

Code	517059
Subject	Christine Freitag
Date	6/24/2008
Interviewer	Rhonda Yaxley
Special Notes	

minutes:

- 0 Born May 21, 1934, lived in Akron area all life, brief time husband Bob lived in Pittsburgh
1 grew up in Cuyahoga valley, Ghent, OH, rode horse up Portage Path
Turkeyfoot Island, Education, Bath School, Old Trail, Randolph College, Virginia,
2 English/Fine Arts degree
Volunteer all life, assisted husband hazardous waste company, Member of long range
3 planning Sept-March 2007-08
invasive plant pulls advocate of water management in park, Kevin needs to take
4 residence of community to the trustee meetings
5 vocal to John Debo, committee for advocacy may be a result of her speaking up
Cuyahoga National Park Association board advisory committee, controlled by trustees,
6 Bob Hunker
storm water solution, more advocacy, take action, need to get more people involved, look
7 at list of people from park groups
1974 Conservation Chairperson of League of Woman voters and Jr. League, aware of
want happening in community, adore Sieberling, park important, wrote to legislators 1973
8 on has been involved
1990-1992 President of Cuyahoga Valley " Friends group" John Debo great vision
9 "looking beyond the park", hired Peg Bobble, completing railway
- 10 Personal milestones, pres. Of Garden Club of America, working with all woman group
long two years of room of women CEO's, started Scenic Ohio organization, ugly sound
11 walls and digital billboards
proud of Akron's 1st non-concrete, vegetative sound wall, Center interchange towards 59,
12 proven to be effective, funded from enhancement funding
decibels tests prove natural sound barriers, working to declare vegetative area as a
13 sound wall now
- 14 invasive plants are a huge problem, Eddy Dengg now works for Natural Land conservancy
variety of garden groups, people inventory of plants in Stumpy Basin and Ledges, garlic
15 mustard has taken over the world
commercial license to spray to keep program going with "Round Up, and volunteers,
16 praise for farmers market in Peninsula
park is weak on natural resource leadership, need plant biologists , Mike Johnson
17 mowing spreads invasive, divisions do not work together
park needs a plant manager, Park knows but inflexibility to make in house changes, poor
18 leadership in Washington
- 19 Loves the special area, little park near covered bridge, created to honor John Sieberling
20 Old Trail School partnership with Cuyahoga Valley adopting gardening program
21 sharing of Old Trail experiences
22 Old Trail before becoming preK-8 school, daughters Tina and Amy
23 sharing of dragging children places and how they influence
24 Ledges and Stump Basin valuable rare plants, Akron Garden Club
all roadsides of park need assistance, Park needs a plant biologist, her father biggest
25 influence

growing up had WWII Victory Garden., relates stories of childhood: pollywogs, plucking
26 chickens, shares brothers
Akron City Planning Commission for 12 years, land use planning, balance between open
27 space & city space, manage empty buildings, mayor done nice job
28 getting more people outside, towpath, weekends bicycle traffic can be a problem
Advocacy committee 2004: Tom Jenkins (chairman), Peter Henderson, Robert Hunker,
29 Sandra Smith, Kathy Vandamere, John Seiberling, and Christine
Summit County Friends of Metropark start 1991 to pass levy, website list of legislators,
writing, advocacy, current goals, six grants by Oct. 2008, \$12,000 for matching funds,
bring more children, into parks, talked about current project at Camp Christopher for sixth
30 graders
31 6th graders love the Nature Realm, trial program spring 2008

32 information about park experience for inner city school children, trial program this year
33 schools do not have funding for outdoor programs,

34 information about Nature Realm renovations, get people to parks but want to be outside
Friends of Metropark present focus, less involved in Scenic Ohio, goal to get young
35 people involved and on board
36 recommend talking to Peggy Boble, Bob Hunker
Member of alumni council Old Trail School, impressed with school, past graduates
37 brought in to talk to students
38 Building campus of Old Trail school in park area, lesson in conservation

39 Old Trail taught her how to write, well prepared, skill used writing grants and in college
40 information about efforts grant writing, Keith Shay
parks need more input in development around park, meetings, water management, you
41 can have an impact
property in Bath, drain a pond to fracture well, help of Natural History specialist for rare
42 plants, her involvement influenced
husband very supportive involved with park issues, political comments, environment
43 importance
1st president of Friends 1991, now treasurer citizens group sponsor STOMP, Summer
44 Tour of MetroParks
Many wonderful moments, most recent 20th anniversary celebration for John Debo June
45 2008
Take Action - You can create a network, know facts, perceived as accurate, follow
46 through, don't be afraid to speak out!
47 Write the letter, let them know how you feel about things!!
48 Land Use Plan of Akron has been used, not sitting on self
49 closing comments about Oral History experience and River, Roads and Rails
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