GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS BOARD MEETING MINUTES October 9, 2012

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held on October 9, 2012 at the Donald W. Meyer Center, Chardon, Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 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
Anna McDonald, Executive Secretary
Kathy Hanes, Executive Secretary
Dan Best, Senior Naturalist
Gloria Freno, Accountant
Paige Orvis, Marketing & Admin. Services Director
Robin Pilarczyk, Human Resources Manager
Eileen Smith, Administrative Services Coordinator
Sandy Ward, Communications Specialist
Scott Wilson, Chief Ranger
Dennis Sloan, Ranger
Michelle Pennell, Chief Financial Officer
Diane Valen, Naturalist Services Director
Barb Emch, Administrative Assistant

Guests:

Glen Miller, *The Geauga Maple Leaf*Iola Skinner, GPD Volunteer
Nora Stanton, Ohio Horseman's Council
Linda Golding, Ohio Horseman's Council
John Augustine

Sandy Woolf, Union Chapel Trustee

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A revised agenda was presented to the Board, adding item n. Auditor's Schedule B.

Mr. Petruziello moved to adopt the agenda, as revised, for the meeting.

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

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Petruziello moved to accept the minutes of September 11, 2012 as written.

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Curtin welcomed GPD staff, GPD Volunteer Iola Skinner, Linda Golding and Nora Stanton of the Ohio Horseman's Council, John Augustine and other guests in the audience.

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

There were no questions on the financial statement.

Geauga Park Distr FINANCIAL STATEMENT MO		
SEPTEMBER 30, 2012	NIH ENDED	
GENERAL FUND		
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE SEPTEMBER 1, 2012		6,763,123.67
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES		
Personnel	220,892.67	
Medicare	3,175.58	
Dental /Hospitalization	40,158.96	
PERS (Aug payment)	32,701.42	
Transfer to Land Improvement Fund	750,000.00	
Vouchers	60,460.76	
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES		1,107,389.39
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES		
General Tax Collections		
- Real Estate Tax	5,370.98	
- State Reimburse Tax	418,285.50	
<u>Investment Income</u>	475.10	
<u>Gifts & Donations</u>	1,364.20	
- GPD Foundation - Nature Scopes Donation Transfer - \$1,108	.10	
- General Donations - TWW Donation Box - \$106.10		
- Program Donations - \$150.00		
<u>Fees</u>		
- Programs - Schools - Out-of-county	120.00	
- Camping	340.00	
- Shelters	60.00	
- Utility fees	600.00	
- Workshops - General - Public program	104.00	
- Programs - General - Public Program	136.00	
<u>Sales</u>	264.05	
- Tapper's Treasures - MC	264.85	
- Tree Tops - TWW	3,030.82	

<u>Other Receipts</u> - Swine Creek house - Harry	400.00	
- Burton Wetlands house- Kolar	400.00	
- Hyde house - McKinnon	400.00	
- Chickagami house - Mast	400.00	
- Recycling proceeds - Steel/Aluminum	240.32	
- Refunds - Property Tax Refund - St. Mary/Stafford properties	9,297.35	
- Local Government Funds	4,972.73	
- Auction Proceeds - Truck and trailer	6,429.67	
Addition Freecos Track and trailer	0,423.07	
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES		452,691.52
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2012		6,108,425.80
LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND		
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE SEPTEMBER 1, 2012		1,628,275.74
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES		
Vouchers	16,783.93	
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES		16,783.93
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES		
<u>Investment Income</u>	127.69	
Gifts & Donations	60,091.44	
- GPD Foundation Observatory Park Transfer		
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<u>Transfer from General Fund</u>	750,000.00	
<u>Grants Payments -</u> WRRSP Reimbursement Grant - Orchard	22,318.35	
Hills		
Royalties/In-Lieu Fees	1,305.35	
- Farley, Troyer, Kuhns, Kovacs, Hehmeyer, Hart, Sunnybrook, S Stinchcomb	wine Creek,	
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES		833,842.83
		\$ 2,445,334.64

RETIREMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT		
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE SEPTEMBER 1, 2012		\$82,348.59
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES		0.00
Vouchers	0.00	
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES		6.38
<u>Investment Income</u>	6.38	
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2012		\$82,354.97

VOUCHER RESOLUTION NO. 33-12

The Board asked for clarification on two voucher expenditures. All questions were answered satisfactorily.

Mr. Leech moved to adopt Voucher Resolution No. 33-12, a copy of which is on file in the Park District office

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

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Mr. Curtin read a letter from Gary Smith, President of the Astronomy Club of Akron, who toured Observatory Park and the Nassau/Case Observatory with Park Naturalist Wayne Kriynovich. Mr. Smith expressed his thanks to Wayne, the Park District and stated that the experience was "too good to be true."

Mr. Curtin relayed a thank you from Bainbridge Township Police Chief Bokovitz and Safety Town Director Keith Kotab to Dottie Mathiott for her animal puppet presentation at their Safety Town Program.

A thank you from Josh Knights, Director of Ohio Nature Conservancy, was relayed to Geauga Park District for its participation and support of the Natural Treasurers of Ohio sweepstakes. 800 Ohioans entered the sweepstakes with 94 participants visiting Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve. The sweepstakes prize of a Honda Insight hybrid was won by Bill Wilson of Troy, Ohio.

A letter from Middlefield Chamber of Commerce was read thanking the Park District for making the Swine Creek Park lodge available for their annual meeting, and Tom Curtin for participating as a speaker at the event.

A letter from Kathy Hostetler was read, expressing her family's enjoyment of their recent visit to Observatory Park. She stated that Wayne Kriynovich is a 'stellar ambassador' for the facility and thanked the Park District for all it does for the community.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

John Augustine thanked the Board for the opportunity to address his concerns with the upcoming Park District Levy. Mr. Augustine expressed his concern that the levy will not bring in sufficient funds to support the Park District to allow them to purchase additional lands and continue to protect biodiversity. He felt that the Park District should have explored the possibility of renewing current levies to give the voters the opportunity to keep taxes the same, rather than reduce them and, that the public was getting mis-information regarding the proposed levy. The Board stated that they spent considerable time reviewing all departmental operations, current and future, and that they were confident that the Park District could continue to operate and maintain the Park System at the current high level of service with the replacement of one levy, which will decrease taxes for the public. Mr. Patterson thanked Mr. Augustine for his passion and interest in the Park District.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PARK UPDATES

Autumn 2013 – Summer 2014 Exhibit at The West Woods Nature Center

Dan Best, Senior Naturalist, presented the proposed exhibit –"Movin'On!". The objective of the exhibit is to foster appreciation for animal's anatomical abilities for movement. The main exhibit would be housed at The West Woods Nature Center with satellite exhibits at Big Creek and Observatory Parks. Mr. Best used live animals, wind-up toys, stuffed animals and paper creatures as illustrations of how the exhibit will be hands-on and interactive, geared towards pre-schoolers thru seniors. The Board expressed their interest and thanked Mr. Best for his time and efforts.

Meyer Center HAVC System

An electrical engineer will begin work the week of October 15th to insure there is enough power to support the system.

Bridge Inspection

Inspection of Park District bridges will begin Thursday, October 11th and will be conducted by CT Consultants.

Park Warranty Work

Warranty work is continuing at Orchard Hills resulting in the replacement of some pine trees.

The Maple Highlands Trail - North

The Park District has received, and will be signing, the right of entry Agreement from First Energy to allow the GPD group to continue their work on the construction drawings for Maple Highlands Trail North.

Sunnybrook Preserve Vehicle Counter

The Board was provided the Vehicle Counter Data for Sunnybrook Preserve. Mr. Leech expressed interest in receiving reporting on yearly usage trends for all Parks.

Orchard Hills Controlled Deer Management

Mr. Curtin distributed a map showing the location for proposed deer hunting at Orchard Hills Park Preserve Area. Due to the area's location and accessibility, the program will only be offered to neighbors. All participants will be required to complete the Park District's qualification process. The Board discussed the proposal and Mr. Patterson noted Mr. Petruziello's concerns regarding the permitting of hunting on Park property.

Mr. Leech made a motion to allow a full season of controlled deer management at Orchard Hills Park Preserve Area.

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

Electric Bike Update

Mr. Curtin updated the Board on criteria for allowing Electric Bikes on Park trails: 1) travel at less than 20 mph on flat ground without pedaling 2) must have pedals 3) motor must be less than 750 watts 4) are legal on urban bicycle trails that receive Federal Funding. A memo on electric bike usage in the Parks will be presented to the board at a future meeting.

<u>Legal Representation – Request for Proposal (RFP)</u>

Three RFP's were sent out for 2013 Legal Representation for the Park District. One response has been received to date from Peterson and Ibold, who declined.

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT FOUNDATION REPORT

Two representatives from the Cleveland Foundation toured Observatory Park and the Case Observatory. The Cleveland Foundation was an original supporter of the Case Observatory, and both individuals were impressed with the facilities.

CONTRACT REVIEW

There were no items presented for contract review.

NEW BUSINESS

BEARTOWN LAKES PAVING

A proposal was submitted to the Board to approve the paving at Beartown Lakes. The original proposal, slated for 2014, was estimated at \$200,000. By taking advantage of the ODOT Bienium Funding of \$48,530.50 and ODOT pricing, 95% of the project can now be completed for an additional \$30,500.00 in Geauga Park District Funding, resulting in a \$170,000.00 savings to the Park District.

Mr. Leech moved to approve funding of \$30,500.00 for paving at Beartown Lakes.

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

2013 PARK FEE SCHEDULE - RESOLUTION NO. 40-12

Based on public use of the shelters and the utility fees used by patrons from October through April, it is recommended that there be no increase on shelter fees for 2013.

It was determined that no changes were needed to the program, camping and ranger fees schedule.

Mr. Petruziello made a motion to adopt 2013 Park Fee Schedule -Resolution No. 40-12 for the following facility, program, camping and ranger fees:

OUT-OF-COUNTY FACILITIES FEES

Camping -- \$20.00 per site visit

Picnic Shelter -- \$60.00

Lodge Building -- \$100.00 per session

Oak & Cherry Rooms -- \$100.00 Amphitheater -- \$100.00

HEAT FEE

Heat/utility fee -- \$30.00 per session

OUT-OF-COUNTY OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

- **\$2.00 per person** with a minimum fee of \$25.00 per school/group for *Signs of the Season Walks* and other programs.
- \$3.00 per person with a minimum fee of \$25.00 per school/group for *Natural Communities, Geology, and Wetlands.* These programs are more intensive and longer in duration.

OUT-OF-COUNTY INDOOR PROGRAMS

• \$100.00 for speaker programs for passive (seated) audiences.

RANGER DEPARTMENT FEES

Parking Fine -- \$10.00 Handicapped Parking Fine -- \$25.00

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

BOARD MEETING DATES

2013 Board Meeting dates were presented to the Board for approval.

Mr. Leech moved to approve the 2013 dates for the Board Meetings.

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

2013 CONTRACTS

2013 opening year contracts were presented to the Board. The Board asked for clarification on a few of the contracts. All questions were answered satisfactorily. No action by the board was required.

^{*}Mandatory heat fee from October 15th through April 1st -- applies to in county and out-of-county reservations.

2013 RENTAL HOUSE FEES – RESOLUTION NO. 36-12

The current monthly rate for each of the four Park District rental houses is \$400 per month. The rent more than covers the taxes and it is recommended to keep the rent at \$400 per month. The Board agreed to maintain the rental rates for 2013.

Mr. Leech made a motion to adopt 2013 Rental House Fees – Resolution No. 36-12.

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 Yes

PERSONAL LEAVE POLICY 412.1 – RESOLUTION NO. 35-12

A change in policy language to Personal Leave Policy 412.1 pertaining to when Personal Leave is issued and paid was put before the Board for approval. Questions regarding the policy were asked by the Board and satisfactorily answered.

Mr. Leech made a motion to adopt amended language in Personal Leave Policy 412.1 – Resolution No. 35-12 as follows:

"This leave must be used between the date it is given and the last day of the last pay period in October of the following year."

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

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

OBSERVATORY PARK – VERTICAL AXIS WIND TURBINE (VAWT)

A proposal was put to the Board for approval to purchase a VAWT for Observatory Park. Three Requests for Proposals (RFP) were sent out and 2 proposals were received. It is recommended that this proposal be awarded to Wind Turbines of Ohio, Inc. This recommendation is based on the following:

- The submitted proposal has been reviewed and determined to be complete.
- The submitted proposal for a (1KW) VAWT was within the anticipated range of \$16,000 to \$23,000 outlined in the Observatory Park Wind Turbine comparison document prepared in July.
- The VAWT is a significantly quieter and has a decreased risk to wild life over other turbine styles.
- The submitted proposal of \$18,710 is well within the budgeted amount of \$25,000.00.
- After checking their references, it is apparent that Wind Turbines of Ohio LLC. is a reputable and fiscally responsible company.

Mr. Patterson requested that detailed records regarding utility savings be maintained to share with the public, who may have a personal interest in wind turbines.

Mr. Leech made a motion to approve purchase of the Vertical Axis Wind Turbine from Wind Turbines of Ohio, Inc. for an amount of \$18,710.

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

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

RANGER MANUAL APPROVAL – RESOLUTION NO. 41-12

The Board was asked to approve the Ranger Manual, previously submitted for review.

Mr. Leech made a motion to approve the Ranger Manual, Resolution No. 41-12.

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

ACCOUNTING AND PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION – RESOLUTION NO. 37-12

The Board was asked to approve the Accounting Authorization Form and the Payroll Authorization Form that is required to be updated annually with the Geauga County Auditor, and signed by the Board President.

Mr. Leech made a motion to approve Accounting and Payroll Authorization, Resolution No. 37-12. 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

REVENUE CERTIFICATION – RESOLUTION NO. 38-12

Geauga Park District received notification that Water Resource Restoration Service Project (WRRSP) requested a disbursement for an outstanding payment for the Middlefield Wetlands Protection project. This disbursement will be paid directly to the escrow agent, Aurora Title Agency, on behalf of Geauga Park District to pay for land acquisition associated with the 196-acre parcel.

The board was asked to approve an accounting entry to transfer monies to increase to the 2012 land improvement budget in the amount of \$1,008,050.00.

Mr. Leech made a motion to approve Revenue Certification, Resolution No. 38-12.

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 Yes

APPROPRIATIONS TRANSFER – RESOLUTION NO. 34-12

The Board was asked to approve the transfer of \$275,000.00 from the General Fund (\$05) to the Land Improvement Fund (Q41). The amount represents anticipated land purchases in Montville which exceed planned budgeted numbers.

Mr. Leech made a motion to approve Appropriations Transfer, Resolution No. 34-12.

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 Yes

SURPLUS PROPERTY

The Board was asked to declare the following as surplus property:

Brother Intellifax 2800 - no longer works	scrap	
Plantronics Headsets - qty 4 - no longer used	\$	5.00
Sanyo Memo-Scriber - no longer used	\$	1.00
Dell Monitor - no longer working	\$	1.00

Mr. Petruziello made a motion to declare the above outlined property as surplus.

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

RADIOS - RANGER UPGRADE - RESOLUTION NO. 39-12

The Board was asked to approve the purchase from Communications Service for eight (8) digital radios for the patrol cars in an amount of \$26,504. This amount covers the cost of the radios, removal of old radios, installation of new radios and a four year maintenance warranty. This upgrade will enable the rangers to communicate effectively with other Geauga County law enforcement agencies.

Mr. Leech made a motion to approve the Radios – Ranger Upgrade, Resolution No 39-12. 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

AUDITOR'S SCHEDULE B

Mr. Curtin presented documents and commented to the Board, pertaining to the upcoming levy and information that is being relayed to the public.

Item #1:

The form, schedule B, was picked up from a literature table at the League of Women Voter's candidate's night at Chardon Middle School on October 4, 2012. The form is entitled GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT 2013 Estimates and indicates that County Auditor Frank Gliha prepared the document. The far right column on the document shows the 1995 levy renewing when the Park Board's resolution 18-12 clearly indicates the Board's intent to let that levy expire. (It should be noted that the levy proposal on the ballot would not take effect until 2014.)

Item #2:

Certificate of Estimated Property Tax Revenue of May 29, 2012 verifies the Park District's intent in paragraph 1 where it is written, "The levy type is a Replacement of an existing 1.00 Mill Park Levy" and

makes no reference to an additional 1 Mill Renewal Levy. This is further reinforced in paragraph 2 where it is stated the revenue (of this single levy) "is calculated to be \$2,982,831 per year at 100% collection."

Item #3:

Resolution No. 20-12 and Ballot Language. The Board's intent to replace one levy and let the other expire was further stated in resolution 20-12 which was adopted on June 12, 2012 and sent to the Geauga County Board of Elections. The ballot language clearly speaks to a 1 Mill replacement levy and makes no reference to a renewal levy.

Item #4:

Certificate of the County Budget Commission of August 16, 2012 signed by Frank Gliha. This certificate of estimated revenue for 2013 is based on four levies currently in place and estimates tax revenue of \$6,110,149.00 which is \$2,260,300.00 less than what is shown on Schedule B.

Mr. Curtin stated that the Park District needs an explanation as to why a document that is at odds with the resolutions adopted by the Park Board and the certificates issued by the Auditor's office, is being at candidates' nights.

The Board concurred that Schedule B is confusing to the public as to what the Park District is really requesting and how much monies are currently, and will be, collecting.

Mr. Curtin proposed that the Board submit a letter to the Auditor asking for clarification on why Schedule B is inconsistent with what was certified with the Auditor's office.

COMMISSIONERS' TIME

- Mr. Leech commended the Foundation Board for reaching its goal for Observatory Park. He
 stated that Cleveland Foundation President and Vice President were excited with their tour of
 the Park. The Park Foundation is trying to put a program to bring the Case Observatory on line
 quickly and, as the Cleveland Foundation supported it in the 1950's we are hopeful that they will
 again want to be involved.
- Mr. Petruziello noted that Keith McClintock did a great job at the tax levy presentation that he attended.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - ROLL CALL

Mr. Leech moved to go into Executive Session at 5:10 p.m. for the purpose of discussing land acquisition. 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 The Board returned from Executive Session at 5:18 p.m.

The following items were brought forward for resolution:

<u>Land Negotiation – Montville Township</u>

Mr. Leech moved to authorize the purchase of 3.50 acres of land located in Montville Township, Permanent Parcel Number 20-090790, from Nathan Tiber, for an amount of One Hundred and Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$185,000.00).

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

Mr. Petruziello moved to authorize the purchase of 25.53 acres of land located in Montville Township, Permanent Parcel Numbers 20-090766 and 20-090765 from Joan Properties Limited, for an amount of Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00).

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

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

There were no reports from Committees of the Board.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOARD

Departmental reports for the month of September were submitted to the Executive Director and a summary sheet was forwarded to the Board prior to the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 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	