

August 22, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
Preservation Parks of Delaware County
1:00 PM Deer Haven Park

Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM, with Board members John Bader, Chair; Bruce Ruhl, Vice Chair; and Glenn Marzluf, Secretary present. Staff included Mary Van Haaften, Director; Matt Simpson; Casey Smith; Chris Roshon; Beth McCollam; Kyle Pace; Tyler Swartzlander; Tony Benishek; Bonnie Houk; Sgt. Watkins; Sgt. Elkins.

Public Comments: None

Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of July 18, 2024, Previous Board Minutes
2. Human Resources Changes in Personnel Report
3. Resolution 2024 – 595 to Re-establish and Re-name a fund for OTSCIF Bicentennial Barn Fund and establish a new org key
4. Approval of Disposition of Surplus Property
5. Accepting a \$1,000.00 donation from the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

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. Update on 2023 public request to lower the speed limit on Buttermilk Hill Rd: ODOT approved Troy Township's request to lower the speed limit from 55 mph to 45mph. In addition, Preservation Parks will add a rapid flash beacon at the crossing between Gallant Farm and Gallant Woods Park.
2. Update on the Wall that Heals (a traveling Vietnam Wall Memorial replica): B. McCollam and Sgt. Watkins have been working with multiple agencies on this traveling exhibit, which will be installed at Havener Park from September 12 through 15. Volunteers will use Deer Haven Park Visitor Center classroom as their headquarters.
3. Hogback Ridge Office Remodeling: Work on a new exterior public restroom is underway, which will free up space inside the building for needed additional office space. Staff have begun work on new office spaces.

Department Reports:

Outdoor Connections Manager C. Smith reported that B. Nithyananda partnered with Hughes Outdoors on a paddling event at Alum Creek State Park. The Summer Concert Series has seen increased attendance, with over 600 visitors at each of the first two concerts. The Adventure Run had over 500 participants. The District partnered with the Delaware County Sheriff's Office on the Books and Badges Program.

Administrative Manager T. Swartzlander reported on the Hogback office remodeling project.

Human Resources Manager T. Benishek shared that seasonal staffing is winding down. There are a few seasonals who will continue to work into the fall and a new seasonal was hired for fall.

Sgt. Watkins reported there were several agency assists including a missing child and an accident involving several juveniles. Several citations were issued including public indecency, falsification, and lighting off fireworks in a park.

Marketing Manager B. McCollam reported that Preservation Parks is partnering with the Delaware Health District on Adventure Connection, which aims to make the public more aware of the different recreational opportunities available in Delaware County.

Natural Resources Manager C. Roshon highlighted Perfect Creek Phase 3 seeding which included approximately 100 acres of cover crop. Natural Resources will also be able to hire two AmeriCorps members for positions to begin in September.

Operations Manager K. Pace highlighted the testing of an autonomous mower at Deer Haven Park.

Sr. Park Planner M. Simpson reported the status on the status of a new public restroom and septic system at Hogback Ridge Park. Gallant Woods driveway was resurfaced, and the Bicentennial Barn construction drawings are approximately 50% complete. The Deer Haven lighting project was put out to bid and no bids were received. Planning is evaluating and will put out to bid again after updates are made.

Other Business:

1. Resolution 2024-596 to authorize a Highway Easement to the County Commissioners at Char-Mar Ridge Park. G. Marzluf moved to approve the highways easements along Lewis Center Road as presented. B. Ruhl seconded. All members voted aye. The motion passed.
2. Approve a contract with Gorman Paving for Chip Seal at Hogback Ridge Park. G. Marzluf moved to approve a contract with Gorman Paving as presented. B. Ruhl seconded. All members voted aye. The motion passed.
3. Local Government Funds update. M. Van Haaften informed the Board that a hearing was held on July 29 regarding the proposed new formula, which eliminates local government funds for Preservation Parks. The Park District currently received \$66,964.00 per year. She discussed that the Park District has been using these funds to provide community grants to local agencies for parks and trails. The timeline for a decision on the proposed formula is unknown.
4. Strategic Plan update: M Van Haaften reported that the community engagement will begin in September and will include focus groups, surveys, and interviews with the PPDC board, Foundation Board, community members and leaders, staff, and volunteers.


Executive Session: B. Ruhl moved to go into executive session at 1:38 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.

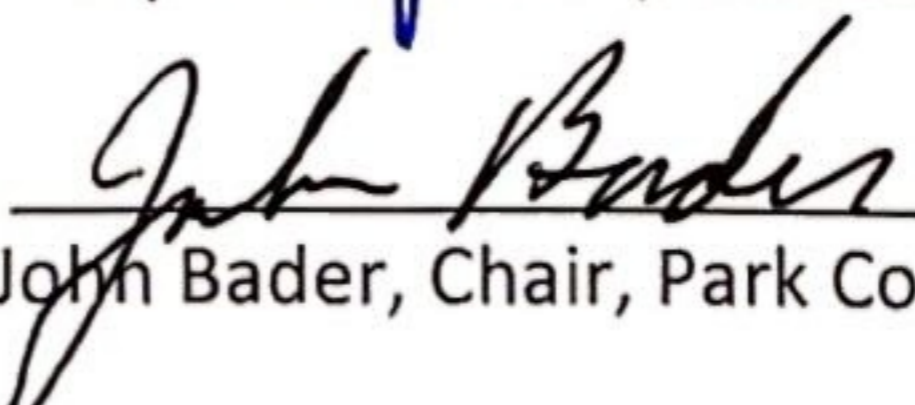
The Board returned to regular session at 2:27 PM. No action was taken.

Next Board Meeting Date: Wednesday, September 18, 12:00 PM at Deer Haven Park.

Adjournment: G. Marzluf moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:32 PM, B. Ruhl seconded; all members voted aye. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,


Mary Van Haaften, Executive Director


John Bader, Chair, Park Commissioner