

May 21, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes
Preservation Parks of Delaware County
2:00 PM Deer Haven Park

Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 2:01 PM.

Park Commissioners included Glenn Marzluf, Chair; Bruce Ruhl, Vice-Chair; and John Bader, Secretary.

Staff included Mary Van Haaften, Executive Director; Tyler Swartzlander; Beth McCollam; Kevin Parrott; Bonnie Houk; Tony Benishek; Carol Zimmerman; Chief Watkins; Matt Simpson; Chris Roshon; and Casey Smith; Rich Niccum; and Emily Horace.

Public included Mary Freeh.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of April 16, 2026 Board Minutes
2. Human Resources Changes in Personnel Report
3. Resolution 2026-643 Authorize New Credit Cardholders
4. Resolution 2026-644 Declaration of Surplus Property

Items Removed from the Consent Agenda: None

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

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

Park Updates:

1. M. Van Haaften reported that Preservation Parks and the Ohio Wildlife Center held a press event at Deer Haven Park on May 18 for the release of the rehabilitated bald eagle that had been rescued by Park Officers at Eagle Ridge Park.

Department Reports:

Development: C. Zimmerman updated that Donor Perfect software is now live, which improve efficiency moving forward. Gala ticket sales are currently around 170 attendees. She and M. Van Haaften attended a meeting with the Columbus Blue Jackets Foundation regarding its grant program.

Education: C. Smith reported that the Farm welcomed approximately 1,100 visitors and highlighted the sheep shearing program. She also introduced new Naturalist Emily Horace.

Human Resources: T. Benishek reported that he has been focused on hiring seasonal employees and interns. Rich Niccum announced his retirement plans for the fall and shared his appreciation for his time with Preservation Parks and the colleagues he has worked alongside.

Law Enforcement: Chief Watkins reported that a firearms and narcotics-related case is being presented to the Grand Jury. He also reported that an individual was cited and trespassed for drinking alcohol in the park while operating a vehicle.

Marketing & Communications: B. McCollam reported on current branded digital display advertisements promoting the letterbox program and the summer theme, *What Lies Below*.

Natural Resources: C. Roshon reported that prairie burns and tree planting events have been completed.

Park Operations: K. Parrott highlighted ongoing boardwalk construction projects at Seymour Woods, Eagle Ridge Park, and Hickory Woods.

Planning & Construction: M. Simpson reported that renovations to the Bicentennial Barn are progressing smoothly, with the contractor beginning finishing touches. Repainting of the Bicentennial Barn logo is scheduled for late July. A tentative opening date of August 22, 2026, has been set for the Bicentennial Barn. He also reported that work has begun on the shelter, restrooms, and playground at Hickory Woods.

Public Comment: None

Other Business:

1. *Award a Design and Engineering Contract for Perfect Creek Park parking lots and pedestrian bridges:* M. Simpson reported that eight consulting firms submitted Statements of Qualifications for design and engineering services for the Perfect Creek Park, including permitting, final construction documents, and construction administration for two parking areas, three pedestrian bridges, and associated walking trails. GPD Group was selected as the firm most qualified to meet the needs of the project and submitted a detailed fee proposal in an amount of \$251,980.00. Staff recommended entering into an agreement with GPD Group in the amount of \$251,980.00, with a contingency not to exceed \$270,000.00 for any unforeseen conditions encountered during the project. B. Ruhl moved to approve an agreement with GPD Group as presented. J. Bader seconded; all members voted aye. The motion passed.
2. *Award a Construction Contract for Eagle Ridge Park parking lot and trails:* M. Simpson reported that four bids were received for construction of the parking lot and trails at Eagle Ridge Park. Jagger Construction was determined to be the lowest and best bidder, with a bid amount of \$576,299.20. Staff recommended awarding a construction contract to Jagger Construction in the amount of \$576,299.20 plus any reasonable changes deemed necessary for satisfactory completion of the project not to exceed \$650,000.00. J. Bader moved to award a contract to Jagger Construction as presented. B. Ruhl seconded; all members voted aye. The motion passed.
3. *Resolution 2026-645 Revision of the Bylaws:* M. Van Haaften presented a recommendation to revise the District's bylaws to increase the expenditure threshold requiring Board approval from \$50,000 to the then-current competitive bidding threshold established under Ohio Revised Code Section 9.17 for expenditures previously approved and appropriated by the Board through the budget process. B. Ruhl moved to approve the bylaw revisions as presented. J. Bader seconded the motion; all members voted aye. The motion passed.
4. *Resolution 2026-646 Authorize a Right-of-Way Easement for electrical service at Hickory Woods Park:* J. Bader moved to approve a right-of-way easement to AEP for the purpose of providing electrical service to the restroom and shelter at Hickory Woods Park as presented. B. Ruhl seconded; all members voted aye. The motion passed.

Executive Session: B. Ruhl moved to go into executive session at 2:28 PM for the purpose of discussing land acquisition. J. Bader seconded. Roll call was taken; all members were present. All members voted aye. The motion passed.

The Board returned to regular session at 3:13 PM and took the following action:

B. Ruhl moved to authorize the Executive Director to sign a purchase agreement in the amount of \$355,000 for property in Genoa Township. J. Bader seconded, all members voted aye. The motion passed.

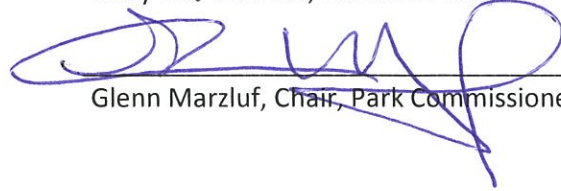
Next Board Meeting Date: The next regular board meeting will be held at 1:00 PM on June 11, 2026 at Deer Haven Park.

Adjournment: B. Ruhl moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:20 PM, J. Bader seconded, all members voted aye. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Van Haaften, Executive Director



Glenn Marzluf, Chair, Park Commissioner