

Code	902006
Subject	nancy king smith, executive director of shaker lakes nature center
Date	6/28/2006
Interviewer	unknown
Abstract	Nancy King Smith, Executive Director of the Shaker Lakes Nature Center, discusses her personal and official involvement with the Center. Interview contains considerable information about fundraising campaigns, capital improvements, organizational structure, recreational and educational programming, and public outreach.

minutes:

- 902006A:
- 0 introduction and background
 - 1 shaker lakes nature center, involvement
 - 2 mission
 - 3 family visits
 - 4 shaker lakes nature center, docent training
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 - 6 anecdote about "foraging" for lunch
 - 7 shaker lakes nature center in the "early 80s", staffing
 - 8 expansion projects and programming
 - 9 promoting the center in cooperation with local realtors
 - 10 shaker lakes nature center, event: Party in the Park
 - 11 "a big community block party"
 - 12 fundraising
 - 13 [12:30] Boardwalk construction project, wheelchair accessibility
 - 14 commitments to other community groups
 - 15 shaker lakes nature center, educational programming
 - 16
 - 17 term as executive director, getting the position
 - 18
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 - 20 organizational restructuring
 - 21
 - 22
 - 23 infrastructure improvements
 - 24 developing the board of directors
 - 25 staffing changes
 - 26
 - 27 infrastructure improvements
 - 28
 - 29
 - 30 raising funds, building "green"
 - 31 Sept. 11th, 2001: recession briefly disrupts construction plans
 - 32
 - 33 "green buildings"
 - 34 challenges and risks related to new technology
 - 35
 - 36 One Tree project
 - 37 Visitor Center, purpose; Doane Brooke Watershed education
 - 38

39 larger classrooms
40 educational programming
41
42 "what cleveland heights schools wanted drove a lot of [changes to the program]"
43 Environmental Town Halls
44 [43:30]events: Benefit on the Bridge (fund-raiser), Bug Bash ("friend-raiser")
45
46
47 other events: Enchanted Forest (Halloween alternative), Celebration of Lights (winter solstice celebration)
48
49 maintaining environmental standards and wildlife habitat
50
51 educational programming
52 community support and community outreach
53 "there's still a lot of work to be done"
54 Dyke 14 Nature Preserve, an educational and ecological resource
55 unmet maintenance needs
56 term as executive director
57 administrative changes
58 financial challenges
59

902006B:

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2 generating support for capital campaign and building project
3 successes (building projects, doane brooke watershed project, other programs)
4 difficult times (construction delays, financial and staffing losses)
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6 hopes for future development
7 capitalizing on the history of the shaker lakes nature center
8
9 environmental education, state educational standards regarding experiential learning
10 no serious disruption during construction
11 criteria for board of directors
12 first impression of shaker lakes
13
14 Institute of Earth Education (?): "focused on the mystical"
15 importance of environmental education, esp. experiential
16 [answering inaudible questions]
17 Environmental Town Hall, concept
18 Doane Brooke Watershed program, description
19 conforming to state educational standards
20
21 importance of environmental education
22 [21:50] "we're a long way from having a totally educated population"
23 balancing topical programming with unprogrammed use of the lakes
24 making environmentally responsible choices
25
26 technology, capitalism, and the environment
27 nature provides models for alternative technology

28 importance of preserving a naturalistic space within an urban area
29
30
31 "special moments" at the nature center
32 end