

<b>Code</b>	517025
<b>Subject</b>	Bob Eckardt
<b>Date</b>	6/23/2008
<b>Interviewer</b>	Karen Grindall
<b>Special Notes</b>	Cleveland Foundation, Cuyahoga Valley National Park

minutes:

- 0 Introduction, Bob Eckardt of Cleveland Foundation
- 26 years at Cleveland Foundation; Foundation's first involvement in creation of
- 1 National Park
- Foundation made grants for trust for public land for park; perceived as high risk
- 2 grant
- No one was sure if grants could get through Congress; idea of National Park in
- 3 urban setting unusual
- cooperation needed from Cleveland and Akron, which was not easy; focus has
- 4 grown and changed
- 5 Foundation is more regional than in past years
- Education Center: providing one of original grants for renovation of property; one
- 6 few grants were board got a lot of opposition, from neighbors
- Neighbor's concerns of nature center turned out to be invalid; summer arts
- 7 program
- 8
- Foundation provides scholarship support; relationship between park and national
- 9 park association
- 10 National Park Association critical in providing funds, processing legal work
- Business models for parks; Share Our Strength in D.C. important for business
- 11 model for park
- 12
- 13 Eckardt was "out doors" kid; background is in public healthcare
- 14 learned grant writing for environmental space, education
- 15 Country Side Initiative;
- Park had to decide how to utilize the park land, let grow wild, or maintain it with
- 16 vistas and working farms? Reintroduced farming in park; now model park
- 17 Little experience leasing park land; not sure if it would be economically feasible
- 18 process took longer than expected
- 19 Foundation money supported managers for the project; lease development
- 20
- complicated negotiations for how farms would be implemented; park has become
- 21 low risk over time (financially)
- 22 Reagan Administration threatened urban national parks
- Foundation won leadership award for creation of national park; other lakefront
- 23 parks
- 24 People and vision critical in success of park
- Foundations cannot take positions in elections for candidates or bills; Foundations
- 25 can do a lot of conveying
- Foundation strong in building strong local political support; view role as being
- 26 leader on important issues beyond funding
- 27
- 28 Foundation provides number of funds to support local school scholarships
- Foundation has three part mission: build community endowment; support
- 29 community projects; provide leadership
- 30 Foundation first community foundation in country

31  
32 history of other projects Foundation was involved in  
33 currently major funder for public land  
34 Trust for Public Land; land protection  
35 Trust for Public Land: holds funds for future development; tow path project  
36 Tow Path Trail; hope to bring to downtown; future proposed routes for trail  
37  
38 changes in proposal process to help grant applicants  
39  
40 more collaboration in Ohio than in other parts of the country; joint review of  
41 proposals  
42 Foundation community is well diversified to provide for many different needs  
43  
44 Foundation has advantage of taking the "long term" view of what the community's  
45 needs are  
46  
47 Foundation's support helped bring in smaller, local support  
48 Reputation of funders is critical to continued support for funding  
49 Thousands of individuals accounts for funding are managed  
50 Foundation has to change purpose of funding over time and changing needs  
51  
52 challenge to avoid the "dead hand of charity" i.e. anticipating future needs  
53 Foundation work on national park was one of first steps beyond county  
54 Foundation now organized around regions  
55 Eckardt's motivations for joining Foundation  
56 Eckardt's background in Foundation work  
57 People in foundation work have to be flexible to be successful  
58  
59 most people at Foundation have non-profit background  
60