

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 16, 2012**

The special meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held on October 16, 2012 at the Donald W. Meyer Center, Chardon, Ohio to discuss Clarification of Levy Intent, Resolution No. 42-12 and Election Commission Complaint Findings. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. President James Patterson was in the Chair. Commissioner Michael Petruziello was present. Commissioner John Leech was absent.

Employees Present:

Tom Curtin, Executive Director
Keith McClintock, Deputy Director
Anna McDonald, Executive Secretary
Kathy Hanes, Executive Secretary
Paige Orvis, Marketing & Admin Services Director
Sandy Ward, Communications Specialist
Diane Valen, Naturalist Services Director

Guests:

John Karlovec, *Geauga County Maple Leaf*

Board President James Patterson reviewed the guidelines regarding public input at Park Board meetings.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Board adopted the Revised Agenda by unanimous consent. Mr. Patterson reviewed the two items to be discussed:

- 1) Clarification of Levy Intent, Resolution No. 42-12
- 2) Election Commission Complaint Findings

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

John Karlovec of the *Geauga County Maple Leaf* was recognized.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS

Clarification of Levy Intent, Resolution No. 42-12

The Board was presented with Resolution No. 42-12, which provides clarification of the Park District's intent regarding the Levy currently on the ballot. Mr. Patterson confirmed the Board's intent as outlined in the Resolution.

Mr. Petruziello made a motion to approve Resolution No. 42 -12.

Whereas Geauga Park District has two operating levies which are scheduled to expire at the end of 2012: one 1-mill 20-year levy voted in 1992 for tax year 1993 and one 1-mill 18-year levy passed in 1995;

Whereas it is Geauga Park District's intent to ask voters to maintain support of the District, but do not wish to overburden tax payers by asking for additional funds;

Whereas the two levies currently collect, at 100% collections, combined revenue of \$3,665,875.00 and cost owners of a home with \$100,000 market value \$36.44 annually.

Whereas, if the 1-mill replacement levy is passed, at 100% collections, it will collect revenue of \$2,982,831.00 and cost owners of a home with \$100,000 market value \$30.63 annually.

Whereas, if the 1995 levy were permitted to expire, the proposed scenario would result in an estimated reduction of net revenue, at 100% collections, of \$683,044.00 and would result in reduced taxes by \$5.80 annually for owners of a home with \$100,000 market value;

Whereas, these calculations have been verified by the Geauga County Auditor, Frank J. Gliha;

Whereas, Geauga Park District Board of Park Commissioners has placed the 1993 levy on the November 6, 2012 ballot as a 1-mill, 20-year replacement levy, commencing in 2013, first due in calendar year 2014;

Whereas, the purpose of the replacement levy is for “preserving, protecting, operating, maintaining, improving, and acquiring lands and parks;”

Therefore be it resolved, the Board of Park Commissioners declares it will allow the 1-mill levy passed in 1995 to expire and will not seek renewal or replacement of that levy.

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

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

Election Commission Complaint Findings

Mr. Curtin reported the results of the October 15th Ohio Elections Commission hearing on the complaint filed against the Geauga Park District and People for Parks. The Ohio Elections Commission reviewed campaign literature, asked questions of Mr. Curtin and Mr. Ondrey (GPD legal counsel), and found that the Park District’s message has been consistent with the Park District’s intent to reduce taxes. The Elections Commission found no probable cause to the complaint, and dismissed it in its entirety.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 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 F. Patterson, President