

Code:	517018
Subject:	John and Dianne Palivoda
Date:	Thursday June 19th 2008
Interviewer:	Joe Culley
Special Notes:	West Creek Restoration "Grass Roots" hands on retired couple who helped with petitions and construction of wetlands

Minutes:

Name, Personal background, birth 1933 August 26th lived in Cleveland 74  
0 years

His role during project, beginning of the project 5 or 6 people to begin with  
1 petitions Grassroots, getting people to join

Likes the physical aspect of project. Dave Vasarhelyi got people involved. He  
likes physical work and getting things done doesn't care for the paper work.  
City construction people "different type people, Vietnam vets..diverse group  
2 skilled and not so skilled who made the wetlands of West Creek  
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Chronology of involvement word of mouth, word got out about development  
of a golf course, "Flim flam presentation All Roses and No substance" met  
4 Vaserelhis. Very High class! Dianne his wife joins interview.  
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Dianne introduces her self. Involved in petitions. Golf course exclusiveness  
6 100\$ a round of golf.

After first meeting they were hooked. Hooked because of Dave's charisma, he  
knew how to do it, no separation, no higher class, he was a leader, he always  
7 talked with people he had a way of people wanting to help  
8

We did whatever needed to be done, everybody did it. First time he has ever  
done such a project. People didn't even know that the woods area was  
there, we have lived there for 45 years. City owned the land. Bought land  
9 from tv 3 tv stations station 400 acres  
10

Biggest green parcel left in Parma vote passed by 2 to 1. Passed because  
11 people wanted a place to go away from hussle and bussle  
12 Were're tree huggers according to president of parma counsel  
Childhood nature experiences Grew up in tremount Steel era "That was  
nature, zoo only form of nature around him went to a summer day camp  
13 Rockefeller park a different park every day.  
14

What changes have occurred. Terry Grayhouse proffessor Tri-C grant to  
15 build a wetlands around 2000

Planting picture in Metro section of the Plain Dealer "hands on" getting in the  
16 mud grandchildren involved Supportive familiy  
Grandchildren don't appreciate as much construction waste dump using  
heavy machinery cleaned it up surveyers laying out wet land, terry tested for  
17 wet land support constructed wter controll devices  
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A lot of fun making water gate mechanism, used pumps to bring water from creek to wet lands lengthy project filled up 2 acres of wet lands then planting  
19 of metro park plants regional non evasive 100 people involved Boy Scouts  
20  
21 No cohesion people wanted to do it

Personal hurdles cooperation of City People common object no personal conflict on task When metro parks took over we were pretty much out of project Not my bag loves hands on West Creek about a million dollar budget it become corporate I go back to the peanut butter and jelly lemonaid stand aspect of the project alot of people from around the country called us the  
22 EPA was a large hurrdle 9 to a year months to make a bridge  
23  
24  
25 Making sure no old Indian artifacts in ground  
No treasures found people seemed to just come to see what we were doing  
26 No problem getting help  
Made a lot of new friends "All new friends" People said it couldn't be done  
27 Dave V new it could be done...John its never done!  
28 Reason for leaving project  
Reminded him too much of like work How has are changed since the  
29 beginning of project more people school field trips  
Lends itself to being a nature center Ponds put in Construction contained to  
30 North end of park  
Seeing more wildlife, coyotes, wild turkey, blue herons, cranes, fox, possum,  
31 beaver (pollution killed themoff)  
Doing away with septic tanks Samall dams to be destroyed for fish to come  
32 up stream  
33 The plans are grand and huge People are totally committed  
34 Tree Huggers not radicals Canal rd building blown up  
Young people will carry it on Proud tells grandchildren planted a buckeye tree  
35 his brother and he  
Life story behind house 52years married story of buying house by woods  
36 Kids story loved the woods  
37 Daiughte and son liboth live near creek they all celebrate park  
Now hearing stories of things they didnd't want to hear Backyard change 100  
38 ft down to creek cross country team gets lost  
cross country team gets lost Proves the story that it can be done when  
39 people say it can't be done  
Son during winter time would surf board with friend with chunks of Ice bow  
40 hunters Diannes brother is police chief  
problem with motorcycles Metro parksd took over that ended horses would  
41 come up into backyard Living in the woods  
Pilliated woodpeckers come up by house Discuss photographs they brought  
42 1997 1998 grader backhoes clearing area  
43 Showing keystone sewer  
44 drilling holes for bridge supports  
45 Watercontrol devices shown manual driven show 9 month bridge  
46 Metro parks will keep this area alive "perpetual motion, there forever"  
47 The highlight conflict free people like me working together it got done

First Mayor didn't believe it The current Mayor is behind project Same people  
48 same interest you can get it done

How did the cooperation occur? Dave Vasarhely set the tone he's a  
49 personable, makes you believe what he believes

Dianne gives her personal background info born highschool met each other  
50 when she was 16 went to Y woods for weiner roasts

Got married after he got back from Korea 1956 Had three kids We lived in  
51 same neighborhood for 50 years all went to Normandy school

Have seen a lot of development Paths are currently all gravel a lot of people  
52 go to Creek

Property values are going to increase for the area Golf course we would  
53 have been in big trouble

54 Wrap Up thanks for coming

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