

August 17, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes

Preservation Parks of Delaware County

1:00 PM Deer Haven Park

**Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM, with Board members John Bader, Vice Chair; and Bruce Ruhl, Secretary. Staff included Mary Van Haaften, Executive Director; Rich Niccum, Deputy Director; Kyle Pace; Claire Sanieel-Banrey; Dennis Welch; Matt Simpson; Casey Smith; Bonnie Houk; and Bodhi Nithyananda. No members of the public were present.

**Consent Agenda:**

B. Ruhl introduced and explained the new consent agenda format to streamline meeting procedures by collecting routine, non-controversial items into a group whereby all are passed with a single motion and vote.

1. Approval of July 13, 2023 Previous Board Minutes
2. Resolution 2023-546 – to Approve a Repay of Prior Year Advances and an Advance back to into the General Fund from the Capital Improvement Program in the amount of \$162,561.67, related to the design, engineering, and construction of 1,500 feet of multi-use trail and pedestrian bridge over Big Walnut Creek.
3. Resolution 2023-547 – to Rename the Education Budget Organization Key to Outdoor Connections.
4. Resolution 2023-548 – to Approve and Advance back from ODOT Metro Park Paving Fund to the General Fund in the amount of \$103,481.97 for paving at Hickory Woods Park.
5. Resolution 2023-549 – Rescind ODOT Metro Park Paving Fund Resolution & Advance Back to General Fund in the amount of \$15,818.03 for the unused allocation that will be carried over into the 2024-2025 biennium for future use.
6. Declaration of Surplus Property including mascot costumes and pond aerator.

**Items Removed from Consent Agenda:** None.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:** B. Ruhl moved to approve consent agenda, J. Bader seconded, both members voted aye. The motion passed.

**Fiscal Report and Ratification of Vouchers:** B. Ruhl moved to approve the monthly report as presented, J. Bader seconded, both members voted aye. The motion passed.

**Human Resources Report and Changes in Personnel:** B. Ruhl moved to approve the monthly report as presented, J. Bader seconded, both members voted aye. The motion passed.

**Public Comments:** None.

**Department Reports:**

Deputy Director R. Niccum announced that Preservation Parks received ODNR's Cardinal Award, which honors individuals and organization that demonstrate exceptional awareness and concern for ideas reflected in the department's mission statement to ensure a balance between the wise use and

protection of natural resources for the benefit of all. Preservation Parks was specifically recognized for the expansion of Shale Hollow and preservation and education about its significant geological features.

Outdoor Connections Manager C. Smith introduced Bodhi Nithyananda as the Adventure Naturalist hired to fill the vacation position. She reported that program highlights included the Community Ties Bike Tour and the Summer Concert Series, which had 1,200 participants in July. Fly-Tying programs in collaboration with Destination Delaware and the Central Ohio Flyfishers have been very successful. Volunteers were recognized for their efforts at the concerts, and other programs and projects in July.

Chief Officer D. Welch recognized Officer K. Kuhn for 20 years of law enforcement service. Seasonal Safety Relations Interns, Rachel Schneider and Katie Plymale completed their internships. Staff received fire safety training with the Orange Township Fire Department.

Marketing Specialist C. Saniei-Banrey reported that Fall Program Guides have been printed and provided a copy to the Board.

Park Operations Manager K. Pace reported that construction of the Red Fox trail has begun at McCammon Creek Park, north of Orange Road. Staff also completed clean up from storms in recent weeks and thanked Operations staff for their help with the Adventure Run and Summer Concert Series.

Executive Director M. Van Haaften reported on behalf of Natural Resources that staff have primarily been busy with woody invasive species control.

Sr. Park Planner M. Simpson reported on the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Ohio to Erie Trail bridge over Big Walnut Creek. Construction of the McCammon Creek Bicentennial Barn entrance drive and parking lot is underway. Architect Schooley Caldwell has started final design and engineering of the Bicentennial Barn at McCammon Creek Park, and wetland restoration is underway at Perfect Creek Park, funded through ODNR's H2Ohio grant program.

**Public Comments:** None.

**Other Business:** None.

**Executive Session:** B. Ruhl moved to go into executive session at 1:15 PM for the purpose of discussing land acquisition, J. Bader seconded, roll call was taken, J. Bader and B. Ruhl were present. Both members voted aye.


The board returned to regular session at 1:33 PM. No action was taken.

**Next Board Meeting Date:** Thursday, September 7, 2:00 PM at Deer Haven Park.

**Adjournment:** B. Ruhl moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:37 PM, J. Bader seconded; both members voted aye. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Mary Van Haaften, Executive Director

  
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Glenn Marzluf, Chair, Park Commissioner

JOHN BADER  
