

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 24, 2009**

A special meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held on September 24, 2009 at The Affelder House in Russell Township, Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. President Robert McCullough was in the Chair. Board member John Leech was present. Board member Mark Rzeszotarski was absent.

Employees present:
Tom Curtin, Executive Director
Keith McClintock, Deputy Director

Visitors Present:
Sheriff Daniel McClelland
Bev McClelland
Chief Deputy Scott Hildenbrand

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Leech moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting.
Mr. McCullough seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Dr. Rzeszotarski	Absent
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Mr. Leech	Yes

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

There were no minutes presented for adoption.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Tom Curtin introduced Sheriff Daniel McClelland and his wife, Bev McClelland, and Chief Deputy Scott Hildenbrand.

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

There were no financials presented.

PRESENTATION OF VOUCHERS

There were no vouchers presented for approval.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

No communications to the Board were presented.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Communications Proposal Discussion

The Board met with Sheriff Daniel McClelland and Chief Deputy Scott Hildenbrand to discuss the proposal for a public safety radio tower at Frohring Meadows Park in Bainbridge Township.

Mr. Curtin presented a letter from the Geauga County Board of Commissioners requesting that Geauga Park District approve the placement of a public safety radio tower at Frohring Meadows Park. Mr. Leech asked why the preferred location for the tower is on public property as opposed to private property. Sheriff McClelland stated that the proposed location is excellent because 1) it will provide the needed coverage to “fill-in” communication dead zones 2) it is within an existing utility corridor with high-tension power lines 3) it would save money over the option of leasing/purchasing private property and 4) he believes the proposed location would have the least intrusive impact on the community and neighboring properties. Sheriff McClelland further stated that this tower is needed or else they would not be seeking permission from Geauga Park District (in that the tower will provide communication coverage for the new Judson Retirement Community, Chagrin Falls Park, and other dead-zones in the community).

Mr. McCullough asked how the Sheriff determined Frohring Meadows to be the best location for the tower. Sheriff McClelland stated that his office uses a computer software application to determine tower locations. He stated that they have successfully used this program in the past and that it has worked well and proven to be extremely accurate.

Mr. Leech asked if there were any problems with locating the tower adjacent to CEI’s high-tension tower lines. Sheriff McClelland stated that there is no interference in the co-location of the tower and the high-tension lines, and that CEI has not voiced any concerns.

Mr. McCullough asked if the base of the tower would be fenced. Sheriff McClelland stated that it would be. The fence would cover an area about 100’ by 100’ in size at the base of the tower. Mr. McCullough asked if Geauga Park District staff would have access to the enclosed area. Sheriff McClelland stated that GPD would be granted access. Mr. McCullough asked if a bird nesting platform could be sighted on the tower. Sheriff McClelland stated that as long as the manufacturer does not have a problem with nesting platforms, he would be in favor of permitting the use.

Mr. Curtin stated that Geauga Park District is concerned about maintaining dark skies and that research conducted by staff at Geauga Park District revealed that technology is now available that turns on tower lights when an airplane is within a certain distance of the tower and turns the lights off when the plane is out of range of the tower. Sheriff McClelland stated that he would look into this technology.

Mr. Curtin presented correspondence from Dr. Mark Rzeszotarski supporting the County Commissioners in their desire to construct a public safety radio tower at Frohring Meadows Park, stating that it will enhance GPD’s Ranger Department communications and will save the county some tax dollars.

Mr. Leech made a motion to approve a lease for the public safety radio tower at Frohring Meadows Park.

Mr. McCullough seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Dr. Rzeszotarski	Absent
Mr. McCullough	Yes
Mr. Leech	Yes

Sheriff McClelland thanked the Board for quick action on this important matter in that it will be of tremendous importance to the safety services of Geauga County. He further stated that he has not received any negative comments in relation to the proposal.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was brought forward for discussion.

COMMISSIONERS' TIME

Nothing was reported.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for executive session.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

Trail Supporters

Mr. Curtin reported that a group of trail supporters are submitting a grant to NOACA to cover development costs for a hike/bike trail study in the Chagrin Falls area. They have requested a letter of support from Geauga Park District and invited a GPD representative to sit on their steering committee. The Board was supportive of this effort.

Lighting at Observatory Park

Mr. Curtin and Chris Lynn met with representatives from Kichler Lighting at Observatory Park to discuss low voltage lighting options. The representatives from Kichler Lighting feel that they can produce the low voltage lighting and fixtures that would be needed for Observatory Park and that a small wind generator could supply enough electricity to run the lights.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOARD

There were no reports from committees of the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

SUNSHINE LAW COMPLIANCE

The rules of the Park Board were complied with by sending notice pursuant to the rules adopted by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas G. Curtin, Executive Director

Robert McCullough, President