

January 15, 2026 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; Glenn Marzluf, Vice Chair; and John Bader, Secretary, present. B. Ruhl was absent.

Staff present included Mary Van Haaften, Executive Director; Tyler Swartzlander, Deputy Director; Beth McCollam; Kyle Pace; Bonnie Houk; Tony Benishek; Carol Zimmerman; Chief Watkins; Deputy Chief Elkins; Sgt. Curfman; Mariah Rhodes; Liz Neroni; Kevin Kuhn; Kerry Gerich.

Public Present: Amy Tovar; Patrick S.; Greg Perry; Jeff Tanner; Stephen Earley; Jim Moran; Alison Moran

Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of December 9, 2025 Board Minutes
2. Human Resources Changes in Personnel Report
3. Resolution 2026-631 Transfer from the General Fund to Capital Projects Fund
4. Resolution 2026-632 Approve a Then and Now Certification
5. Resolution 2026-633 Rescind Resolution 2023-547 and rename Outdoor Connections Dept.
6. Declaration of Surplus Property

Items Removed from the Consent Agenda: None

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

Park Updates: M. Van Haaften reported the following updates:

1. The Park District closed on 3.7 acres to expand Orchard Oaks Preserve.
2. A lease management agreement with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for Seymour Woods State Nature Preserve has been finalized and is being circulated for signatures.
3. Tony Benishek completed his master's degree in Human Resources from The Ohio State University.

Department Reports:

Development: C. Zimmerman reported that Donor Perfect has been selected as the donor database software for the Preservation Parks Foundation. Implementation and data migration are expected to take approximately 12–16 weeks, with completion anticipated in April. The Year End Appeal raised more than \$16,000. Funds raised for the Bicentennial Barn's Tiberi Hall currently total approximately \$181,000, with a goal of reaching \$250,000. She also reported that the Restricted Gift Agreement is under review by legal counsel, sponsorships are being solicited for the Foundation's 2026 gala, and outreach efforts to individuals and corporations are ongoing.

Human Resources: T. Benishek shared an update on the Preventive Health Measure benefit. In 2025, 23 employees participated, marking the highest level of participation since the program was implemented three years ago.

Law Enforcement: Chief Watkins reported they have been reviewing and updating the Park Police Manual. They have also been meeting with the Police Departments to help further develop the relationship with each department.

Marketing & Communications: B. McCollam highlighted the photo contest exhibit on display at Deer Haven Visitor Center.

Natural Resources: C. Roshon was absent. There were no questions about the report.

Outdoor Connections: L. Neroni reported that Outdoor Connections conducted nine programs with a total of 209 participants. Outreach included programs on monarchs and turtle conservation. Gallant Farm highlights included Winter Evening on the Farm and a vintage toy display. Volunteers served a total of 465 hours for the month. Winter letterbox is currently underway until March 16th.

Park Operations: K. Pace reported that the construction crew has been making good progress on the three-sided barn at Gallant Farm.

Planning & Construction: K. Gerich reported on the progress of the Bicentennial Barn; the annex is fully framed and the original barn's timber sections have been raised. She also provided an update on Camp Lazarus, noting that most demolition work has been completed and that parking lot design is nearing completion. In addition, she updated the Board on the naming of the Camp Lazarus property and shared staff's recommendation: *Eagle Ridge Park*. She also highlighted the Outerspatial mapping app that visitors will have access to, with a soft rollout anticipated in June.

Public Comment: None

Other Business:

1. *Swearing in of Park Officers:* G. Marzluf conducted the swearing in of Krishea Osborne and Eric Tanner as new Park Officers.
2. *The Year in Review:* Staff presented the Year in Review Powerpoint.
3. *Cybersecurity Policy:* T. Swartzlander presented the new Cybersecurity Policy and Program that is now required by Ohio Revised Code 9.64. J. Bader moved to approve the Cybersecurity Policy as presented, G. Marzluf seconded, all members present voted aye. The motion passed.
4. *Camp Lazarus Master Plan Update:* K. Gerich reported on public feedback, noting strong community support for preservation and future park plans. Comments emphasized preserving the natural character of Seymour Woods and the new parkland, while balancing accessibility and safety. Trails were the most requested amenity (46%), with additional interest in natural play features, dog-friendly amenities, educational elements, and site amenities.
5. *Contract Award - Perfect Creek Park Schoolhouse:* T. Swartzlander reported that seven bids were received for the Perfect Creek Park Schoolhouse Renovation project. Quality Masonry Company's bid was determined to be in conformance with the bid documents and deemed to provide the lowest and best bid in the amount of \$201,050; therefore, staff recommended awarding a \$209,660 (alternates included) contract to Quality Masonry Company, Inc. with a contingency of 20% up to \$251,592. J. Bader moved to award Quality Masonry Company as recommended, G. Marzluf seconded, all members present voted aye. The motion passed.
6. *Resolution 2026-634 Revised Budget:* B. Houk reported that changes to the budget generally included the certified carryover and a transfer of funds from Planning to Capital. J. Bader moved to approve Resolution 2026-634 as presented, G. Marzluf seconded, all members present voted aye. The motion passed.
7. *Resolution 2026-635 Hickory Woods Park Annexation Agreement:* M. Van Haaften recommended to table this item until next month pending finalization of agreement details. No action was taken.

Executive Session: J. Bader moved to go into executive session at 1:47 PM for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and compensation of employees. G. Marzluf seconded. Roll call was taken; Glenn Marzluf and John Bader were present. All members present voted aye. The motion passed.

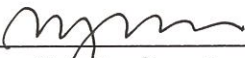
The Board returned to regular session at 2:21 PM and took the following action:

G. Marzluf moved to approve two new positions, Senior Naturalist and Part-Time Fiscal Assistant within the pay grades as recommended. J. Bader seconded, all members present voted aye. The motion passed.

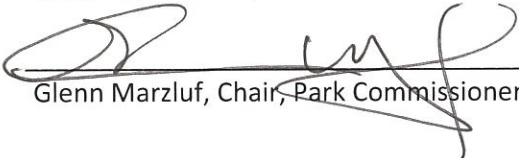
Next Board Meeting Date: The next regular board meeting will be held at 1:00 PM on February 19 at Deer Haven Park.

Adjournment: J. Bader moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:24 PM, G. Marzluf seconded, all members present voted aye. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Van Haften, Executive Director



Glenn Marzluf, Chair, Park Commissioner

