

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
May 10, 2012**

A work session of the Geauga Park District Board of Park Commissioners was held on May 10, 2012 at The West Woods Nature Center, Russell Township, Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 1:03 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
Judy Bradt-Barnhart, Nature Education Coordinator
Teresa Runion, Special Events Coordinator
Diane Valen, Naturalist Services Director

Guests:

None

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

NEW BUSINESS

Work Session with the Naturalist Department

Mr. Patterson provided background on the reason for the work session (to delve deeper into the various aspects of the Park District and its departments).

Diane Valen thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to meet with them and introduced the following staff members: Dan Best, Judy Bradt-Barnhart, and Teresa Runion. Ms. Valen distributed a copy of the Naturalist Department's Annual Plan of Operations for the Board to review. She covered the various aspects of the Naturalist Department, including program/visitor services, arts and special events, outside collaborations, exhibits and displays, and program development/implementation. Ms. Valen discussed the addition of the "Ask a Naturalist" section to the GPD web page. Mr. Petruziello stated it would be nice to catalogue the inquiries and answers.

Ms. Valen entered into a discussion on school programming. She mentioned how some school teachers are giving extra credit for students who supplement their learning by attending park programs. She then explained how communications are made to school teachers, superintendents and school board members. Mr. Curtin stated that individual school and class involvement with GPD programs is directly influenced by teacher involvement and interest.

Ms. Valen explained the NatureScopes program, programming for special groups (such as scouts, senior citizens, recreational boards, The Chip Henry Institute) and also provided a summary of the EZ-GO Cart Series. The next "big exhibit" concept was discussed. The Naturalist Department would like to see smaller scale exhibits on a more frequent basis. The concept of play areas and playgrounds were discussed.

At the end of the meeting, the remainder of the available naturalist staff was introduced: Chris Mentrek, Wayne Kriynovich, Nora Sindelar, Dottie Mathiott, Denise Wolfe, and John Kolar.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 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