

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
April 26, 2012**

A work session of the Geauga Park District Board was held on April 26, 2012 at the Donald W. Meyer Center, Chardon, Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. President James Patterson was in the Chair. Commissioners John Leech and Michael Petruziello were present.

Employees Present:

Thomas Curtin, Executive Director
Keith McClintock, Deputy Director
Kathy Hanes, Executive Secretary
Dan Best, Senior Naturalist
Joel Firem, Land Steward
Linda Gilbert, NRM Tech
Tami Gingrich, Field Naturalist
Paige Hosier, Marketing & Administrative Services Dir.
Bob Lange, Land Steward
John Oros, Operations Director
Michele Pennell, Chief Financial Officer
Paul Pira, Natural Resource Management Director
Sandy Ward, Communications Specialist

Guests:

John Paul Seman, USDA
Tom Stanley
Caleb Wellman, USDA

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

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

Mr. Petruziello	Yes
Mr. Patterson	Yes
Mr. Leech	Yes

WORK SESSION WITH NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (NRM) DEPARTMENT

Department Overview

After introductions, each staff member explained his/her job within the department. Paul Pira, NRM Director, then gave a presentation describing the history, mission and overall responsibilities of the department.

Raccoon Management Program

Caleb Wellman of the USDA gave a presentation on raccoon management. Mr. Wellman stated that the raccoon population in Ohio has increased 800% in the past 20 years. Trapping of raccoons at The Rookery took place during the summer of 2011 as part of the regional spotted turtle restoration program. A total of 88 raccoons were trapped and removed by officials from the USDA. As a result of the program, area researchers have observed an increase in the number of spotted turtle hatchlings at The Rookery.

The Commissioners asked for clarification on "non-native" vs. "native" species and a discussion ensued on the philosophical differences surrounding the management of natural resources. After some discussion, the Board agreed to continue the Raccoon Management program through 2012.

Mr. Patterson made a motion to continue the USDA Raccoon Management Program through 2012. Mr. Leech seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Petruziello	Yes
Mr. Patterson	Yes
Mr. Leech	Yes

Deer Management Program

John Oros, Director of Operations, provided an overview of the Park District's wildlife management policy. He explained that the policy's intent is to sustain healthy wildlife populations recognizing the goal of establishing balanced ecosystems and maintaining maximum biodiversity.

He reviewed the history of deer management and described data collection methods utilized to determine deer populations in specific parks.

After some discussion, the Board agreed to approve the deer management program for 2012.

Mr. Leech made a motion to approve the Deer Management Program for 2012.

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

Mr. Petruziello	Yes
Mr. Patterson	Yes
Mr. Leech	Yes

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF RANGER

Mr. Curtin updated the Board on the employment of Scott Wilson as the new Chief Ranger. He is replacing current Chief Robert Urban who is scheduled to retire on May 31, 2012.

A discussion followed with Mr. Petruziello questioning the hire. Mr. Patterson and Mr. Leech indicated they were satisfied with the hiring of Mr. Wilson.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:48 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 Curtin, Executive Director

James Patterson, President