

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 15, 2013**

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held on May 15, 2013 at the Donald W. Meyer Center, Chardon, Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 3:35 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:

Thomas Curtin, Executive Director
Anna McDonald, Executive Secretary
Paige Orvis, Marketing & Admin. Services Director
Michele Pennell, Chief Financial Officer
Gloria Freno, Accountant
Scott Wilson, Chief Ranger
Dennis Sloan, Ranger
Paul Pira, Natural Resource Management Director
Sandy Ward, Communications Specialist
Diane Valen, Naturalist Services Director
Emilie Gottsegen, Development Director
Amanda Stith, Development Associate
Aaron Young, Planning Director
Eileen Smith, Administrative Services Coordinator

Guests:

Josh Echt, *The Geauga Maple Leaf*
Tom and Diane Jones, *Wind in the Woods Farm*
Tim Barber, Environ

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Petruziello moved to adopt the 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

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Petruziello moved to accept the minutes of the April 9th, 2013 Regular Meeting.

Mr. Patterson 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

Josh Echt, introduced himself and said that he will be the representative from the Geauga Maple Leaf covering the Geauga Park District. Mr. Fischbach stated that Mr. Echt is a great reporter and will be an asset the Park District.

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

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Board was provided a copy of the April 2013 Financial Statement. There were no questions.

Geauga Park District
FINANCIAL STATEMENT MONTH ENDED
APRIL 30, 2013

GENERAL FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE APRIL 1, 2013	7,204,185.37
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES	
Personnel	216,262.13
Medicare	3,104.07
Dental /Hospitalization	44,238.24
PERS (Feb/March payment)	77,483.27
Worker's Compensation	134,431.99
Transfer to Land Improvement Fund	750,000.00
Vouchers	230,138.81
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES	1,455,658.51
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES	
<u>General Tax Collections</u>	
- Real Estate Tax (1st Half Collection - Manufactured Homes)	8,875.97
- State Reimburse Tax (Rollback reimbursement)	421,486.66
<u>Investment Income</u>	287.38
<u>Gifts & Donations</u>	13,747.32
- GPD Foundation - CHIP program transfer (\$13,685.00)	
- Patrons - program donation (\$25.00)	
- Patrons - Bird box donations at TWW (\$37.32)	
<u>Fees</u>	
- Camping	120.00
- Utility fees	650.00
- Adventure Camp registration fees	900.00
- Space Camp registration fees	750.00
- Workshops - General - Public program	240.00
- Programs - General - Public Program	21.00
<u>Sales</u>	
- Tapper's Treasures - MC	130.24
- Tree Tops - TWW	1,788.37
- Syrup Sales	313.60
<u>Other Receipts</u>	

- Swine Creek house - Harry	400.00
- Burton Wetlands house- Kolar	400.00
- Citation Disbursement	25.00
- Recycling proceeds - Steel/Aluminum - beams from covered bridge site	7,733.58
- Local Government Funds	6,927.47
- Auction Proceeds - Benches, lights	265.00
- Miscellaneous Receipts	2,975.36
- Progressive Insurance - Chickagami sign damage insurance payment (\$1,600.00)	
- PEP Insurance - NRM Explorer damage insurance payment (\$883.36)	
- GPD Foundation - Lease payment February (\$492)	

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES	468,036.95
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ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF APRIL 30, 2013	6,216,563.81
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LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE APRIL 1, 2013	1,965,758.88
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EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES	
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Vouchers	22,666.07
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EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES	22,666.07
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REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES	
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<i>Investment Income</i>	101.31
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<i>Gifts & Donations</i>	500.00
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- Cleveland Astronomical Society - Nassau Observatory	
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<i>Transfer from General Fund</i>	750,000.00
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<i>Royalties/In-Lieu Fees</i>	245.56
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- Farley, Troyer, Kuhns, Kovacs, Hehmeyer, Hart, Sunnybrook, Swine Creek, Stinchcomb	
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REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES	750,846.87
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ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF APRIL 30, 2013	\$ 2,693,939.68
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RETIREMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE APRIL 1, 2013	\$ 82,391.61
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EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES	0.00
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Vouchers	0.00
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REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES	4.26
<i>Investment Income</i>	4.26

ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF APRIL 30, 2013	\$ 82,395.87
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Mr. Petruziello moved to accept the April 2013 Financial Statement
 Mr. Patterson 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

VOUCHER RESOLUTION NO. 18-13

The Board was provided with a copy of April vouchers. The Board asked for clarification on a few of the voucher expenditures. All questions were answered satisfactorily.

Mr. Fischbach moved to adopt Voucher Resolution No. 18-13, 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. Fischbach	Yes
Mr. Petruziello	Yes
Mr. Patterson	Yes

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Mr. Curtin shared a communication from John Augustine with the Board. In regard to the possible problems with resident wild animals, Mr. Augustine questioned why the option to close trails for safety reasons was not discussed. Mr. Augustine’s interpretation of the Park’s Mission Statement is that protection of biodiversity should be put ahead of recreation, and he urged the Park Board to trust Park District employees to make the right decisions and not impose too many, or too strict policies for the Park System.

Mr. Augustine also expressed his opinion that the Park District should not sponsor hunting programs, referring to Judge Grendell’s proposed hunting/fishing programs for the youth of the county. He feels that Park programs should be geared towards learning about and protecting natural history, not harvesting. Mr. Augustine also stated that he believes that the State Division of Wildlife is not doing an adequate job of managing white tail deer populations in Ohio, and that their goal is to maintain high populations of deer, as it increases State funding when more hunting licenses are issued. He stated that he thinks most biologists would agree due to the biological consequences of consistently high deer populations.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Diane Jones of Auburn Township introduced herself and stated that she would like to continue her comments regarding Park property that is contiguous to property housing a gas well. She asked Mr. Curtin if the Park District had any plans to participate in the fracking process. Mr. Curtin advised that the Park District had not been contacted regarding participation. Ms. Jones suggested that the Park District contact an attorney to determine if the well would affect Park property, and wanted to insure that the Park District knows what is going on with this well site. Ms. Jones distributed documentation showing the location of the properties in questions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Valuation of Ecosystems – Presentation by Tim Barber of Environ

Mr. Curtin introduced Tim Barber of Environ. Environ is an international company that approached the Park District and offered its services, pro bono, to prepare a report that would attempt to put a dollar value on the ecosystem services Geauga Park District brings to the County. The Board of Commissioners approved the creation of report. Mr. Barber noted that this type of report can assist in determining Park policies, land use and is valuable when used in conjunction with fund raising and levy requests.

The ecosystem services, benefits to humans/society, provided by the Geauga Park District were explored and documented. The services included were Habitat (dollar benefit from the different types of land held by the Park District); Direct Human Use (dollar values that individuals would be willing to spend in time and expense to utilize Park properties); Direct Human Services (dollar amount translated from the special events and programming offered by the Park District); and Other Services (increased real estate values, salaries and sales, health impact, cost of public).

The report concluded that the total value of ecosystems services provided to the community was determined to be between \$22 and 47million dollars, or a median value of approximately \$34 million dollars a year. Mr. Patterson thanked Mr. Barber and Mr. Fischbach added that it was an excellent report and thanked him for putting it together for the Park District.

Mr. Petruziello noted that a lot of work went into preparation of this informational package. He also asked Mr. Barber for clarification on the amount of money people were willing to pay to use the Parks and if tax dollars already payed to the Park District were included in that amount. Mr. Barber advised it was from \$10 -50 with the average being \$25.00 and that these were added dollars people were willing to spend, not tax dollars. Mr. Petruziello commented that some determinations of the report came from theory and from the United Nations numbers. Mr. Barber clarified that the UN was the organization that coordinated the activities (collecting the documentation) but the bulk of information came from the government sources and professors that perform research daily to determine what information should be used for ecosystem valuations. There were discussions on different municipalities and other park districts that have conducted similar reports and Mr. Barber confirmed that this report gives a good median range of the value, in terms of ecosystem services, the Geauga Park District provides to the community. Mr Petruziello thanked Mr. Barber for report and all the work he put in to but was concerned that this report was thrown together based on some ideas and numbers that were theoretically used in other areas. Mr. Barber stated that that the science used in the studies was very well thought out. Mr. Petruziello stated that Mr. Barber acknowledged not going out to the different park sites and that the numbers used in the study were taken from UN data or theoretical numbers and still, in his mind, he does not know how people can put a number on the water you drink, the air you breath or the trees in the forest. Mr. Barber noted that the science is extremely well developed and disagreed with Mr. Petruziello's premise. He gave the following examples: Cutting down trees in the Amazon reduces the oxygen to breath, polluting Lake Erie with sewage would cause high level of e-coli and people could not use the lake. He added that the foundation of this assessment is very solid and defensible from a scientific aspect. Mr. Patterson stated that that the report was fascinating, as did Mr. Fischbach. Mr. Patterson continued that this is scientifically gathered information and the interesting aspect is that if you get hung up on the figures, the focus is on the wrong spot. He noted that Mr. Barber said throughout the report that the values are an under estimation, if anything, Mr. Patterson stated that If a more exhaustive report would were completed, it would show greater benefit and asked if a value could be put on air and water. He felt that this report was a step to say yes you can, and to ignore the value of air and water is not the basis of the report. Mr. Patterson commended Mr. Barber for the value of the report and for being so honest throughout the report.

Observatory Park Shelter

The Board was provided with the information on the bid received for construction of the Observatory Park shelter, which was over the amount budgeted for the project. Mr. Fischbach inquired as to whether the project could be completed in 2013 using Park District employees. Mr. Curtin advised that information on timing and cost would be prepared and submitted to the Board for review and consideration. This agenda item was tabled pending receipt of further information being provided to the Board.

2013 Raccoon Management – The Rookery

The Board was provided with the 2013 Raccoon Management program for The Rookery.

Mr. Fischbach moved to the 2013 Raccoon Management at The Rookery as presented.

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

Frohring Meadows Wetlands Creation

The Board was provided with the information that the Geauga Park District would be executing the Agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife Services through their *Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program* for the creation of wetlands at Frohring Meadows. Note was made that, though indicated on the informational memo to the Board that a motion was needed, none was required as the Board approved this project during the December 11, 2012 Board Meeting.

PARK UPDATES

Personnel

Mr. Curtin informed the Board that Jack Snyder and Christin Morton will be leaving the Park District to pursue other opportunities and both jobs have been posted. Barb Emch will be retiring at the end of the year and her position will be posted at a later date.

Ranger Coverage

At the May 8th work session with the Ranger Department the Board inquired into the possibility of 24 hour coverage by the Ranger Department. Mr. Curtin advised that Chief Wilson will be preparing a plan to submit to the Board that will offer increased/24 hour Ranger coverage.

Deer Management Report

The Board was provided with a Harvest Summary for the 2012/2013 Deer Management Programs. There were discussions regarding the low number of deer harvested. Mr. Curtin advised that John Oros, Chief Wilson and Paul Pira were working on the 2013/14 Deer Management Program. Mr. Patterson requested that Mr. Fischbach be included in future discussions involving creation of the Program.

Ranger Fleet

The Board was provided with information on fleet usage for the Park Rangers. No action was necessary.

Chip Henry Institute Donations Update

Mr. Curtin shared a picture of proposed graphics for the trailer donated to the Chip Henry Institute.

Beartown Paving

Mr. Curtin reported that paving has started at Beartown Lakes and should be completed by week-end if the weather holds.

CONTRACT REVIEW

The Board was provided with up-to-date information on all current Park District projects for review. Mr. Curtin reported that there were some unforeseen additions that added cost to the Meyer Center paving project, but it was still under budget.

NEW BUSINESS

First Energy Agreement

The Board was asked to approve an Agreement with First Energy to allow the Park District access to their utility corridor to complete the MHT-Chardon connector.

Mr. Fischbach moved to approve the Agreement with First Energy.

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

Sick Leave Benefits Revisions – Resolution No. 17-13

The Board was provided with a proposed change to the Sick Leave Benefits increasing the advance notice time of intention to use sick leave from 30 to 60 minutes.

Mr. Fischbach move to approve Sick Leave Benefits – Resolution No. 17-13 as follows:

Notification of Supervisor: Advance notice of intention to use sick leave is required to provide for the orderly and efficient continuation of park services. If an employee is unable to report to work, the immediate supervisor should be notified by telephone or other means of communication at least sixty (60) minutes prior to their regularly scheduled starting time. Employees must request sick leave on a daily basis.

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

Meyer Center HVAC

A proposal was put to the Board for approval of the Meyer Center HVAC improvement project. Two Requests for Proposals (RFP’s) were received. It is recommended that this proposal be awarded to McPhillips Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning Co. This recommendation is based on the following:

- The submitted bid has been reviewed and determined to be complete.
- The submitted bid of \$74,485.00 is within the budgeted amount of \$86,000.00.
- After checking their references it is apparent that McPhillips has a high quality of workmanship and is a fiscally responsible company.
- The project appears to be well within their scope of expertise and they have completed similar projects for other public agencies.

Mr. Fischbach made a motion to approve the bid from McPhillips Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning in the amount of \$74,485.00 for Meyer Center HVAC improvements.

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 Restrictive Covenant

The Board was provided with a copy of a Declaration of Restrictive Covenants for Inspection and Maintenance from Geauga Soil and Water Conservation for review and approval. This document, requested by Geauga Soil and Water, is to insure that if Geauga Park District desired to change the surface of the new addition to MHT-South from a pervious to an impervious material that the plans would be submitted to Geauga Soil and Water for review to determine if additional work was needed to mitigate damage by storm run-off water.

There were discussions regarding the need for such a signed document, and Mr. Curtin explained that the Geauga Park District would conduct such a report whether required or not, but the agency would like a signed agreement on file.

Mr. Fischbach moved to approve the Declaration of Restrictive Covenants for Inspection and Maintenance. 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

LEAP Position on White-Tailed Deer Management

Mr. Fischbach made a motion to table discussions on this item pending his discussions with Park employees regarding the 2013-14 Geauga Park District Deer Management Program.

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

Surplus Property

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

	Inventory No.	Description	Starting Bid
1		Wood stove from Chickagami rental	\$100

Mr. Petruziello moved to approve the above outlined property as surplus.

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

COMMISSIONERS' TIME

There were no items brought forward for discussion.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Diane Jones directed a question to Commissioner Patterson asking if he understood the differences between traditional and hydro fracking/horizontal fracking. Mr. Patterson stated that he is familiar with the vertical fracking process with water and he understands that there is a difference between vertical and horizontal fracking. Ms. Jones stated she is referring to the Mast well that would utilize hydro fracking and her concern is with future financial implications to the Geauga Park District when drilling begins. Mr. Curtin asked if the methods used for vertical fracking were different than for horizontal fracking. Ms. Jones indicated that the methods and technology were very different. Mr. Jones stated that fracking is not the issue; it is a financial issue. Mr. Curtin inquired if the concern was that the Park District might not reap the financial benefits if the Mast well was horizontally fracked. Mr. Jones indicated that yes, the concern is that the Park District might be cheated out of a lot of money.

Mr. Patterson asked if there any other items to discuss, and Mr. Petruziello thanked Mr. Patterson for his work on securing donations for camps sponsored by the Chip Henry Institute.

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 April 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 5:16 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