

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

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held on November 10, 2009 at the 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 John Leech was present. Board member Dr. Mark Rzeszotarski was absent.

Employees present:

Tom Curtin, Executive Director
Keith McClintock, Deputy Director
Kathy Hanes, Executive Secretary
Sherry Bosworth, Business Affairs Director
Cindy Ford, Communications Manager
Paige Hosier, Marketing Director
Chris Lynn, Park Planner
Matt McCue, Senior Park Planner
Robin Pilarczyk, Human Resources Manager
Paul Pira, Park Biologist
Diane Valen, Naturalist Services Director
Aaron Young, Planning Director

Visitors Present:

Julia Musson, Western Reserve Land Conservancy
Jenny Picciano, Western Reserve Land Conservancy

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:

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

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 13, 2009

Mr. Leech moved to adopt the minutes of October 13, 2009 as written.

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

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

There were no guests present at this portion of the meeting.

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

**Geauga Park District
FINANCIAL STATEMENT MONTH ENDED
OCTOBER 31, 2009**

GENERAL FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE OCTOBER 1, 2009 **3,181,995.37**

EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES **418,263.74**

Personnel	211,610.18
Medicare	2,962.39
Dental /Hospitalization	37,200.61
PERS	30,488.99
Vouchers	136,001.57

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES **23,461.00**

General Tax Collections

- State Reimburse Tax	6,246.00
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Investment Income 445.53

Gifts & Donations 1,724.50

- In mem of Billie Smith - Various (\$425)
- Bench donation payment - McCullough (\$100)
- General donation - Bissell (\$5)
- MRS Shelter overage donation - GPD Foundation (\$1,194.50)

Fees

- | | |
|--|--------|
| - Programs - Schools - Out-of-county | 65.00 |
| - Camping | 60.00 |
| - Shelters | 280.00 |
| - Canoe and Kayak | 40.00 |
| - Lodge heat fee | 625.00 |
| - Workshops - General - Public program | 194.00 |

Sales

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| - Tapper's Treasures - MC | 356.11 |
| - Tree Tops - TWW | 672.34 |
| - Credit Card - All facilities | 579.13 |

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 | 77.00 |
| - Parking Ticket Collections | 20.00 |
| - Recycling Proceeds | 21.50 |
| - Local Government Funds | 8,542.01 |
| - Auction Proceeds (air compressor, file cabinets) | 535.62 |
| - Miscellaneous Receipts | 1,377.26 |
| Jury duty reimb - Holzheimer (\$25) | |
| RPC registration - City of Mentor (\$40) | |

Wellness/Gym prog reimb - Geauga Commissioners (\$1,312.26)		
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2009		2,787,192.63
LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND		
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE OCTOBER 1, 2009		3,160,172.52
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES		6,160.00
Vouchers	6,160.00	
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES		176,808.79
<i>Investment Income</i>	477.48	
<i>Gifts & Donations</i>	175,000.00	
- Observatory donation - GPD Foundation (\$175,000)		
<i>Royalties</i>		
- Hall & Horning - Stinchcomb property	58.16	
- Oxford Oil Co - Swine Creek property	121.64	
- Cedar Valley Energy - Hehmeyer property	299.55	
- Great Lakes Energy - Hart property	28.47	
- Cedar Valley Energy - Sunnybrook property	277.02	
- Power Gas - Farley property	546.47	
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2009		\$3,330,821.31

VOUCHER RESOLUTION NO. 55-09

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. 55-09, 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	Absent
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Mr. Leech	Yes

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

There were no communications to the Board.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

There were no comments or questions from the public.

Resolution Honoring the Western Reserve Land Conservancy

Julia Musson and Jenny Picciano from the Western Reserve Land Conservancy were present to accept the Resolution read by Mr. Leech.

**Western Reserve Land Conservancy
Resolution No. 54-09**

***WHEREAS**, the Western Reserve Land Conservancy is a non-profit conservation organization whose mission is to preserve the natural areas of the Western Reserve region of Northeast Ohio;*

***WHEREAS**, Geauga Park District and the Western Reserve Land Conservancy share a common vision to provide opportunities for people to enjoy and appreciate those areas;*

***WHEREAS**, the Western Reserve Land Conservancy obtained a Clean Ohio Grant in the amount of \$306,866.00 for the acquisition and preservation of “Welton’s Gorge” in Burton Township;*

***WHEREAS**, Welton’s Gorge Preserve is the habitat for a variety of native plant and animal species, including the Ohio endangered Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Sandhill Crane;*

***WHEREAS**, Welton’s Gorge Preserve, with its spectacular sandstone gorge, will provide a scenic setting for walking, hiking, bird watching and environmental education;*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of Geauga Park District on this tenth day of November 2009, expresses its deepest gratitude to the Western Reserve Land Conservancy for their dedication of time and resources in the acquisition of Welton’s Gorge.*

Julia Musson expressed her appreciation to the Board of Commissioners for the recognition.

Incident at Observatory Park

Mr. Curtin provided a summary of the events that occurred at Observatory Park in Montville Township involving a neighboring property owner and a licensed hunter earlier in the day (November 10, 2009). The Observatory Park property is part of the Park District’s Wildlife Management program for 2009-2010 in which whitetail deer hunting is being allowed in accordance with the Ohio Division of Wildlife’s hunting regulations.

There was a confrontation between the property owner’s dog and a hunter who had been issued a permit to participate in the controlled archery hunt on Observatory Park property. Park District Rangers are currently investigating the incident and have confirmed that the property owner’s unleashed dog was killed by the hunter while on park property.

Mr. Curtin, Mr. McClintock and the two Board members all expressed their regret over the incident. The Board discussed suspending hunting on a temporary basis and agreed that the Wildlife Management Program should be suspended at Observatory Park until the investigation by the Ranger Department is complete. Mr. Curtin told the Board that he will keep them apprised of the situation.

Welton's Gorge Preserve Presentation

Paul Pira, Park Biologist, presented a PowerPoint on Welton's Gorge Preserve. The presentation highlighted the rich biodiversity of the property, its unique geological aspects and cultural history elements. The Board thanked Mr. Pira for the informative presentation and his assistance in obtaining the Clean Ohio grant funding for acquisition of the property.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PARK UPDATES

Small Research Grants

Mr. Curtin informed the Board that the 2009 Small Research Grants have concluded. He distributed a CD which summarizes the projects undertaken by the grant recipients.

Bass Lake Preserve

Improvements to the dam at Bass Lake Preserve are complete. The second public input meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Bass Lake lodge.

Big Creek Park

Improvements to the parking lots at Big Creek Park (Woodin Road Park, Tupelo Pond and The Maple Highlands Trail Spur) are complete.

Bridge Inspections

The bridge inspection report is complete. Some minor maintenance items need to be addressed. The inspectors also discovered that the Taylor Road Bridge is damaged, most likely by a vehicle, but that it is structurally sound.

Chickagami Park

Improvements to Chickagami Park are complete. A one-year walk through is scheduled for August, 2010.

Geauga Park District Dam Inventory

The dam inventory is complete. A small dam in the pond on the Aidlin property is eroding and will be checked by the Operations Department.

Landscaping at The West Woods Nature Center and Meyer Center

Work on enhancements to the landscaping at The West Woods Nature Center and the Meyer Center is in progress.

Observatory Park

The design and development plans for Observatory Park are in progress.

Orchard Hills Park

Plans for the proposed improvements to Orchard Hills Park will be presented at the December meeting.

Walter C. Best Preserve

The project is nearing completion. The Operations staff is installing picnic tables, grills, and trash receptacles.

Communications Tower – Frohring Meadows

Mr. Curtin reported that the Geauga County Prosecutor will be drafting an easement agreement for placement of the communications tower on the Frohring Meadows property.

Car Counter Statistics

Mr. Curtin distributed a report which summarized the data collected from placement of two car counters at Sunnybrook Preserve from July 28 through August 1 and October 30 through November 2, 2009. The data included both weekdays and weekends.

Mr. Leech commented that it was good information to have on file.

National Heritage Area

Mr. Curtin reported that he attended a meeting at Lake FarmPark to discuss a legislative initiative to name a 14-county area as a Western Reserve National Heritage site. The National Park Service is the organizing agency and the designation could positively impact economic development and ecotourism in the region.

Holden Arboretum – Strategic Plan

Mr. Curtin provided the Board with a copy of Holden Arboretum’s strategic plan and vision statement. Mr. Curtin suggested asking Clem Hamilton, Director of Holden Arboretum, if he would be willing to speak to the Board at an upcoming meeting about the process Holden Arboretum used in developing their strategic plan.

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT FOUNDATION REPORT

Mr. Curtin reported that the next Trustee meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2009.

CONTRACT REVIEW

Pursuant to Article XII of the Geauga Park District by-laws, the Planning Department provided the Board with the construction costs and change orders for park projects prior to the meeting.

The Board commented that the projects in 2009 went very well, as they were below budget and had few change orders.

NEW BUSINESS

**APPROVAL OF GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT FOUNDATION TRUSTEE,
RESOLUTION NO. 56-09**

The Board was asked to approve Brian Valentine as a nominee for the Geauga Park District Foundation Board for a three-year term, effective October 30, 2009.

Mr. Leech made a motion to approve Brian Valentine as a nominee for the Geauga Park District Foundation Board.

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

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

The Board expressed their appreciation to Mr. Valentine for his willingness to serve as a trustee on the Foundation Board.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE, 2010 – RESOLUTION NO. 57-09

Robin Pilarczyk, Human Resources Manager, presented the Board with the proposed costs for employee medical and dental insurance for 2010.

The premium for health care through Anthem has increased 14.5%. The Board agreed to keep the employee contribution the same (\$21.40 per month for single coverage and \$53.80 for family coverage).

Mr. Leech made a motion to approve the employee medical insurance plan for 2010.

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

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

Delta Dental will be providing dental insurance through CEBCO for 2010. There are two changes to the policy: the annual maximum benefit per member has been reduced from \$1500.00 to \$1000.00 per calendar year and the orthodontia lifetime maximum benefit increased from \$800.00 to \$1000.00.

Mr. Leech made a motion to approve the employee dental insurance plan for 2010.

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

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

PARK PROJECTS, 2010

Aaron Young, Planning Director, presented a PowerPoint to the Board describing proposed park projects for 2010.

2010 Construction Projects:

- Bass Lake - a combination shelter with covered walkway to a heated restroom.
- Chickagami Park - an entrance pergola and octagonal pavilion.
- Observatory Park - observatory, public building, central plaza and entrance plaza.
- Orchard Hills Park - stream and wetland restoration, parking lot, combination shelter, restroom and entrance pergola.
- Big Creek Park - asphalt improvements (annual maintenance).

2010 Planning for Future Projects:

- Chickagami Park - additional aggregate trails.
- Observatory Park - site feature construction.
- Orchard Hills Park - trail system and shelter.
- The Maple Highlands Trail - extension from Headwaters Park to Reeves Road.

Mr. Leech expressed a concern that water would not be available at the Observatory Park site for public groups utilizing the facility. Mr. Young responded that the plans could be reviewed further. Mr. Curtin provided an example of Swine Creek Reservation where water is not available and the Park District is

able to accommodate large school groups for the sugaring program in March and other programs throughout the year.

Mr. Curtin reviewed with the Board the budget encumbrance and cash carry over for 2010-2012 as it relates to park projects. Mr. Leech commented that the park projects schedule for 2010 is ambitious.

COMMISSIONERS' TIME

Mr. McCullough asked if the River Master program was in place for the Cuyahoga River. He also asked if the Small Research Grant recipients could conduct a public program summarizing their research. Mr. Curtin replied that he would follow-up on both requests.

He also commented that the eagles at Bass Lake are collecting sticks and repairing their nests.

Mr. Leech commented that the DiscARTed Art Exhibit at The West Woods Nature Center is fascinating and encouraged everyone to visit it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There were no items brought forward for discussion in Executive Session.

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

Departmental reports for the month of October were submitted to the Executive Director and a summary sheet was forwarded to the Board in their packets prior to the Board meeting.

Recognition of Staff and Partnering Organizations

Mr. Curtin asked the Board how they would like to recognize staff accomplishments. It was the consensus of the Board that staff will be recognized through letters of appreciation and partnering organizations will be recognized by Board resolution.

Bahnick Property

Mr. McClintock informed the Board that the Western Reserve Land Conservancy is working with the owner of the Bahnick property located in Burton Township. The Conservancy is seeking support from the Park District for a monetary match on an agricultural easement application. After some discussion, the consensus of the Board was that a monetary commitment could not be made at this time; however, the Board expressed their support for the efforts of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy to protect the property.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 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