

September 25 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; Beth McCollam; Kyle Pace; Bonnie Houk; Tony Benishek; Carol Zimmerman; and Chief Welch.

Public Present: None

Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of August 21, 2025 Board Minutes
2. Human Resources Changes in Personnel Report
3. Accepting a \$6,000 restricted donation from Consolidated Cooperative for the Summer Concert Series (\$5,000) and Trick or Treat Trail (\$1,000)
4. Resolution 2025-621 Accepting Amounts and Rates
5. Approval of purchases over \$50,000 in goods and services from specific vendors during 2025
6. Resolution 2025-622 Authorize a MOU with Central Ohio Collaborative for Conservation

Items Removed from the Consent Agenda: None

Approval of Consent Agenda: J. Bader moved to approve the consent agenda, G. Marzluf 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 reported that the summer concert series concluded with approximately 2,700 attendees and highlighted kayak/paddleboard Try-it programs, Monarchs and More, the Perseid Meteor Shower Campout, and Fun Under a Paper Moon. She also announced the birth of a Tunis lamb at Gallant Farm in early September and shared photos of new interactive interpretive signs at Deer Haven Park.

Human Resources: T. Benishek introduced new Development Director Carol Zimmerman, who shared her background and excitement to begin her work with the District.

Park Police: Chief Welch reported that Officer Bailey completed training on victim removal from critical incidents and officers assisted in four missing person searches during the month, all of which ended safely.

Marketing & Communications: B. McCollam reported on the Delaware County fair display.

Natural Resources: C. Roshon reported that Del-Co Water volunteers assisted with a cleanup at the future 60-acre park site adjacent to Camp Lazarus.

Park Operations: K. Pace provided updates on trail construction at McCammon Creek Park's Bicentennial Barn area and on improvements to the former Christmas tree barn at McCammon Creek Park North, which will support future programming.

Planning & Construction: M. Simpson reported on construction projects including the Bicentennial Barn, the McCammon Creek Park East parking lot, and wetland restoration at Perfect Creek Park by the Stream and Wetlands Foundation. He also shared photos of trail improvements by Oxford Township and

the Grand Oaks Community Association, both funded through the District's Community Trail Improvement Grant Program.

Public Comment: None

Other Business:

1. *Camp Lazarus Master Plan Update:* M. Simpson reported on the conceptual master planning for new park land north and south of Camp Lazarus, featuring an approximately seven mile trail connecting to Seymour Woods State Nature Preserve and through the western side of Camp Lazarus. The conceptual plan includes an entrance and parking area off Winter Road, restrooms, a small lawn amphitheater, picnic shelter, an accessible paved trail, a suspension bridge over Lazarus Run, disc golf, and a wildlife viewing structure. A public open house is scheduled on November 5 at Columbus State Community College, Delaware Campus. The park is slated to open to the public in late 2026.

Executive Session: G. Marzluf moved to go into executive session at 1:32 PM for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and personnel. 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 2:25 PM and took the following action:

1. G. Marzluf moved to accept the resignation of Rich Niccum as Deputy Director and appoint Tyler Swartzlander to Deputy Director effective October 13, 2025. J. Bader seconded. All members voted aye. The motion passed.
2. G. Marzluf moved to create the position of Deputy Chief. J. Baer seconded. All members voted aye. The motion passed.

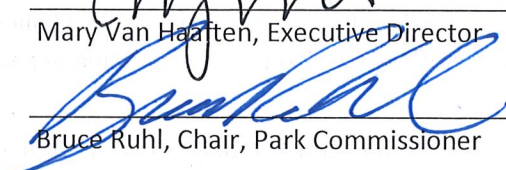
Next Board Meeting Date: A regular meeting will be held at 1:00 PM on October 21, 2025 at Deer Haven Park. A special meeting for the purpose of a Board and staff work session will be held at 2:00 PM on October 21 at Deer Haven Park.

Adjournment: G. Marzluf moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:27 PM, J. Bader seconded, all members voted aye. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Van Haften, Executive Director



Bruce Ruhl, Chair, Park Commissioner