

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
March 22, 2013**

The special meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held on March 22, 2013 at the Donald W. Meyer Center, Chardon, Ohio to discuss an Amendment to Agreement Between the Ohio Wetlands Foundation and the Geauga Park District to Purchase Wetlands Mitigation Credits for Maple Highlands Trail – Chardon Connector and Maple Highlands Trail – South. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. President James Patterson was in the Chair. Commissioners Michael Petruziello and Nicholas Fischbach were present.

Employees Present:  
Tom Curtin, Executive Director  
Anna McDonald, Executive Secretary  
Paige Orvis, Marketing & Admin. Services Director

Guests:  
Glen Miller, *Geauga County Maple Leaf*  
John Ralph, *Judge Grendell's Office*

Board President James Patterson reviewed the guidelines regarding public input at Park Board meetings. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. Fischbach moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting.

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**

Mr. Curtin welcomed GPD Staff member Paige Orvis and guest John Ralph. Mr. Miller arrived after the start of the meeting.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

There were no questions from the public

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business

**NEW BUSINESS**

Amendment to Agreement Between the Ohio Wetlands Foundation and the Geauga Park District to Purchase Wetlands Mitigation Credits for Maple Highlands Trail – Chardon Connector and Maple Highlands Trail – South.

The Board of Commissioners was requested to approve the Amendment to Agreement previously submitted to them for review. Mr. Patterson asked Mr. Curtin to explain the rationale for the Amendment. Mr. Curtin advised that the most cost effective way for the Park District to pay for compensatory mitigation due for impacted wetlands associated with the Maple Highland Trail projects would be to allow the Ohio Wetlands Foundation to retain and apply all monies currently owed to the Park District from the Pine Brook Mitigation Bank towards the cost of compensatory mitigation for the Maple Highlands Trail projects. The Park District would then submit a check for the balance due. The project can start once the wetlands credits are submitted to the Army Corp. of Engineers.

Mr. Petruziello inquired if the Park District was aware that it would have to purchase wetlands. Mr. Curtin advised that the Park District was aware there would be some cost, but the final impact on wetlands to a project is not known until the engineering drawings are complete. Mr. Petruziello asked if we could use credits from the wetlands the Board approved creation of in December 2012, and felt that we should not have to purchase wetlands mitigation credits if we are also creating wetlands. Mr. Curtin advised that credits can only be used from mitigation banks, not just for creating wetlands. A property must be certified by an environmental review team (made up, in part, of EPA –Ohio and National, Army Corp. of Engineers, ODNR) to determine if the area is suitable to be set up as a mitigation bank. Mr. Petruziello expressed his concern over spending monies to buy wetlands back when the Board approved over \$16,000.00 in December to create 5 acres of wetlands. Mr. Curtin explained that the approved wetland creation is over two years. Frohring Meadows wetlands will be created in 2013, Observatory Park wetlands will be created in 2014, and that the monies used to create these two wetlands will be reimbursed to the Park District as outlined in the information provided to the Board at the December 2012 meeting.

Mr. Fischbach moved to approve the Amendment to Agreement Between the Ohio Wetlands Foundation and the Geauga Park District to Purchase Wetlands Mitigation Credits for: Maple Highlands Trail – Chardon Connector and Maple Highlands Trail – South.

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

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION – ROLL CALL**

Mr. Patterson moved to go into Executive Session at 4:39 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel and legal items.

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 4:45 p.m. There were no items brought forward.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:46 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,

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Thomas G. Curtin, Executive Director

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James F. Patterson, President