

Code:	517012
Subject:	Tim DeGeeter
Date:	6/19/2008
Interviewer:	Steve Testa
Special Notes:	West Creek Preservation Committee
Minutes:	1 hour, 5 minutes

- 0 position as state representative 15th house district
- 1 born and raised in Mishawaka, Indiana
- 2 schooling at Holy Cross and John Carroll, CSU Marshall College of Law
- 3 elected as Parma Law clerk
- 4 start of the West Creek preservation committee
- 5 "citizen Tims" work on ballot language for preserving the green space for park land
- 6 description of park land and ballot initiative
- 7 everyday citizens that cared about the community they lived in
- 8 work the government officials to get their buy in on the project
- 9 visiting property and hearing the stories of West creek changes people's mind
(10:18 - stopped recording to take care of infant son) ballot language read not a
- 10 new tax
- 11 parent's camp ground lot in Michigan
- 12 West Creek is "just remarkably beautiful property", "hidden gem"
- 13 volunteer clean-up program for West Creek
- 14 bring it back to appearance of original creation
- 15 increase the scope of the original mission
just like RR was the connector for Parma, all the local projects pull the region
- 16 together
- 17 successful by creating partnerships
- 18 change zoning for future trailhead
- 19 businesses buy into Quarry District, more emphasis on partnerships
- 20 West Creek is a blueprint for other projects around the state
- 21 creation of Leval Park, description of Jim Leval
- 22 James A. Leval dedication (captain of Apollo 13 Mission and more)
- 23 work on Leval Park is special memory and was helpful for early political career
- 24 saving Henninger House was a second great memory
- 25 obstacles of saving the Henninger House
- 26 acquiring funds for Henninger House
- 27 NOACA funds become the key to raising money, help from Ohio Historical Society
- 28 buying the Henninger property, moving project up as a political priority
- 29 dealing with the building commissioner, demolition permits issued, strategizing
property is being cared for, goal is to make it a visitor center that community can
- 30 grow around
- 31 Towpath trailhead and on main car thoroughfare
- 32 separating septic and storm drainage
- 33 big announcement from West Creek Committee
- 34 miss the hands-on work with the committee
- 35 work with ODNR, issue 2, brown field money, lobbying
- 36 Metro Parks has helped with the West Creek project
- 37 created legislation with Metro Parks rangers
- 38 problem with the fines for misdemeanors in the park
how the legislation helps the Metro Parks, quiet ways Tim can help with West Park
- 39 as a state representative

40 Tim has not been able to enjoy the park as much as he would like yet
41 share dad's work with his newborn son
42 walking along the banks of the Creek and skipping rocks
43 story of hiking with a constituent
44 constituent teaches representative about other features of the park
45 camping as a kid in Decatur, MI
46 best friends catch frogs and pull pranks, swimming and boating
47 desire to go camping with wife and son to share moments of growing up
48 building the relationship with Joey
49 special place of the Michigan sand dunes
50 true camping, description of Snipe hunting
51 saving Henninger House was the greatest personal success
52 reliving the victory and struggles of the Henninger House
53 look forward to the formal opening of the visitor center
54 history of the quarry and Ohio and Erie canal, became an historian
 struggles, price on house went up, getting others to help, getting council to agree,
55 building commissioner
56 cut his teeth in "hard ball" politics
 miss daily interactions with Dave V, remember the war stories, struggle with
57 receptiveness of legislature
58 West Creek reputation, mayor makes work easier at state house
59 future in legislature, law practice, new father, stay in public office
60 seriousness and respect for the office
61 passion and enthusiasm of the original West Creek partners
62 state funds will go to an interactive nature center, quality of the Metro Parks
63 recognition of the 10th anniversary of the West Creek Committee
64 feeling a part of the success of West Creek
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