

June 20, 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 Bruce Ruhl, Chair; Glenn Marzluf, Vice Chair; and John Bader, Secretary present. Staff included Mary Van Haaften, Director; Rich Niccum, Deputy Director; Kerry Gerich; Casey Smith; Chris Roshon; Tony Benishek; Beth McCollam; Wes Wingert; Bonnie Houk; and Chief Welch.

Public Present: None

Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of May 15, 2025 Board Minutes
2. Human Resources Changes in Personnel Report
3. Approving 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 voted aye. The motion passed.

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

Park Updates: None

Department Reports:

Outdoor Connections: C. Smith shared highlights from the summer exhibit *Life on a Leaf* at Shale Hollow Park, which will run through Labor Day. She also provided updates on recent programs at Gallant Farm, including a Movie Night featuring *Little Shop of Horrors* and a pre-WWII Car Show, which included 13 vintage vehicles. She distributed turtle stickers featuring the District's turtle ambassadors used in school classroom programs and provided a brief overview of that initiative. Additionally, she reported on staff coordination for the 100th anniversary celebration of the Simon Kenton Council.

Administration: T. Swartzlander reported that renovations at Hogback Ridge Park are nearly complete. He also shared updates on the Perfect Schoolhouse renovation project.

Human Resources: T. Benishek provided updates on the Total Compensation Survey being conducted by Experience Management Institute (EXMI). The team is currently reviewing position descriptions as part of the process.

Park Police: Chief Welch reported on a recent river rescue at River Run Park involving coordination with multiple law enforcement agencies. The rescue operation was successful, and all individuals were brought to safety.

Marketing & Communications: B. McCollam shared digital advertising materials created by the Marketing Department for the *Life on a Leaf* exhibit, Summer Letterbox Adventure, and a general Preservation Parks promotion. She noted that a commercial is currently running on Prime and other platforms. Additionally, the park district's land donor video, produced by New Vision Media, received a Bronze Telly Award in the Donor category.

Natural Resources: C. Roshon reported no significant updates this month, and the Board had no questions regarding his report.

Park Operations: W. Wingert shared that park operations are running smoothly and provided an update on the ongoing renovation of the Hogback Ridge office.

Planning & Construction: K. Gerich reported on the progress of the Bicentennial Barn renovation project. The barn has been deconstructed, with materials carefully labeled and stored. Most of the slate roof tiles remain intact. She also provided updates on the McCammon Creek Park East Area project, which includes a new parking area, trails, and a pedestrian bridge. While project completion is targeted for the end of the year, it may extend into early 2026. She also shared updates on the new trail development at the Deer Haven Park wetlands.

Public Comment: None

Other Business:

1. *Strategic Plan Update and Community Survey* – Staff provided an update on the Strategic Plan, including key goals and the implementation timeline. The final plan will be presented to the Board at the July meeting. Staff also shared results from the recent Community Survey conducted by The Impact Group.
2. *Approval of Parental Leave Policy* – Staff presented a proposed Parental Leave Policy designed to support employees in balancing work and family responsibilities. The policy provides paid leave for bonding with a newborn, newly adopted child, or foster child placement, and will run concurrently with the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA).
G. Marzluf moved to approve the policy as presented; B. Ruhl seconded. All members voted aye. The motion passed.

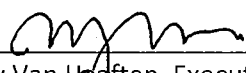
Executive Session: G. Marzluf moved to go into executive session at 1:29 PM for the purpose of discussing land acquisition. J. Bader seconded. Roll call was taken, and all members were present. All members voted aye. The motion passed.

The Board returned to regular session at 1:42 PM and took no action.

Next Board Meeting Date: 1:00 PM on July 15, 2025, at Deer Haven Park

Adjournment: B. Ruhl moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:48 PM, J. Bader seconded, all members voted aye. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Van Haaften, Executive Director



Bruce Ruhl, Chair, Park Commissioner