

November 8, 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 Glenn Marzluf, Chair; John Bader, Vice Chair; and Bruce Ruhl, Secretary present. Staff included Mary Van Haaften, Executive Director; Rich Niccum, Deputy Director; Kyle Pace; Beth McCollam; Chad Watkins; Dennis Welch; Matt Simpson; Casey Smith; Chris Roshon; Tony Benishek; Bonnie Houk; and Lisa Choy. Public present: Amy Tovar

**Public Comments:** None

**Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of October 10, 2023, previous Board Minutes.
2. Resolution 2023-559 to Repay prior year advance & approve advance from H2Ohio grant back into General Fund
3. Resolution 2023-560 to Amend an Environmental Covenant at Gallant Woods Park

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

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

**Financial Report and Ratification of Vouchers:** J. Bader moved to approve the Financial Report and Ratification of Vouchers, B. Ruhl seconded, all members voted aye. The motion passed.

**Human Resources Changes in Personnel Report:** B. Ruhl moved to approve the Changes in Personnel Report, J. Bader seconded, all members voted aye. The motion passed.

**Department Reports:**

Executive Director M. Van Haaften reported that Preservation Parks' Clean Ohio Greenspace Conservation grant application for the purchase of 60 acres of Camp Lazarus was recommended for funding by the District 17 Natural Resources Advisory Council.

Outdoor Connections Manager C. Smith reported on the All About Apples program and improvements at Gallant Farm, the Fly Fishing Film Tour at the Strand Theater in partnership with Destination Delaware, and Solar Eclipse planning - a large influx of visitors is expected into Delaware County on April 8, 2024. Approximately 800 people attended the annual Trick or Treat Trail program, which included special guests the Bug Man and Ohio Nature Education.

Chief D. Welch reported on an investigation of an incident on the Sandel Legacy Trail involving four juveniles; the information was forwarded on to Juvenile Court. He also updated the Board on the vandalism incidents at Emily Traphagen Park and a Franklin County Metroparks location. Officers T. Elkins and C. Watkins assisted a visitor at Shale Hollow Park through a mental health crisis.

Marketing Manager B. McCollam shared an update on plans for the Park District's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in 2024. Activities will include themed programming, a timeline exhibit, recognition of donors, a time capsule, and former Executive Director interviews.

Natural Resources Manager C. Roshon reported on a prairie seed collection event at Emily Traphagen Park, with seeds being used as giveaways for people to plant at home. Natural Resources staff also conducted invasive plant management at Sycamore Run Park.

Park Operations Manager K. Pace reported on the transition of G. Ross from Gallant Farm to Park Operations where he will serve as Operations liaison to the farm. Bird collision reduction window treatments were applied to the District Office. The Red Fox Trail at McCammon Creek Park is nearly complete.

Sr. Park Planner M. Simpson reported on the progress of the H2Ohio wetland construction project at Perfect Creek Park and that demolition of two houses on the property has begun. Park entrance signs were updated with new logos and Sandel Legacy Trail asphalt sealing was completed.

**Public Comments:** A. Tovar shared additional information on the solar eclipse.

#### **Other Business**

1. B. Ruhl moved to approve Resolution 2023-561 to Award 2024 Community Trail Improvement Grant to Orange Township for acquisition of trail right-of-way along Bale Kenyon Road in the amount of \$60,000. J. Bader seconded; all members voted aye. The motion passed.
2. B. Ruhl moved to approve Resolution 2023-562 to Establish a Capital Projects Fund, J. Bader seconded, all members voted aye. The motion passed.
3. The 2024 Draft Budget was provided to the Board for review and comment. The Board recommended moving professional services related to park development and construction projects to the capital budget fund. The Board requested that staff summarize all of the various funds, including grant funds, to reflect and easily identify land acquisition.

**Executive Session:** B. Ruhl moved to go into executive session at 1:51 PM for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and compensation of park district employees, J. Bader seconded. Roll call was taken; all members were present and all members voted aye. The motion passed.

The board returned to regular session at 2:47 PM and took the following action:

B. Ruhl moved to approve the employee compensation schedule as presented, J. Bader seconded, all members voted aye. The motion passed.

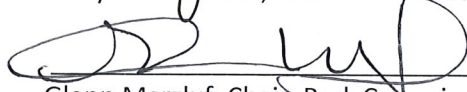
B. Ruhl moved to accept the Anthem, Superior, and Principal insurance renewals and approve the employer H.S.A. contribution amounts as presented, J. Bader seconded, all members voted aye. The motion passed.

**Next Board Meeting Date:** Monday, December 18, 10:00 AM at Deer Haven Park.

**Adjournment:** B. Ruhl moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:55 PM, J. Bader seconded; all members voted aye. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Mary Van Haften, Executive Director

  
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Glenn Marzluf, Chair, Park Commissioner