

December 18, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes  
Preservation Parks of Delaware County  
10:00 AM Deer Haven Park

**Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM, 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; Chief Welch; Matt Simpson; Casey Smith; Chris Roshon; Tony Benishek; and Bonnie Houk. Public present: Amy Tovar

**Public Comments:** None

**Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of November 8, 2023, Previous Board Minutes
2. Accepting a \$5,000 Unrestricted Donation from the Preservation Park Foundation
3. Resolution 2023-563 to Approve Outstanding Advances to be carried forward and repaid in 2024.
4. Resolution 2023-564 to Repay prior year advances of funds received in the H2Ohio Perfect Creek Ph 2 Fund back to the General Fund-Administration in the reimbursed amount of \$98,594.88.
5. Resolution 2023-565 to Approve an Advance Back from the WRRSP Olentangy Protection Fund to the General Fund-Administration in the payment amount of \$2,325,000.00 for acquisition of the Havener property.
6. Resolution 2023-566 Authorization to negotiate for land in Delaware County

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

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

**Financial Report and Ratification of Vouchers:** B. Ruhl moved to approve the Financial Report and Ratification of Vouchers, J. Bader 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:**

Outdoor Connections Manager C. Smith reported that Natural Wreath Making classes were very popular again this year, Delaware Christian School participated in Serve Day at Gallant Farm, Leadership Delaware participants visited Gallant Farm as part of Agriculture Day, and perimeter fencing was installed at Gallant Farm.

Human Resources Manager T. Benishek reported that staff evaluations are completed electronically. Open enrollment period for health, vision, and dental insurance has concluded and he is finalizing details with staff.

Chief D. Welch reported that officers assisted with several mental health incidents in the parks in November. Officer training includes Critical Incident Training, which has prepared them well for these types of situations. Illegal dumping occurred at Sycamore Run Park; the individual was identified with trail camera footage. Charges are pending for an individual accused of vandalizing the Emily Traphagen Park restroom multiple times last summer. On December 11, the Hogback Ridge Park maintenance garage was broken into. The access gate and man door were damaged; however, no items were stolen.

Marketing Manager B. McCollam reported that the Winter Letterbox Adventure booklet was completed and new brochures for the parks were printed and are being distributed.

Natural Resources Manager C. Roshon reported on volunteer tree plantings at Emily Traphagen Park and Hickory Woods Park using trees donated by the Friends of the Olentangy River.

Park Operations Manager K. Pace reported on an all-staff workday to assist in trail construction at McCammon Creek Park, north of Orange Road. Staff assisted with punch list items in preparation for opening this section of McCammon Creek Park in the coming weeks. M. Van Haften shared that the Orange Friends Church, adjacent to the park, will allow visitors to use their parking lot to access the area until the Park District constructs its own parking lot.

Sr. Park Planner M. Simpson reported on completion of the H2Ohio funded wetland and demolition of two old residences at Perfect Creek Park. Orange Township was awarded PPDC's Community Trail Improvement Grant in the amount of \$40,000.00 for acquisition of trail right-of-way along Bale Kenyon Road. Staff are reviewing updated construction cost estimates for the Bicentennial Barn project.

Director M. Van Haften reported that the Park District closed on the Havener Property, approximately 51 acres on the east side of the Olentangy River. She expressed appreciation for the Havener family's commitment to land protection and for allowing the needed time to secure grant funding.

**Public Comments:** None

**Other Business**

1. Resolution 2023-567 Approving the 2024 Budget. The Board thanked staff for breaking out the capital budget and for including all design and engineering services in the capital budget. B. Ruhl moved to approve the 2024 Budget as presented, J. Bader seconded, all members voted aye. The motion passed.
2. Resolution 2023-568 Transfer from General Fund to Capital Projects Fund. J. Bader moved to approve the transfer of funds from the General Fund (Planning) to the Capital Project Fund in the amount of \$4,890,074.00 to be used to acquire, restore, construct, or improve fixed assets. B. Ruhl seconded, all members voted aye. The motion passed.
3. The Year Ahead Presentation. Staff presented highlights of the 2024 budget, including land acquisition plans, planning and operations initiatives, programs, marketing projects, technology strategies, and the Park District's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2024.

**Executive Session:** B. Ruhl moved to go into executive session at 10:55 AM for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and personnel, J. Bader seconded. Roll call was taken; all members were present and voted aye. The motion passed.

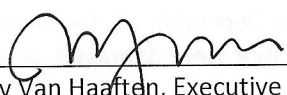
The board returned to regular session at 12:04 PM and took the following action:

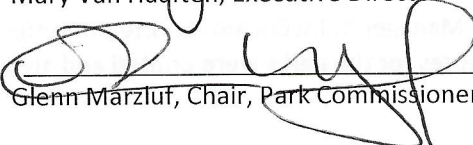
B. Ruhl moved to approve the creation of the Administrative Manager position as presented, J. Bader seconded, all members voted aye. The motion passed.

**Next Board Meeting Date:** Thursday, January 25, 1:00 PM at Deer Haven Park.

**Adjournment:** J. Bader moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:06 PM, B. Ruhl 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