

Code:	517024
Subject:	Szpak
Date:	6/19/2008
Interviewer:	Michael King
Special Notes:	
Minutes:	

0 Anthony (Tony) Szpak born in Lakewood (36) moved to West Creek (67)  
1 landfill odors, burning garbage  
2 took on landfill with 2nd child, major allergies-1st contact with city  
  
3 park was a rumor, not going to move, met with mayor-mayor told him to move  
  
4 pursued legal avenues-federal (EPA & Congressman Model), state, and local  
68-69 1st petition 240 signatures and made presentation to Council with little  
5 result  
6 corresponded with environmental agencies, formal complaints  
7 1971-landfill no longer burning, covered trash better  
8 67 many incinerators in homes, rumors of closure  
9 88 Benzene found  
10 11/17/78 land fill closed, EPA involved  
11 water eluence from dump with Benzene, landfill had far reaching impact  
12 landfill was built on the bank of West Creek, 40' high  
13 by '78 six kids, his kids played with David Vasserelli at West Creek  
14 comfortable with situation by early '80's, developers showed some interest  
15 golf course idea, Mayor Boldt very interested  
16  
17 contacted by original owner-says she gave the landfill site to city for a park  
  
18 Parma's charter states that parks shall make up 15% of land, in 80's only 5%  
19 West Creek Committee formed to fight golf course  
20 Kucinich knew many details of Cuyahoga Valley  
21 golf course loses on ballot  
22 Vasserelli is very dynamic, takes leadership  
23 offer to give land to Metroparks accepted  
24  
25 still open drainage flowing into creek  
26  
27 bigger health concerns today, open sewage  
28 much work yet to be done, Winter Wren has comeback to area  
29 Metropark almost shifted who plan due to wren  
30 Metroparks doing good job at access to parks without damaging nature  
31 Cuya Hospital landfill releasing hospital waste  
32 hiked to confluence last week saw 25 Coho and trout  
33 Ridgewood Golf Courseman made, not natural but has many fox and owls  
34 St. Columbkille many crows, Szpak now 72 years old, slower pace  
35 many people involved, happy with results  
36 Vasserelli agent for positive change  
37 golf courses are major polluters  
38 original owner of land should be contacted  
all of Szpak's copies handed over to National Parks, reading of Parma Post  
39 article 6/70  
40 reading of article