

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSIONS /SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 22, 2013**

The special board meeting/work session of the Geauga Park District Board was held on August 22, 2013 at the Donald W. Meyer Center, Chardon, Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. President James Patterson was in the Chair. Commissioners Michael Petruziello and Nicholas Fischbach were present.

President James Patterson called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Employees Present:

Tom Curtin, Executive Director
Anna McDonald, Executive Secretary
Paige Orvis, Mktg. & Administrative Services Director
Matt McCue, Strategic Planning Director
Robin Pilarczyk, Human Resources Director
Sandy Ward, Communications Specialist
Diane Valen, Naturalist Services Director
John Oros, Operations Director
Don Lombardy, Information Technology Manager
Eileen Smith, Administrative Services Coordinator

Guests:

Bob and Esther Laczko, Geauga County Residents
John Ralph, Judge Grendell's Office
Dave McNaughton, Geauga County Resident
Lonnie Sparkman, Geauga County Resident
Dave Ondrey, Thrasher Dinsmore & Dolan
Michael Brown, Geauga County Resident
Josh Echt, Geauga Maple Leaf

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Fischbach moved to adopt the Agenda.

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

Mr. Fischbach	Yes
Mr. Petruziello	Yes
Mr. Patterson	Yes

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Ms. Patterson requested that all guests introduce themselves. In addition to Park District employees, the following guests were present at the meeting: Bob and Esther Laczko, John Ralph, Dave McNaughton, Lonnie Sparkman, Michael Brown, Dave Ondrey and Josh Echt.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

John Ralph addressed the Board regarding the possibility of the Park District changing the location for the hunting qualification process location from Great Lakes Outdoors, which has been used in past years, to Chickagami Park. Mr. Ralph was concerned with the suitability of Chickagami based on the layout of the range, closeness of neighbors and the fact that Great Lakes had not been notified of this change of venue. Mr. Curtin advised that Chickagami Park has been used by the Park District Rangers for firearms qualifications for several years, with good relationships with the neighbors. Mr. Curtin further advised that there would be internal discussions regarding the location for the 2013-14 deer management qualification process.

Mr. Patterson suggested the work session portion of the Board Meeting to discuss the Mission, Vision, Philosophy and Bylaws be held after the other items listed under Unfinished Business – 2013 Deer

Management Plan, Medical Fundraisers in the Park District and Execution of Frohring Meadows Tower Agreement.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2013-14 Deer Management Plan: There was general discussion regarding the hunting locations, reasons for low numbers of deer culled last season, and the need to re-evaluate the entire deer management plan. Mr. Curtin advised the Board that the plan before them was revised based on the discussions at the August 13th Board Meeting, wherein the Board agreed to approve the plan based on the 2012-13 Deer Management Plan. Mr. Petruziello noted that his understanding was that the 2013-14 Plan would be the same as the 2012-13 Plan, but would not include a deer density study and would not include any clause regarding the possibility of sharpshooting. Mr. Curtin advised that the deer density study will be budgeted for 2014 and sharpshooting (at Mr. Patterson’s request) will be discussed during the re-evaluation of the entire program and is not included in the 2012-13 Deer Management Plan.

Mr. Fischbach moved to adopt the 2012-13 Deer Management Plan as proposed.

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

Mr. Fischbach	Yes
Mr. Petruziello	No
Mr. Patterson	Yes

Mr. Sparkman inquired as to who would participate in sharpshooting, if approved. Mr. Curtin advised that it would be conducted by Park District employees only.

Medical Fundraisers in the Park District: The Board has been requested to review a request to hold a medical fundraiser on Park Property. Mr. Curtin read from the Park’s Rules and Regulations regarding fundraising in the Parks as follows:

8.2 No person shall solicit contributions for any purpose, whether public or private, within the Park, except that the Park District or the Geauga Park District Foundation may solicit contributions.

Mr. Curtin noted that one exception was approved in the past, but the event never took place. The current request is from an individual who requires a double lung transplant, to be performed at the Cleveland Clinic. Individuals who participate in the proposed event will be requested to send their donation directly to the Cleveland Clinic’s “Breath of Life Fund”, with no monies being collected on Park District property.

The Board discussed reviewing medical fundraiser exception requests and agreed to review each one on a case-by case basis. The current request was brought forward for consideration.

Mr. Petruziello moved to approve the request for a medical fundraiser by the individual requiring a double lung transplant, with all donations being sent to the Cleveland Clinic’s “Breath of Life Fund”, and no monies being collected on Park District property.

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

Mr. Fischbach	Yes
Mr. Petruziello	Yes
Mr. Patterson	Yes

Frohring Meadows Tower Agreement: The Frohring Meadows Tower Agreement previously approved by the Board at the August 13th, 2013 Regular Board meeting was presented for execution by Mr. Patterson.

Mission, Vision and Philosophy: The Board was provided with a copy of the current Mission, Vision and Philosophy statements, Mr. Fischbach's proposed statements, Mr. Curtin's revision and employee comments and suggestions. Mr. Patterson opened the subject for dialogue among the Board members. There were discussions regarding specific verbiage, and the need for a glossary to provide intended definitions. Mr. Curtin suggested that the Park District consider contracting with a third-party facilitator to conduct and help work through some of the discussions. The Board reaffirmed their intention to include employees, the general public and local organizations to voice their thoughts to insure the Park District's Mission, Vision and Philosophy are in line with the wants and needs of the citizens of Geauga County.

Based on the discussions, Mr. Patterson requested that Mr. Curtin revise the statements for distribution to the Board for review and comments. Once a final draft of the statements is agreed upon by the Board, it can be used by Matt McCue for surveys and focus groups during the development phase of the Comprehensive Plan.

The Board will further discuss the Mission, Vision and Philosophy at future Board Meetings.

Bylaws: The Board was provided with a copy of the current Bylaws with red-lined changes discussed at the June 4th 2013 Board meeting, proposed changes to the Bylaws by Mr. Fischbach and a copy of Section 1545.09 of the Ohio Revised Code regarding Rules and Bylaws. Dave Ondrey of Thrasher Dinsmore and Dolan was present for the discussions.

Mr. Ondrey reviewed and commented on the proposed revisions to the Bylaws, by Article, which review included specific verbiage and suggestions for additions and deletions based on the Ohio Revised Code. Mr. Patterson requested that Mr. Curtin revise the Bylaws based on Mr. Ondrey's input and Board discussions to submit to the Board for review and comments.

Mr. Petruziello stated that he "believed we violated the ORC when we hired Scott Wilson because he was not, according to the ORC a certified police officer in the State of Ohio".

Mr. Petruziello recommended that the Ohio Revised Code be used as a reference for the Bylaws so there are no conflict of interests for Board Members. Mr. Ondrey advised that Board might want a separate document for a conflict of interest clause. Mr. Patterson added that portions of Professionalism Statement proposed by Mr. Fischbach that included ethical standards be included in such a statement. Mr. Ondrey will investigate options for creation of a document.

There were discussions regarding electronic transmissions on what is and is not public a public record, and that for transparency all decisions should be made in public session.

The Board thanked Mr. Ondrey for his assistance and input.

PARK UPDATES

Mr. Curtin circulated information on items that will be on the September 10th Board Meeting Agenda.

Mr. Patterson advised that there was a good article in the News Herald regarding playgrounds and suggested the Board members review it.

Mr. Curtin advised that we have received the revised Agreement from the City of Akron discussed at the March 2013 Board Meeting for execution. Mr. Patterson requested a motion to approve the revised License Agreement which has been changed from a one-year Agreement to a three-year Agreement, with an annual fee of One Hundred Fifty-Nine Dollars and Seventy-Eight Cents (\$159.78).

Mr. Petruziello moved to approve the License Agreement.

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

Mr. Fischbach	Yes
Mr. Petruziello	Yes
Mr. Patterson	Yes

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items brought forward for discussion.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – ROLL CALL

Mr. Fischbach moved to go into Executive Session at 4:52 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. Fischbach	Yes
Mr. Petruziello	Yes
Mr. Patterson	Yes

The Board returned from Executive Session at 5:11 p.m. There were no items brought forward for discussion

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

There were no reports from Committees of the Board.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOARD

Mr. Curtin advised the Board that he will be taking the week of September 16 thru 20, 2013 as vacation.

Mr. Fischbach advised the Board and Mr. Curtin that he will be out of town from October 17 thru October 26, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 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

James F. Patterson, President