to be able to hire someone with Mr. Kaelin’s experience and knowledge.

Mr. Leech made a motion to enter into a contract with Roy Kaelin for consulting services at the rate of \$25.00 per hour, not to exceed \$10,000.00, effective May 7, 2009.

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	Yes

**Park Development Plans, Update**

**Environmental Education Model**

Mr. Curtin distributed a draft of the proposed Environmental Education Model developed by the Development Office and Naturalist staff. The Model identifies potential programming opportunities at Observatory Park and possible partnerships with local organizations in the future. The Board agreed that the Model would be helpful in the planning of educational opportunities for Observatory Park.

**Orchard Hills Master Plan**

An updated version of the draft Orchard Hills Master Plan was shared with the Board. Mr. Curtin explained that possible amenities could include a shelter, fishing pond, restroom, and trail head pergolas. The Park received grant money to purchase trees for Orchard Hills Park and volunteers and staff will be planting over 500 trees on site in the next two weeks.

Dr. Rzeszotarski commented that he attended the public input meeting and that it went very well. He commended Matt McCue, Senior Park Planner, on a nice presentation.

**Frohring Meadows Donation**

A donation was received from the Paul and Maxine Frohring Fund for improvements to Frohring Meadows. Improvements may include a wildlife observation blind, butterfly plantings and some enhancements to the wetland area.

**Status of Park Improvement Projects**

Mr. Curtin also updated the Board on the following park improvement projects:

- Asphalt improvements are underway at Beartown Lakes Reservation.
- Camp Chickagami improvements are in progress.
- Preconstruction meeting was held to discuss Bass Lake dam renovations.

Parks and Recreation Degree Program

Lakeland Community College will be establishing a two-year Associate's Degree program in Parks and Recreation Management. The program was developed by Lakeland in collaboration with Geauga Park District, Lake Metroparks and Cleveland Metroparks.

June and September Board Meetings

Due to scheduling conflicts, the Board agreed to change the dates of the June and September Board meetings. The new dates are June 11, 2009 and September 15, 2009.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – ROLL CALL**

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to go into Executive Session at 2:50 p.m. for the purpose of discussing land acquisition.

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	Yes

The Board returned from Executive Session at 3:00 p.m. The following item was brought forward for resolution:

**LAND ACQUISITION – CLARIDON TOWNSHIP**

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to authorize the Executive Director to enter into negotiations for real property located in Claridon Township.

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	Yes

**COMMISSIONER'S TIME**

Mr. Curtin informed the Board that an application has been submitted to Congressman LaTourette's office for possible funding of the southern portion of The Maple Highlands Trail. He distributed a map showing the options for trail construction based upon the amount of funding the Park could receive from Transportation Enhancement funds.

Mr. McCullough mentioned that he was pleased to see that the levy for the Franklin County Park District was approved by voters.

Mr. Curtin presented a proposed agreement between Geauga Park District and Jim and Mary Lou Strathern, whose property borders Sunnybrook Preserve. The Park District, based on the advice of legal counsel David Ondrey, would provide a proposed payment of \$7,000.00 to the Stratherns for the purchase of privacy screening/fencing along their driveway. The agreement would help address the Strathern's concerns for privacy and help bring a peaceful resolution to their issues.

Mr. Leech made a motion to enter into an agreement with Mr. and Mrs. Strathern with the final agreement and payment contingent upon further review by Park District legal counsel.

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	Yes

#### **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD**

There were no reports from committees of the Board.

#### **REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOARD**

There were no reports from officers and employees of the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 3:36 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,

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Thomas G. Curtin, Executive Director

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Robert McCullough, President