

Code: 517009  
Subject: Jim Kastlic  
Date: Thursday June 19 , 2008  
Interviewer: Janie Talbott  
Special Notes: Interview of Jim Kastlic  
Minutes:

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- 1 General Information
- 2 University of Kansas and Kent State Urban Geography
- 3 Experiences with Cuyahoga Valley
- 4 Tom Ublansky, North Cuyahoga Valley
- 5 Proposal to foundations to get involved with Cuyahoga Valley
- 6 Making Cuyahoga Valley a place to celebrate
- 7 Different objects being dumped into river
- 8 Begin to use river as a model of rebirth
- 9 Creation of Towpath trail(John Debow)
- 10 John came up with idea to take old towpath and create a trail
- 11 Ideal location for reconstructing the Towpath
- 12 Very successful, people began noticing the Valley
- 13 John wanted to extend it both north and south
- 14 Goal is to have a trail extending from Downtown Cleveland to Zoar
- 15 Cleveland Metroparks has 21,000 Acres
- 16 Involved because they have a lot of common interest.
- 17 Becoming a National Park has added prestige to the park
- 18 Unique situation to have National Park close to Urban areas
- 19 Changes to the park since getting involved
- 20 Many different tourists places to visit.
- 21 Towpath allows people to stop and experience history of National Park
- 22 Funding is a big hurdle to continue to improve(Especially with Towpath)
- 23 Towpath has been most frequently asked question.
- 24 National Conference excited about Towpath, wants trail to Downtown Cleveland.
- 25 Loves exploring trail with family, favorite place in Northeast Ohio
- 26 Retired in 2002, Cleveland Metroparks called and he took the job.
- 27 Constantly dealing with issues with evasive species.
- 28 Sold leases to individuals that agree to farm in the valley
- 29 Examples of people encouraged to farm
- 30 1970 Cuyahoga Valley Communtiy Council is formed
- 31 Government helped make up the mony for the Tax Base
- 32 Surprised how this group has become a real support group of the Nartional Park
- 33 A lot of Historic places have been renovated and restored
- 34 Thornberg Station, built because of Two Path
- 35 Steel Yard Commonsm, beggest shopping center in Northeast Ohio
- 36 New Housing units built in Flatts area because of proximity to Towpath.
- 37 Continued pressure for Towpath to be completed.
- 38 Steel Yard Commons has donated.
- 39 Continued development for Towpath is critical for future
- 40 People don't want to drive to the Towpath.
- 41 Connector trials to from communities to Towpath
- 42 Amazed by support for connector trails.
- 43 People are willing to pay a higher price to be near trail
- 44 Path to Wendy Park is being studied
- 45 Going to be very difficult with all the crossings

- 46 Many challenges to get Towpath completed.
- 47 Towpath has made the Valley a true destination to many visitors daily.
- 48 Plan for Scenic Railroad to extend to Downtown Clevelenad.
- 49 Public may be reaching point to use as a Commuter train.
- 50 Communities along the way want to see stops.
- 51 Rails to Trails is growing
- 52 Platforms to Steel Yard Commons and Zoo
- 53 Over next decade will see more connectors.
- 54 Issues with Railways
- 55 Reason for stopping Towpath at Zoar
- 56 Digging of Canal
- 57 Cleveland to Cincinnati
- 58 Types of trails, a lot of pressure for trials.
- 59 Mother Nature has always been changing.
- 60 When the Coliseum closed.
- 61 Tremendous milstone in helping the National Park
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