

Code	517042
Subject	Irv and Dorothy Hazel
Date	Jun 25, 2008
Interviewer	Michael Kula
Special Notes	Amy Sumen was the Tech.

minutes:

Introduction Irv and Dorothy Hazel, married 47 years, members West
0 Creek. Involvement in Memorial Park-Justice Center
Public reaction to Justice Center, many who tried to save woods and
1 prevent Justice Center
only 70 trees were supposed to be cut, but became a clear cut in Justice
2 Center area
always concerned with environment, voting reflected that. In 1950's Mayor
Cater efforts to designate wood behind Memorial Hall to memory of
3 deceased veterans,
Park area designated by city, but area chosen to build Justice Center on,
total apathy by Parma residents to Plain Dealer articles about the Justice
4 Center
objections to jail being built in residential area, lawsuit brought to Ohio
5 supreme court forced Justice Center plans put on ballot
6 money spent by city to convince voters Justice Center good idea
7 opposing viewpoints to Justice Center
8 more concern by residents after the trees came down
9 support by residents, but lack of contributions of time and money
The beginnings of West Creek Movement, educating people to importance
10 of green space
support of city council, mayor, residents as a result of education people
11 know what needs to be done to protect green space
"the silent majority gained a voice, they were no longer silent" Dave
12 Vasserelli's influence on group
Rationale for Justice Center location, city council's ability to void
13 ordinances which would have protected Veteran's Memorial Park
Hazel's objections to jail being located near schools, homes, and
14 ParmaTown
Justice center publicity aroused public interest, West Creek Golf course
controversy, Issue 22 would have preserved park, created trails and
15 renovate school for muni building-Issue failed
6,000 signatures were found in 10 days to initiate rewritten Issue 22 to
16 protect park land in West Creek area
72% of Voter supported Issue 22, which changed attitude of mayor and
17 council to support West Creek Preservation
Why Issue 22 finally passed, members who educated people and obtained
18 petition signatures

issue designated land to remain undeveloped, no cost to taxpayers;
19 Gannett Broadcasting offer to sell land ath Broadview and Ridgewood Dr.
Parma residents voted to increase taxes to purchase Gannett land to keep
20 it from developers
21 too much retail in Parma, survey done regarding surplus of retail area,
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proposed destruction of land as impetus for creation of West Park. Other communities which West Creek runs through and their parks and green
23 space
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25 Partnerships between Parma and other communities. Trail connections
Shift in attitude towards environment, more involved in taking care to
26 protect it. People from all walks of life involved
West Creek supporters are passionate because green space is
disappearing, many who supported Justice Center are now supportive of
27 group's efforts
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29 West Creek board involved in Big Creek watershed initiative, larger than
challenges to West Creek, more land needs to be purchased to preserve
30 creek
clean up of pollution in West Creek, causes of pollution, too many
31 chemicals on lawns, careless of trash
future of West Creek in 50-100 years, population increase and its
32 problems, humans destroy habitat
33 constant vigilance needed to preserve green areas
34 West Creek achievements
35 groups and individuals who have helped efforts of West Creek

36 importance of wetland ordinance in Parma, Debbie Lime deserves credit
37 how people heard about West Creek: Council meetings and newspaper
38 Timeline of West Creek activities
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Why Gund Grant was a watershed moment: first major grant other
40 partners; Cleveland Foundation
Irv Hazel's concerns for future generations and how children learn about
41 environment
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The value of a natural classroom "they have left that classroom, but it has
43 never left them"
44 now kid's have technogadgets instead of meadows
45 humans are losing connection with nature
46 consumption versus preservation,
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48 primitive societies recognize they are part of nature

49 Chief Seattle "we did not weave the web of life, we are simply a strand in it"
50 time on earth is a sojourn, we are not here to "trash the place"

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