

Code	517055
Subject	Bridget Garvin
Date	6/24/2008
Interviewer	Jed McKnight
Special Notes	Akron Public Library; Microphone problems with slipping; two tracks

minutes:

Executive Director of Cascade Locks Park Association; grew up
0 in Toledo with woods
creek; siblings; memories of being in water; spy on golfers;
1 rope swing
2 Mom: "don't go in the water" glass on bottom

inspired by sister, an environmentalist; John Carroll:
3 Sociology & Environmental Studies; directs projects & goals

works with partners, volunteers and communications; Preserve,
4 Protect, Promote: Mission; develop, educate, programming
Cascade: staircase of locks, 16 in 1 mile; John Sieberling;
5 canal is why business was there
Sieberling- congressman that designated as National Park; CLP
in Metro Parks of Summit County: develop southern end of
6 Cascade; partner with NP: canalway

Benefits: urban parks are essential outlet; recreation/ well
7 being, knowledge, mental soundness, access into nature
push to move downtown: parks and trail; workers downtown use
8 trail; connect city with the valley and CVNP

Passion: bridge gap of urban areas with environment: curbed
9 suburban sprawl

Masters at Cleveland State in Environmental Studies at College
of Urban Affairs; Milestones: Cascade Locks as "non-profit
10 entity",

milestone: 1996 designation of canalway, 2000 Mustill House
11 and Store, 2006 trail through Park

Bridge installed to link downtown; major goal to link to city;
12 over Rt. 59 innerbelt

location of Mustill House: corner of North and Howard;

13 Hurdles: Money

persevering to convince people why important; project not
14 controversial

fundraising overwhelming; economy not as good anymore, grants
15 harder: get creative; Summit County foundations

OECA(Ohio Erie Canal Assoc.) donation was greatest surprise
16 donation

Big Picture: not just a park/walking trail; affect on city and
17 economy; move back; talent stays: competitive city

Big push to stop "brain drain" Mayor Plusqualic now "gets it":
18 support

19 Virginia Wojnoforney saw value of Mustill Property

Wojnoforney started it all: parties and getting people
20 interested
Godmother; still looked to for leadership and guidance; Garvin
21 arrived in 2001 after Jen Maurer
goal: get Schumacher site down, after park: community roles,
22 programming
neighborhood ownership; continue to develop area around park;
23 future fundraising won't be a challenge
Cascade Mill Site: Schumacher Mill Site ; Ferdinand Schumacher; empire to Quaker
24 Oats
Art piece of waterwheel; history panels; biggest openspace,
25 gateway to park
Mill site will open to major intersection for traffic into
26 park; stage, programs, music in park
future is the trail: walk, run, bike, Mustill store, picnic,
27 cleanups; history
connection of trail to bridge in August; go to Canal Park,
28 Civic Theater, Lock 2, Lock 3
different experience of natural environment you don't get
along towpath trail; interpretive panels along trail to learn
29 about canalway; future visitor center downtown
History is secondary but developing: Akron history is
30 fascinating; park drives her
project drives her: different people and hits different areas:
31 historians, towpath recreation, urban development
favorite history fact: 75 ft. change in elevation; "going down
32 to Cleveland" 400 feet
Cleveland and Akron working together more because of canalway;
changed landscape: towpath trail to get access to canal(oasis
33 in urban area)
favorite place: lock 11 after crossing bridge looking up at
34 city skyline
neighborhood around Mustill: they need to get them involved;
35 appreciation
benefit; CLPA will engage more after projects complete;
36 regular business interaction: more have come around
Business gatherings to communicate; many foundations of
37 support listed
many foundations of support listed; Mustill almost exclusive foundation and partner
38 support
39 Schumacher site \$ 1.5 mill. (\$502,000 so far)
Beach street site \$3 mill, other trail \$1 mill... \$8-\$10 mill
40 total 1989-2010

future of Bridget Garvin non profit employee sometimes needs
41 to move on: like programs in sight however: "next project"
neighborhood programs: block party, target groups for a day,
42 "Get up Get out, Go!"
43 Get up Get out, Go!: fun for kids
story of being hired: internship with NPS, exit project on
public/private partnerships of the corridor; Tom Long;
44 "mistake of future in nonprofit work"

