

Code	517020
Subject:	Barbara Hermes
Date:	19-Jun-08
Interviewer:	Dawn Cancelliere
Special Notes:	Interested citizen and Board Member
Minutes:	

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Barbara Hermes born in NE Germany came to the US in 1954 at age 16 father

1 refugee from Germany

His sister sponsored who lived in Ind. Later lived in Cleveland, now Parma 1967

2 on board of trustees of West Creek volunteers

3 decision significant "out on limb" confluence site purchase

fairly certain they would get funding, but all turned out OK West Creek started

4 with small group citizens

Parma Mayor was in favor of developing & small group wanted to save the parcel

5 She went to a meeting around 1998

Met in a parking lot 10-12 people present core group had meetings, telephone

6 campaign support ballot

7 environmental conservation encouraged involvement, river near house personal

Parma inner ring suburb, natural space every city needs to have a park, natural

8 park not playground beneficial to health

hurdles- city government wanted development applied for Parma Park Advisory

9 Committee

10 paralleled West Creek committee, no budget to work with

persisted wrote grants got funding gained confidence of city government little by

11 little they came around

Ballot passed by 72% encouraged many people some people in reservation

12 wanted to keep area to selves

13 no more ATV's, more rules and regulations

surprised by and energized by" Anything is possible..." If you want something

14 very much just go for it

July 11, 2008 huge warehouse wrecking ball will begin demolition flooding

15 problem in area

goal is to re-naturalize take out concrete wetlands capture stormwater so it will

16 become a park towpath close by

green way all the way through to the towpath trail West Creek part of Metro Parks

17 trust developed with city gvmt

New Mayor Di Pero now in office 2006 300+ acres turned over in a 99 year lease

18 to Metro Parks

after initial chunk preserved where Channel 5 property along Broadview and

19 Ridgewood trust for public land initiated ballot issue

20 money raised ballot initiative passed even though tax increase

partnered with Tri C Terry Greathouse tires asphalt concrete landfill, grant with

21 his help city did work cleared out wetlands

that was in 2000 2003 two acres of wetlands restored that yr volunteers planted

22 wetlands plants cataloged and monitored

23 valuable resource for Ohio EPA data on successful species

24 easier to get grants after successes made more attractive for Metro Parks

Favorite places in West Creek Wetlands frogs and birds sounds, turtles

25 watersnakes and ? Woods can see to downtown

stomping around in the muck and planting plant favorite memory committee
26 working to make connection to towpath trail
27 private lands still an obstacle for continuous greenspace. Must cross I-480
sure that it will happen already re-naturalizing confluence want to look at
28 headwaters that are highly culverted
vision for West Creek Preservation Committee is to be involved in other
29 conservation Bush? Property
conservation easements of natural areas broadening role development of a
30 stewardship center for study of urban watersheds
teaching students nine schools surround reservation collaborative project regional
31 sewer district
32 West creek and Metro Parks construction begins in 2009 different then
funding/grants hedinger house trust for public lands some nation some local
33 grants
34 one has to find sources active grant committee
when started still employed college degree in environmental health energized by
35 being able to make an impact retired
36 and gave full attention

37 speaks to school groups volunteers to judge science fair coordinate volunteers
lasting gift to children and grandchildren made us better people once gone
38 difficult to bring back even Parma is lovely
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40 wants to educate children and homeowners about good stewardship
West Creek small tributary larger issue that preserving a small creek essential to
41 our survival clean drinking water

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