

September 18, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes  
Preservation Parks of Delaware County  
12:00 PM Deer Haven Park

**Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 11:59 AM, with Board members John Bader, Chair; Bruce Ruhl, Vice Chair; and Glenn Marzluf, Secretary present. Staff included Mary Van Haaften, Director; Rich Niccum, Deputy Director; Zach Messinger; Casey Smith; Chris Roshon; Beth McCollam; Kyle Pace; Tony Benishek. Chief Welch arrived after Department Reports. Public Present: Amy Tovar.

**Public Comments:** None

**Consent Agenda:**

1. Approval of August 22, 2024 Previous Board Minutes
2. Approval of August 24, 2024 Special Board Minutes
3. Human Resources Changes in Personnel Report
4. Resolution 2024 - 599 - Accepting the Amounts and Rates Schedule A

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

**Park Updates:** M. Van Haaften shared that a public announcement was made on September 17 regarding the District's plans to purchase 60 acres of Camp Lazarus. The response has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic.

**Department Reports:**

Outdoor Connections Manager C. Smith reported on the Fishing program and Perseid Meteor Shower Campout at Blues Creek, Gallant Farm's Evening under the Paper Moon, and an animal finger painting program in partnership with Ohio Nature Education. She also highlighted volunteer help with various activities. The summer exhibit "Far Out" was visited by nearly 12,000 people, a significant increase over the 2023 summer exhibit visitation.

M. Van Haaften reported for Administrative Manager T. Swartzlander on the Hogback office remodeling project and PowerDMS policy management platform implementation plan.

Human Resources Manager T. Benishek reported that the District is now permitted to use Delaware County's Human Resources department platform to post new job openings.

M. Van Haaften reported for Chief Welch on the Wall that Heals and thanked Sgt. Watkins for his involvement and coordination of the project.

Marketing Manager B. McCollam reported on the Fall Program Guide distribution, wrap up of summer advertising, and yard signs about invasive species removal that volunteers can place in the parks when performing invasive species management.

Natural Resources Manager C. Roshon reported that Anna Arbogast has been hired as the District's first AmeriCorps Member and will start in October. He also provided an update on the former Havener Property and shared photos of the site in bloom with late summer vegetation.

Operations Manager K. Pace reported on trail improvement projects at Deer Haven and Emily Traphagen Parks. A large bald faced hornet nest was successfully removed along the trail at Shale Hollow Park.

Park Planner Z. Messinger reported that Hogback Ridge Park is temporarily closed for driveway chip sealing, which is nearly complete. The park will also be closed on Sept. 23 and 24 for septic system upgrades as part of the new family-style restroom construction project.

**Other Business:**

1. M. Van Haften gave an update on the Bicentennial Barn project, reporting on a newly provided construction estimate of \$5.7M, significantly higher than the previous estimate of \$4.6M six month ago. This increase is reportedly due to the inflation of labor and materials as well as conservative estimating. She stated that there may be some cost savings achieved by not moving the barn and/or reducing the footprint of the new (Annex) construction. Other savings may be realized through material substitutions and owner-supplied items. M. Van Haften reported that she will meet with the architect and estimator to review the new estimate and, pending this review, recommended proceeding with the project with a goal of putting the project out to bid by the end of the year to receive actual numbers.
2. M. Van Haften presented an update to the District's Military Leave Policy for compliance with state statute. G. Marzluf moved to approve the policy as presented, B. Ruhl seconded. All members voted aye. The motion passed.
3. M. Van Haften reported that two bids were received for the construction of a family-style restroom at Hogback Ridge Park and recommended that the Board approve a contract with McHugh Construction in the amount of \$173,526.00, plus any reasonable changes deemed necessary for satisfactory completion of the project. B. Ruhl moved to award a contract to McHugh Construction as presented, G. Marzluf seconded. All members voted aye. The motion passed.

**Executive Session:** B. Ruhl moved to go into executive session at 12:35 PM for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and compensation of employees, G. Marzluf seconded. Roll call was taken; all members were present. All members voted aye. The motion passed.

G. Marzluf excused himself from executive session at 1:00 PM due to a prior commitment.

The Board returned to regular session at 1:05 PM. No action was taken.

**Next Board Meeting Date:** Thursday, October 17, 1:00 PM at Shale Hollow Park

**Adjournment:** B. Ruhl moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:08 PM, J. Bader seconded; J. Bader and B. Ruhl voted aye. G. Marzluff was absent. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Van Haften, Executive Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Bader, Chair, Park Commissioner