

January 23, 2025 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 and Glenn Marzluf, Secretary present. Bruce Ruhl, Vice Chair was absent. Staff included Mary Van Haaften, Director; Rich Niccum, Deputy Director; Matt Simpson; Casey Smith; Chris Roshon; Beth McCollam; Kyle Pace; Tony Benishek; Tyler Swartzlander; Bonnie Houk; Sgt. Elkins, and Chief Welch. Public Present: Amy Tovar.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of December 19, 2024, Previous Board Minutes
2. Human Resources Changes in Personnel Report
3. Accepting a \$3,000.00 unrestricted donation from the Lakemachers
4. Accepting a \$2,044.65 unrestricted donation from the Gerald R. Vlasak Charitable Trust
5. Approval of a Declaration of Surplus Property

Items Removed from the Consent Agenda: None

Approval of Consent Agenda: G. Marzluf moved to approve the consent agenda, J. Bader seconded, all members present voted aye. The motion passed.

Financial Report and Ratification of Vouchers: G. Marzluf moved to approve the Financial Report and Ratification of Vouchers, J. Bader seconded, all members present voted aye. The motion passed.

Park Updates: None

Department Reports:

Outdoor Connections: Manager C. Smith reported on the "Winter Evening on the Farm" event held at Gallant Farm in December, which attracted 180 attendees. The new Braille Trail at Hogback Ridge Park is nearing completion, with a few sign components still in production. Additionally, the District introduced cross-country skiing and snowshoeing programs this winter, with 215 visitors participating since the start of January.

Administration: Manager T. Swartzlander provided updates on the ongoing renovations at the District office and progress on a payment redirection policy being developed in collaboration with the Fiscal Manager.

Human Resources: Manager T. Benishek reported the resignation of Park Planner Zach Messinger, who has accepted a position with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. His last day with the District is January 24, 2025.

Park Police: Chief Welch announced the hiring of a new park officer, John Bailey, who will begin his duties on February 1. He also provided updates on an accident at Shale Hollow Park involving an impaired driver and a dog-related incident with visitors at Emily Traphagen Park.

Marketing: Manager B. McCollam reported that the winners of the annual Park District photo contest are now on display at the Mary McCoy Nature Center at Hogback Ridge. Additionally, the "Camp Lazarus 60-acre purchase" video was shared.

Natural Resources: Manager C. Roshon shared updates on restoration efforts at Perfect Creek Park, including a seeding project involving volunteers. He also reported on a new browse agreement with the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, under which the Zoo will provide the District with black willow trees and remove invasive callery pear trees at Emily Traphagen Park to use as animal food.

Operations: Manager K. Pace reported the completion of construction on the Bluestem Trail at Blues Creek Park and the waterproofing of the Hogback Ridge Park basement by a contractor.

Planning: Senior Park Planner M. Simpson reported that construction on the outdoor restroom at Hogback Ridge Park is almost complete. Rapid flashing beacons have been installed at the crosswalk between Gallant Farm and Gallant Woods Park on Buttermilk Hill Road. New signs have been installed at Hogback Ridge Park and McCammon Creek Park - North Area. Additionally, the District has initiated a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for engineering and architectural design services for projects at Hickory Woods Park, McCammon Creek Park - East Area, and Perfect Creek Park.

Public Comment: Amy Tovar suggested that the District encourage shared use of trails during the winter between walkers and cross-country skiers. She proposed posting signs to request that walkers use one side of the trail and skiers use the other, which would help maintain better skiing conditions.

Other Business:

1. *Election of Officers.* J. Bader nominated B. Ruhl for Chair of the Park Board, G. Marzluf seconded, all members present voted aye. J. Bader nominated G. Marzluf for Vice Chair of the Park Board, G. Marzluf seconded, all members present voted aye. G. Marzluf nominated J. Bader for Secretary, J. Bader seconded. All members present voted aye. G. Marzluf assumed the Vice Chair and conducted the remainder of the meeting.
2. *The Year in Review Video.* Staff played a Year in Review video that will be shared on the Park District website. Highlights of 2024 included land acquisition, planning and operations projects and initiatives, programs, marketing projects, and technology innovations.
3. *Resolution 2025-610 Revised Budget.* Fiscal Manager B. Houk presented the Revised 2025 budget, noting that changes from the previous budget were minimal and included changes in the Administration, Park Operations, Planning, Technology, Capital Project, and OPWC Olentangy River Protection -Camp Lazarus budgets. J. Bader moved to approve the resolution as presented, G. Marzluf seconded, all members present voted aye. The motion passed.
4. *Resolution 2025-611 Credit Card Limit Increase.* G. Marzluf moved to approve an increase in the total monthly credit card limit from \$50,000 to \$85,500, with individual spending limits as presented, J. Bader seconded, all members present voted aye. The motion passed.

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

The Board returned to regular session at 2:27 PM and took the following action:

G. Marzluf moved to authorize the Executive Director to purchase approximately 1.35 acres of land in Delaware Township for a price of \$374,900 plus closing costs and to execute all documents required relating to the purchase, including but not limited to a purchase agreement, any and all closing documents and escrow agreements contemplated thereby, and that any actions taken by the Executive Director prior to this date regarding the foregoing are within the authority conferred to the Executive Director hereunder and are hereby ratified. J. Bader seconded. All members present voted aye. The motion passed.

G. Marzluf moved to authorize the Executive Director to execute a purchase agreement in an amount up to \$25,000 per acre for approximately 23 acres in Porter Township. J. Bader seconded; all members present voted aye. The motion passed.

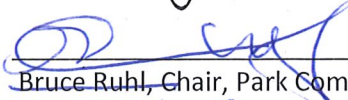
Next Board Meeting Date: 1:00 PM on February 20, 2025, at Deer Haven Park

Adjournment: G. Marzluf moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:31 PM. J. Bader seconded; all members present voted aye. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Van Haaffen, Executive Director



Bruce Ruhl, Chair, Park Commissioner

G. Marzluf, Vice Chair