

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 23, 2011**

The special meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held on April 23, 2011 at The Affelder House at The West Woods Park, Russell Township, Ohio for the purpose of discussing the future of Geauga Park District. The meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m. President Mark Rzeszotarski was in the Chair. Board members Mr. Leech and Mr. Patterson were present.

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

Visitors Present:
None

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Leech moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting.

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

Mr. Patterson	Yes
Mr. Leech	Yes
Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes

APPROVE OR AMEND MINUTES

No minutes were presented.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

None present.

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

No financial statements were presented.

PRESENTATION OF VOUCHERS

No vouchers were presented.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

There were no communications to the Board presented.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business presented to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

20-Year Vision – Brainstorming

The Board discussed looking at infrastructure and maintenance costs, trail maintenance, future pavement replacement schedules, building maintenance, and the build-out costs for existing parks and park properties as part of the Park's 20-year vision.

Future land acquisitions were discussed and it was decided that land acquisitions would be limited to a short list of desired properties and the acquisition of acreage contiguous to existing parks, where appropriate. The Board also discussed the possibility of opening up existing park lands to the public. Efforts would be made to explore ways to connect existing properties and provide links between parks. In addition, the Park District will rely on partnerships with local agencies to protect private lands and assist with public land funding.

The Board discussed the many benefits of parks beyond simple visitation, such as healthy living, water protection, open space preservation, and increased property values.

Personnel Philosophy

The Board discussed preparing for future attrition and staffing needs.

Projects: Five Years and Beyond

The Board showed an interest in looking at the following projects over the next five years:

- Observatory Park (shelter, trails and possible camping).
- Ellerin Property (shelter, restroom and trails).
- Play trails for children.
- Development of a parking lot, shelter and restroom along The Maple Highlands Trail at the Hyde/Kaplan property.
- Maple Highlands Trail, North and South.

Equipment Philosophy

The current equipment replacement policy was reviewed and discussed. The Board asked for a financial analysis of the vehicle replacement policy and associated maintenance costs.

Programming Philosophy

The Board expressed an interest in continuing with major exhibits every two to three years, hosting art exhibits, and developing smaller displays which highlight unique aspects of the Park District.

They also discussed ways to encourage park visitation, i.e., promoting health and fitness, continuing the use of social media to reach the community, expanding programming to weeknights and weekends for working parents, emphasizing field trips, providing park tours for Seniors and constructing "play trails" (playground implements on trails to stimulate children and encourage trail use).

Budget Projections

The Board discussed the budget projections for 2011-19. Projects for 2012-13 include Observatory Park Phase IV improvements and trails, and the renovation of the CWRU Nassau Observatory (dependant on private funding).

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

There were no reports from committees of the Board.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOARD

There were no reports from Officers and Employees of the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

SUNSHINE LAW COMPLIANCE

It is declared that notification of this meeting and any business conducted therein by the Geauga Park District Board of Commissioners was in compliance with Ohio's Sunshine Laws.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas G. Curtin, Executive Director

Dr. Mark Rzeszotarski, President