

May 15, 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; Matt Simpson; Casey Smith; Chris Roshon; Tony Benishek; Beth McCollam; Kyle Pace; Bonnie Houk; Chief Welch; Sgt. Elkins; Sgt. Watkins; and Kerry Gerich.

Public Present: None

Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of April 16, 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: B. Houk shared that the District received the Highest Achievement in Open and Transparent Government award from the Ohio Auditor of State. The Board congratulated B. Houk and the District on this achievement. 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 several spring programs and announced the opening of the SourcePoint Art Exhibit at Deer Haven Park. Other key events included the launch of the Braille Trail at Hogback Ridge Park, the Sheep Shearing and Wool Festival, and enhancements to the playhouse at Gallant Farm.

Administration: In T. Swartzlander's absence, R. Niccum reported ongoing progress in engineering work for the McCammon East parking lot project and architectural design for the Perfect Schoolhouse renovation. He also noted continued collaboration with the Human Resources Manager to improve staff onboarding processes.

Human Resources: T. Benishek provided updates on the Leadership 2.0 class and introduced Kerrie Gerich as the new Landscape Architect Project Manager. Preparations are underway for the upcoming Total Compensation Survey, which is being conducted by the Experience Management Institute (EXMI).

Park Police: Chief Welch congratulated Sgt. Watkins on completing the Leadership Delaware program. Sgt. Watkins also reported that flock cameras have aided several investigations, including a reckless driving incident at Hickory and the apprehension of an individual with an outstanding warrant at Gallant Woods Park.

Marketing & Communications: B. McCollam announced the launch of a new volunteer logo apparel store. The team is also supporting the Preservation Parks Foundation with marketing efforts for its upcoming Gala on June 26.

Natural Resources: C. Roshon reported on invasive species removal by the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium at Emily Traphagen Park as part of the newly approved browse agreement. Restoration work has also begun on a 60-acre property south of Camp Lazarus, with invasive plant management to be handled by a contractor.

Park Operations: K. Pace outlined ongoing maintenance projects across the District and recognized Scout Xavier Recker of Scouting America Troop 61 for building wooden brochure boxes for park kiosks as part of his Eagle Scout project.

Planning & Construction: M. Simpson provided updates on the completion of the Deer Haven Park parking lot lighting project and the installation of three water hydrants at Gallant Farm. Planning is underway for a grass trail at River Run Park and design work has begun on the Hickory Woods Park shelter, playground, and wetland projects.

Public Comment: None

Other Business:

1. *Resolution 2025-617 Approval of waterline easement for the Bicentennial Barn at McCammon Creek Park* - B. Ruhl moved to approve a 0.033-acre permanent Right-of-Way easement to Del-Co Water Company for the purpose of installing and maintaining a water line for the Bicentennial Barn at McCammon Creek Park. J. Bader seconded. G. Marzluf abstained. The motion passed.
2. *Authorize Renewal of Public Entities Pool Liability Insurance* – G. Marzluf moved to approve the renewal of the District's liability insurance coverage with the Public Entities Pool of Ohio in the amount of \$91,196 as recommended by staff. J. Bader seconded, all members voted aye. The motion passed.
3. *Approval of Social Media Policy* – Staff presented a social media policy outlining the purpose, management, and goals of the District's social media use. G. Marzluf moved to approve the policy as presented, J. Bader seconded, all members voted aye. The motion passed.
4. *Approval of Drone Policy* - Staff presented a Drone Use Policy (non-law enforcement) establishing guidelines for the permitted use of drones in Preservation Parks properties. G. Marzluf moved to approve the policy as presented, B. Ruhl seconded, all members voted aye. The motion passed.
5. *Changes to Community Trail Improvement Grant* – Staff informed the Board that the grant program will be expanded to include park improvements and will be renamed the *Community Park and Trail Improvement Grant*. The goal is to broaden project eligibility and encourage participation from communities that may not have previously applied. The 2025 budget includes \$100,000 to support the program.

Executive Session: B. Ruhl moved to go into executive session at 1:39 PM for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and employee compensation. G. Marzluf seconded. Roll call was taken, and all members were present. All members voted aye. The motion passed.

The Board returned to regular session at 2:00 PM and took no action.

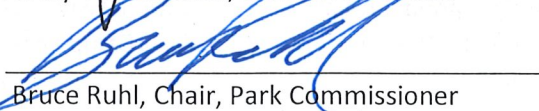
Next Board Meeting Date: 1:00 PM on June 20, 2025, at Deer Haven Park

Adjournment: G. Marzluf moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:02 PM, J. Bader seconded, all members voted aye. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Van Haaften, Executive Director



Bruce Ruhl, Chair, Park Commissioner