

August 13, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes
Preservation Parks of Delaware County
11:30 AM Deer Haven Park

Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 11:30 AM.

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

Staff included Mary Van Haaften, Executive Director; Tyler Swartzlander, Deputy Director; Jim Palmer; Kyle Pace; Bonnie Houk; Tony Benishek; Carol Zimmerman; Chief Watkins; Matt Simpson; Chris Roshon; Beth McCollam; Rich Niccum; and Liz Neroni.

Public included Amy Tovar.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of July 23, 2026 Board Minutes
2. Approval of July 23, 2026 Special Board Minutes
3. Human Resources Changes in Personnel Report

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: R. Niccum highlighted Bicentennial Barn events scheduled for the week of August 17, 2026, including a Volunteer Sneak Peek, Foundation-sponsored Donor Preview Night, Ribbon Cutting/Press Event, and Public Celebration and Open House.

M. Van Haaften announced that a purchase agreement has been signed for the John Beltz Center property in Harlem and Genoa Townships. Staff will apply for a Clean Ohio Greenspace grant to support the purchase. She also reviewed the property's key features and future plans for the area.

Department Reports:

Development: C. Zimmerman reported that she is working with the Foundation on the upcoming Donor Preview Night at the Bicentennial Barn. She noted that Gala net revenue is nearly \$100,000, including approximately \$29,000 designated for the pedestrian bridge over Lazarus Run at Eagle Ridge Park. She, M. Van Haaften, and the Foundation board are also developing a draft Fundraising Strategy for the Foundation.

Education: L. Neroni reported on July program participation and visitation, including the Adventure Mud Run at Gallant Woods Park, archery programs, summer concerts, and a summer celebration for the American Council of the Blind at the Braille Trail at Hogback Ridge Park.

Human Resources: T. Benishek reported that a new Park Officer will begin in the coming weeks and noted that Seasonal Appreciation is scheduled for next week.

Law Enforcement: Chief Watkins reported that officers made three arrests on warrants from outside agencies. He also noted that a 2023 case was completed and resulted in a conviction.

Marketing & Communications: B. McCollam highlighted the new program guide, *The Trailhead*, which will offer additional space for stories, programs, and park information. She also noted that the eagle release was featured in the Columbus Dispatch and Columbus Monthly.

Natural Resources: C. Roshon reported on preparations for an upcoming clean-up at North Eagle Ridge Park and highlighted a seed collection event at Whetstone Highlands in partnership with the Stream + Wetland Foundation.

Park Operations: K. Pace reported that the Deer Haven Park wildlife blind was repainted. He also noted that Operations staff prepared scrap materials for removal at Eagle Ridge Park and assisted Education with program preparations.

Planning & Construction: M. Simpson reported that all state inspections for the Bicentennial Barn have been completed and the Occupancy Permit has been received. He highlighted the newly painted Bicentennial logo, signage, and other completed features, as well as progress on the Hickory Woods shelter and playground, and demolition of the property along Bunty Station Road. He also reported that stabilizing the Seymour Cabin at Eagle Ridge Park is estimated to cost \$307,000.

Public Comment: None.

Other Business:

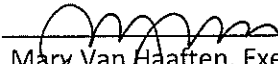
1. *Award IT Services Contract:* R. Niccum presented the evaluation results for the Information Technology Management Services Request for Proposals and recommended awarding the contract to Revolution Group for January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2028, based on the proposed cost per user. Staff may extend the agreement for up to three additional one-year terms, with each extension subject to a fee increase of up to 5%. B. Ruhl moved to award the Information Technology Management Services contract to Revolution Group as presented. J. Bader seconded. All members voted aye. The motion passed.
2. *Law Enforcement Equipment:* Chief Watkins presented information regarding the need to replace aging TASERS and a recommendation to purchase body cameras to support officer safety, improve documentation of public interactions, strengthen transparency and accountability, assist with complaint review and evidence collection, and provide an additional training tool for law enforcement staff. Axon Enterprises is the sole provider of TASER. Staff reviewed quotes and pricing from various sources for the purchase of body cameras. Upon review of multiple providers, Axon Enterprises provided the lowest and best price for both replacement TASORS and new body cameras, including accompanying equipment at a total price of \$106,614, to be paid \$6,614 in 2026 and \$20,000 year for a period of five years. B Ruhl moved to approve entering into a contract with Axon Enterprises as presented. J. Bader seconded. All members voted aye. The motion passed.
3. *Resolution 2026-654 to Purchase Land in Harlem and Genoa Townships:* M. Van Haaften presented the resolution to purchase land for a new park in Harlem and Genoa Townships and noted that closing is anticipated in spring 2027. J. Bader moved to approve Resolution 2026-654, authorizing the Executive Director to execute all documents required for purchase of the property as presented. B. Ruhl seconded. All members voted aye. The motion passed.
4. *Request to Serve Beer and Wine at the Bicentennial Barn:* M. Van Haaften presented a request from the McCammon/Postle family to serve beer and wine at a wedding at the Bicentennial Barn at McCammon Creek Park. G. Marzluf moved to approve the request for the event at McCammon Creek Park's Bicentennial Barn. B. Ruhl seconded. All members voted aye. The motion passed.

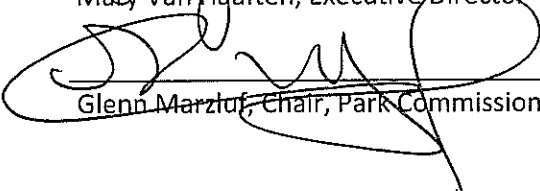
Executive Session: None

Next Board Meeting Date: The next regular board meeting will be held at 1:00 PM on September 24, 2026 at Deer Haven Park.

Adjournment: B. Ruhl moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:18 PM, J. Bader seconded, all members voted aye. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Van Haften, Executive Director

Glenn Marzluf, Chair, Park Commissioner