

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
August 5, 2013**

The special meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held on August 5, 2013 at the Donald W. Meyer Center, Chardon, Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.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 Hosier, Marketing Director  
Scott Wilson, Chief Ranger  
Larry McKinnon, Sgt. Ranger  
Robin Pilarczyk  
Michele Pennell, Chief Financial Officer  
Sandy Ward, Communications Specialist  
Eileen Smith, Administrative Services Coordinator  
Holly Sauder, Volunteer Coordinator  
Vicky Liptak, Graphic Designer

**Guests:**

Tom & Diane Jones, Wind in the Woods  
Bob and Esther Laczko  
John A. Ralph, Judge Grendell's Court  
Bill Jackson, Geauga County Historical Assoc.  
Josh Echt, Geauga County Maple Leaf  
Michael Brown, Chardon Twp. Trustee

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

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. Petruziello moved to adopt the Revised Agenda.

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

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

In addition to Park District employees, the following guests were present at the meeting: Tom and Diane Jones, Bob and Esther Laczko, John A. Ralph, Bill Jackson, Josh Echt and Michael Brown.

**COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

Mr. Patterson reported on the July 29<sup>th</sup> Ohio State University visit to Observatory Park attended by Pat Osmer, Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate School, and Tom O'Brien and Rich Pogge both of the OSU Astronomy Department. Park District representatives included Tom Curtin, Chris Mentrek and Commissioners Patterson and Fischbach. Mr. Patterson advised that it was a great meeting and the visitors were overwhelmed with Observatory Park and the programs we offer. There were discussions regarding possible Ohio State/Park District collaboration on educational programming and telescope

restoration. Mr. Fischbach added that the group was impressed with what the Park District has accomplished at Observatory Park and how it benefits the community.

### **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Laczko of Robinson Road, Chardon Twp. addressed the Board regarding park security and to thank the Ranger Department for their past assistance. Mr. Laczko spoke of the heroin epidemic in Geauga County stressing that everyone needs to be aware of it. Mr. Laczko cited his experience within the fields of law enforcement and surveillance and advised that he wanted to make the Rangers aware of potential/possible problems he has observed while walking in Big Creek Park. He distributed, to the Board, a hand-drawn map of areas in the Park where he felt suspicious activities might be occurring. Mr. Laczko stated that “complacency is for the bad guy – vigilance is what keeps us free, and it is everyone’s job”.

Diane Jones of Wind in the Woods Farm addressed the Board regarding the Mast Well in Parkman, Ohio and asked if the Park District had any information to share. Mr. Curtin advised that legal counsel would be present at the August 13<sup>th</sup> Regular Board Meeting for discussions on the proposed fracking and any impact it may have on the Park District.

John Ralph of Judge Grendell’s office addressed to the Board regarding the children’s Fishing Expo in September. He added that there has been good press coverage and asked all to pass the word to anyone with children that might have interest in this program. The Expo is September 14<sup>th</sup> at Beartown Lakes and September 15<sup>th</sup> at Swine Creek, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. He advised that Paul Pira of the Park District was assisting along with local businesses who have donated fish, equipment and gifts for the children.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Ellerin Barns Auction, Resolution No. 22-13**

The Board was provided with a copy of Resolution No. 22-13 to approve the auctioning of the Ellerin Barns.

Mr. Fischbach made a motion to approve Resolution No. 22-13 as stated below:

**GEAUGA COUNTY PARK DISTRICT RESOLUTION NO. 22-13  
AUTHORIZING THE INTENT TO SELL SURPLUS BARNs, EXCLUDING THE LAND  
UNDERLYING THE BARNs, IN BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP VIA INTERNET AUCTION**

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code Section 307.12(E), as amended by House Bill 509, requires the Board of Park Commissioners to adopt a resolution expressing its intent to dispose of unneeded, obsolete or unfit personal property through the use of Internet auction; and

WHEREAS, at the March 12, 2013 regular Board meeting, the Board of Park Commissioners of Geauga Park District declared as surplus property the barns, excluding the land underlying the barns, as surplus property, with the intent to have the barns auctioned off as scrap property.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Park Commissioners of Geauga Park District hereby expresses their intent to sell as a single unit, surplus property consisting of two connected barns (hereinafter referred to as “property”), excluding the land underlying the barns, located in Parcel No. 02-729402, 7250 Country Lane, Bainbridge Township through the use of an Internet auction; and be it further

RESOLVED, that according to Ohio Revised Code Section 307.12(E) personal property “that is not needed for public use, is obsolete, and is unfit for the use” may be disposed of through Internet auction; and; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Geauga Park District will utilize the Internet auction services of Geauga County Board of Commissioners, adhering to the same terms and conditions as though re-written in full; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the property be offered for sale “as is, where is” with Geauga Park District making no warranty, guarantee, or representation of any kind expressed or implied, as to the condition of said property; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Buyer will receive notification via e-mail from the Geauga County auction and be required to make payment in full via US currency, certified cashier’s check, money order or company check within five (5) business days from the time and date of said notification; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Buyer will be responsible for removal of said item from Geauga Park District within a time frame to be determined by the Geauga Park District and successful bidder after the sale has been awarded; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Buyer provide a Certificate of Insurance in the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) for liability coverage during the barn removal process, naming Geauga Park District as co-insured; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the number of days of bidding for said auction, as specified in ORC 307.12(E) will be at least ten (10) days, including Saturdays, Sundays and holidays; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Geauga Park District through the Internet services of Geauga County Board of Commissioners will conduct the auction at <http://www.co.geauga.oh.us> and may also contract with GovDeals, Inc., 5913 Carmichael Place, Montgomery, Alabama 36117, phone 800.613.0156, [www.govdeals.com](http://www.govdeals.com) to conduct the auction on its behalf; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Geauga Park District, in compliance with Ohio Revised Code 307.12(E), shall publish in The Geauga County Maple Leaf, a newspaper of general circulation in the county, notice of its intent to sell unneeded, obsolete, or unfit-for-use county personal property by Internet auction, with the second notice being published not less than ten nor more than twenty days after the previous notice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Geauga Park District shall post said notice continually in a conspicuous place in the Park District’s nature centers as well as on its website; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Geauga Park District has established a minimum price of Ten Dollars (\$10.00), which includes demolition and removal of the property. Geauga Park District reserves the right, at a later date, to establish any other terms and conditions relative to this particular sale, including but not limited to requirements for demolition and removal of said property; and be it further

RESOLVED, that such information shall be provided on the Internet at the time of the auction and may be provided before that time upon request after the terms and conditions have been determined by Geauga Park District’s Board of Commissioners or its representatives.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Resolution be effective this 5th day of August, 2013.

Board of Park Commissioners:

James F. Patterson  
President

Michael J. Petruziello  
Commissioner

Nicholas Fischbach  
Commissioner

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

#### MHT-South Contract Increase

The Board was provided with a cost estimate to increase the budget for Maple Highlands Trail – South to include the demolition of a building located on the railroad right-of-way.

Mr. Fischbach moved to increase the Maple Highlands Trail-South budget by \$6,800.00 for the the demolition of the building, to be completed by the project contractor, LCI.

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

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

#### Mission, Vision & Philosophy

Mr. Patterson advised that this meeting was scheduled to discuss the Park District’s Mission, Vision and Philosophy. The Board received information for review from Matt McCue, who is heading up the Park District’s Long-Term Comprehensive Plan and from Commissioner Fischbach that outlined his thoughts and ideas. Mr. Patterson added that input from Park District Staff, the general public and other organizations will be sought. Mr. Patterson asked that Mr. Fischbach review his ideas.

Mr. Fischbach shared his ideas for Park District Mission, Vision and Philosophy statements. In addition, Mr. Fischbach communicated his ideas for Leadership, Customer Focus, Stewardship Responsibilities, Professionalism and Innovation Statements.

Mr. Patterson and Mr. Petruziello thanked Mr. Fischbach for his work and excellent ideas. Mr. Curtin stated that it was good start and that time needed to be spent discussing the information. He added that thought should be put into defining what certain terms mean such as-- passive recreation and leisure. Mr. Patterson agreed and suggested a glossary of terms be created for clarity purposes. Mr. Curtin added that the Customer Service and Leadership Statements would be beneficial to new employees to help orient them into the culture of the Park District. Mr. Patterson opened the floor for comments from the public:

- John Ralph stated that the Park District owns enough property to satisfy most people from the sportsmen to the horse riders to the wine and cheese people and there could be a park that would satisfy each group. Mr. Ralph also felt that the Park District is a key organization to help engage children whose primary activities are electronic based, experience the outdoors.

- Eileen Smith stated the definitions should be carefully written. She also questioned if the current Park District Staff and budget could support all the ideas without having to go to tax payers for additional revenue.
- Bill Jackson added that a Mission Statement is an absolute purpose, while a Vision Statement is aspirational. He felt the biggest point of contention will be with individual philosophies of what should or should not be allowed in the Parks, and that a balance needs to be reached with existing resources offered by local municipalities and with other large land owners such as the City of Akron and Western Reserve Land Conservancy to insure that land is properly preserved. Mr. Jackson stated that he felt the Park District system is valuable as an educational resource, that education should be emphasized and should be up there with preservation. He added that the Historical Society has created a 'traveling trunk' educational program to take to the local school districts.
- Mr. Brown outlined the survey process that Chardon Twp. followed when trying to determine the wants and needs of the community regarding their park system. He also added that Chardon Twp. wanted to coordinate efforts with the Geauga Park System, not compete with them.
- Mr. Laczko expressed his agreement with John Ralph that young people need to be encouraged to participate in outdoor activities and felt that gardening and experiencing an activity that creates and gives life would help give purpose to their lives.

There were further discussions regarding the possibility of including survey questions in the bi-weekly Park District Newsletter to encourage public input and ideas.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business

#### **COMMISSIONERS' TIME**

Mr. Patterson brought forward a suggestion that the Park District should try and preserve the history of its growth by interviewing past employees and other individuals who have played a key role in land acquisition and the development of its Parks.

#### **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mrs. Jones inquired if there was any additional information regarding the excavation of the Felkin property. Mr. Patterson advised that there was nothing to report at this time.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There were no items for Executive Session.

#### **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD**

There were no reports from Committees of the Board.

#### **REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOARD**

There were no reports from officers or employees of the Board.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 a.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,

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Thomas G. Curtin, Executive Director

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James F. Patterson, President