

July 18, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes  
Preservation Parks of Delaware County  
1:00 PM Deer Haven Park

**Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 1:04 PM, with Board members John Bader, Chair; Bruce Ruhl, Vice Chair; and Glenn Marzluf, Secretary present. Staff included Rich Niccum, Deputy Director; Matt Simpson; Bodhi Nithyananda; Chris Roshon; Beth McCollam; Kyle Pace; Tyler Swartzlander; Tony Benishek; Bonnie Houk; Sgt. Watkins. Public: Joe Pemberton

**Public Comments:** None

**Guest Presentation: Preservation Parks Foundation** – Joe Pemberton, Vice-President of the Foundation reported on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Foundation Gala held on June 27, 2024. The Gala raised approximately \$50,000 in net funds to benefit the programs and projects of the Park District. Mr. Pemberton shared that the Foundation board is very thankful to the Commissioners for the opportunity and their support.

**Consent Agenda:**

1. Approval of June 20, 2024 Previous Board Minutes
2. Human Resources Changes in Personnel Report
3. Accepting a donation from Green Columbus in the amount of \$22,500.00 for tree seedlings
4. Resolution 2024 – 594 Repay prior year advance & approve advance back for H2Ohio grant at Perfect Creek Park

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

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

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

**Park Updates:**

1. R. Niccum announced that the District's annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner will be on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:45pm at Shale Hollow Park. Invitations went out July 15.
2. R Niccum shared that the second summer concert will be held on July 18 at 7:00 p.m. at Gallant Woods Park and will feature the Delaware County Community Band.

**Department Reports:**

Adventure Naturalist B. Nithyananda reported that Outdoor Connections had a busy June that included a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at Deer Haven Park featuring a hike on the new primitive trail and demonstration by the Columbus Flyers Disc Golf; the Antique Tractor Show featuring 20 tractors (324 visitor attended); Try It Electric Bikes in partnership with Jeff's Bicycle Repair; Golden Marathon hikes in partnership with SourcePoint; and the Artists Series in partnership with Ohio Nature Education.

Administrative Manager T. Swartzlander reported on the onboarding progress for the new PowerDMS policy management and timekeeping/payroll platform.

Human Resources Manager T. Benishek shared that seasonal staff have worked a total of 5,385 hours so far in 2024 and discussed the benefits of the new PowerDMS payroll software.

Sgt. Watkins reported that Sr. Officer Kuhn was awarded a Letter of Commendation for his outstanding professional response to a visitor's medical emergency at Blues Creek Park, providing aid and support that allowed for quick transportation to the hospital. Sgt. Elkins completed Supervisor Liability Training and Sr. Officer Kuhn and Safety Relations staff R. Schneider and K. Plymale attended Cops & Kids Day in Westerville.

Marketing Manager B. McCollam reported on the variety of projects completed for the Foundation's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala including programs, display boards, large countywide park map, and signs.

Natural Resources Manager C. Roshon highlighted the work of seasonal employees Z. Swanson, A. Gaedcke, and A. Willis and discussed monthly invasive species management opportunities for volunteers.

Operations Manager K. Pace highlighted the work of seasonal employees R. Kaple, A. Fronduti, T. Atkinson, A. Prenger, J. Wiest, and G. Myers. Operations staff removed poison ivy and laid mulch in the hammocking area at McCammon Creek Park North, made trail improvements at Hickory Woods Park, and replaced fencing at the Hoover Scenic Trail bridge.

Sr. Park Planner M. Simpson reported that Strawser Paving is constructing the McCammon Creek Park North parking area, which is scheduled for completion in early August. The Deer Haven Park parking lot lighting and Hogback Ridge Park Restroom projects will be bid soon.

**Other Business:** None

**Executive Session:** B. Ruhl moved to go into executive session at 1:28 PM for the purpose of discussing land acquisition, G. Marzluf seconded. Roll call was taken; all members were present. All members voted aye. The motion passed.

The Board returned to regular session at 1:56 PM and took the following action:

1. B. Ruhl moved to authorize the Executive Director and/or designee to execute all documents related to the purchase of 17 acres of land, more or less, for the purpose of expanding an existing park in Delaware County, including a purchase agreement and closing documents, J. Bader seconded. B. Ruhl and J. Bader voted aye. G. Marzluf abstained. The motion passed.
2. B. Ruhl moved to authorize the Executive Director and/or designee to execute all documents related to the purchase of 60 acres of land, more or less, for the purpose of a future park in Delaware County, including a purchase agreement and closing documents, and any and all documents and instruments relating to transactions regarding the acquisition of the property and requisite rights, G. Marzluf seconded, all members voted aye. The motion passed.

**Next Board Meeting Date:** Thursday, August 22, 1:00 PM at Deer Haven Park.

**Adjournment:** B. Ruhl moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:59 PM, G. Marzluf seconded; all members voted aye. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Mary Van Haaften, Executive Director

  
John Bader, Chair, Park Commissioner