

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 21, 2013**

The special board meeting/work session of the Geauga Park District Board was held on November 21, 2013 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 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

Guests:

Tom & Diane Jones, A Wind in the Woods Farm
Joe Koziol, Chagrin Valley Times
Michael Brown, Chardon Twp. Resident
David Ondrey, Thrasher, Dinsmore & Dolan

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the Public.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No items were brought forward for discussion

NEW BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SESSION – ROLL CALL

Mr. Petruziello moved to go into Executive Session at 3:32 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel performance.

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

The Board returned from Executive Session at 3:36 p.m. The following item was brought forward:

Mr. Petruziello made a motion regarding personnel and requested that David Ondrey supply the language. Mr. Ondrey supplied the following language:

The Board is intending to make a motion that the Board has determined not to renew Tom Curtin’s contract for 2014, and to grant Tom Curtin paid administrative leave thru December 31, 2013 effective immediately, conditioned upon Mr. Curtin’s performance of any special projects assigned to him by the Board until the end of 2013.

Mr. Petruziello confirmed that this is the motion brought forward from Executive Session.

Mr. Fischbach seconded the motion.

Mr. Patterson stated that before calling for a vote on the motion he would like to read into public record the following comments. Mr. Patterson stated that the following is list of accomplishments during Mr. Curtin’s tenure as Executive Director of the Park District, and that Geauga Park District needs to recognize the work that he has done. Mr. Patterson continued, reading the list of accomplishments below:

Hyde & Kaplan Properties Acquisition	Orchard Hills Park Acquisition
The West Woods Park Construction	Pinebrook Preserve Acquisition
Levy 1 Passed: 1 Mil/20 yr. replacement & increase (expires 2020)	Sunnybrook Preserve constructed/opened
Meyer Center Construction Expansion	New Shelter and Trails added at Walter C. Best Preserve
Farley Property Acquisition	Chickagami Park Phase I construction
Sunnybrook Preserve Acquisition	Observatory Park Phase I construction
Silver Creek Restoration	Observatory Park Phase II construction
The West Woods Nature Center Construction	Orchard Hills Park Phase I construction
Abela Property Acquisition	Bass Lake Preserve lodge reconstruction
Walter C. Best Preserve – additional land acquisition	Chickagami Park Phase II construction and opening
Big Creek Shop/Ranger Garage Additions	GPD 50 th Anniversary Celebration
The West Woods Nature Center Dedication	Established Nature Scopes program
Bass Lake Acquisition	Wild Nights: Nature at Night and Underground
Observatory Park Acquisition	First Annual Caveman Crawl
Ice Age Exhibit at The West Woods	Established Chip Henry Institute for Outdoor Adventure
Chickagami Scout Camp Acquisition	Pinebrook Preserve – Additional Acquisition
First covered bridge in Geauga County – over Tare Creek built by Geauga Park District	Observatory Park – Grand Opening
Levy Passed: .7 Mil/20 year renewal (expires 2025)	Levy Passed: 1Mil /20 year replacement
Bio-Centennial Exhibit at The West Woods	Chip Henry Institute for Outdoor Adventure Summer Day Camps established
Affelder House Renovated	Something’s Afoot: Nature Just Can’t Stay Put Exhibit at The West Woods
Maple Highlands Trail Central – Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Dedication of Mt. Run Station	Initiation of Geauga Park District Long Range Strategic Plan

Mr. Patterson added that the following departments were established during Mr. Curtin’s tenure: Marketing Department, Administrative Services, Human Resources, Natural Resource Management and Information Technology. The Ranger and Naturalist Departments were expanded and the Operations Department was reorganized to include Zone Leaders and Construction. Thirty-three (33) properties were negotiated located along The Maple Highlands Trail to complete a project that had been pending since the 1980’s. And land holdings were nearly doubled to 9,500 acres.

Mr. Patterson stated that he was sure that Tom would be the first to say that this wasn't his doing, but in fact Tom was the Director and it was done under Tom's direction with the staff that he put together to carry out these functions – which is an excellent staff – and with the individuals who were members of the Park Board during his tenure. Mr. Patterson added that he would like this list of accomplishments to be part of the record in this action that the Board is taking and that they be reflected and appreciated for all that that Tom has done during his tenure as Director.

Mr. Patterson asked if there were any other discussions prior to the vote on the motion. There were no additional discussions and Mr. Patterson asked for a vote on the motion.

The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Mr. Fischbach thanked Mr. Curtin for his service to the Park District and stated that it was appreciated. Mr. Curtin was requested to leave the meeting.

Mr. Fischbach made a motion to appoint John Oros interim Deputy Director for the Park District effective immediately.

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

Ms. McDonald inquired if the November 25th Special Board meeting requested at the November 19th Regular Board Meeting was still necessary, and was advised it was not.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

There were no reports from Committees of the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 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,

John Oros, Interim Deputy Director

James F. Patterson, President