# GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS BOARD MEETING MINUTES May 13, 2014

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held on May 13, 2014 at Donald W. Meyer Center, Chardon, Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. President Mary Ruth Shumway was in the Chair. Commissioner Louis Mucci was present.

President Mary Ruth Shumway called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

# **GPD Employees**

John Oros, Interim Deputy Director
Anna McDonald, Executive Secretary

Michele Pennell, CFO

Paige Orvis, Marketing & Administrative Services Director

Aaron Young, Planning Director

Matt McCue, Strategic Planning Director Robin Pilarczyk, Human Resources Director

Brett Bellas, Maintenance Supervisor Emilie Gottsegen, Development Director

Larry McKinnon, Sgt. Ranger

Wesley Krigbaum, GPD Operations Department

Alan Frantz, Sgt. Ranger

Sandy Ward, Communications Specialist

Paul Pira, Director of Natural Resource Management

John Kolar, Chief Naturalist Don Lombardy, IT Manager Dan Best, Sr. Naturalist

#### Guests

David Ondrey, Thrasher, Dinsmore & Dolan

Josh Echt, Geauga Maple Leaf John Augustine, Parkman Resident John A. Ralph, Probate Court Liaison Esther Laczko, Chardon Twp. Resident John and Pat Leech, Newbury Residents Mike Brown, Chardon Twp. Resident

#### **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

The Board was presented with minutes from the April 8, 2014 Regular Board meeting.

Mrs. Shumway made a motion to approve the April 8, 2014 Board meeting minutes as presented.

Mr. Mucci seconded the motion and after voice vote, the motion was approved 2-0:

Mr. Mucci Yes Mrs. Shumway Yes

# **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS/QUESTIONS FROM GUESTS**

Mrs. Shumway requested that all guests introduce themselves, and pose any questions they may have for the Board. She added that questions not addressed during the course of the meeting will be answered at the end of the meeting.

The following guests introduced themselves: Michael Brown-Chardon Twp. Resident, David Ondrey-Legal Counsel, John and Pat Leech-Newbury Residents, Esther Laczko-Park Neighbor.

# **PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The Board was provided with a copy of the April 2014 Financial Statement. Ms. Pennell provided an overview and all questions by the Board were satisfactorily answered.

# Geauga Park District FINANCIAL STATEMENT MONTH ENDED

APRIL 30, 2014

# **GENERAL FUND**

GENERALIONS		
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE APRIL 1, 2014		7,186,286.37
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES	1	
Personnel	213,740.01	
Medicare	3,068.76	
Dental /Hospitalization	46,501.78	
PERS (March payment)	47,122.50	
Unemployment Transfers	4,200.00	
Worker's Compensation	20,482.07	
Transfer to Land Improvement Fund	500,000.00	
Transfer to Retirement Reserve Account	0.00	
Vouchers	146,430.11	
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES		981,545.23
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES	1	
Investment Income	52.69	
<u>Gifts &amp; Donations</u>	7,274.50	
- Bird Seed Donation - \$10.25 , Chip Henry Institute - \$50.00	,	
- Cave Man Crawl Sponsorships - \$6,600.00		
- Memorial paver - 100.00, Memorial Blue Bird Box - 100.00		
- Affelder Trust - \$414.25		
<u>Fees</u>		
- Camping	240.00	
- Shelters	160.00	
- Utility fees	600.00	
- Adventure Camp registration fees	3,450.00	
- Cave Man Crawl Race registrations	400.00	
- Programs - X-Treme Days program	636.00	
<u>Sales</u>		
- Tapper's Treasures - MC	357.80	
- Tree Tops - TWW	1,749.58	
Other Receipts		
- Observatory house - Sindelar	300.00	
- Foundation rental space/equipment - GPD Foundation	501.84	
	301.04	
- Swine Creek house - Harry	400.00	

- Hyde house - Krigbaum	400.00	
- Chickagami house - Maksim	400.00	
- Citation Disbursement	20.00	
- Recycling proceeds - Scrap metal- South Ops	136.70	
- Local Government Funds	6,103.64	
- Auction Proceeds - Pequa Trailer	1,743.62	
- Miscellaneous Receipts	25.00	
- Geauga County Maple Festival - Maple Syrup Fourth Place Prize N	loney	
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES		25,351.37
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF APRIL 30, 2014		6,230,092.51
LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND		
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE APRIL 1, 2014		3,289,034.37
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES		
Vouchers	247.48	
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES		247.48
DELIGNIUS & OTHER COURSE	ı	
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES	26.77	
Investment Income	20.77	
<u>Transfer from General Fund</u>	500,000.00	
Royalties/In-Lieu Fees	1,290.05	
- Sunnybrook - \$616.79, Ford-Windsor - \$122.43, Farley - \$550.83		
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES		501,316.82
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF APRIL 30, 2014		\$ 3,790,103.71
RETIREMENT RESERVE ACCOUN	<u>IT</u>	
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE APRIL 1, 2014		\$ 82,417.40
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES		0.71
<u>Investment Income</u>	0.71	

# **PURCHASE REQUISITION PRE-APPROVALS**

The Board was presented with a list of outstanding Purchase Requisitions for pre-approval in the amount of \$54,177.21. Ms. Pennell explained that the list represents items over \$500.00 that are not for normal business operations, have not yet been purchased, or are not in the budget. There were discussions regarding the increased budget for Leadership Geauga to allow for two Park District representatives to participate, and

questions regarding expenses for Operations Department projects. All questions were satisfactorily answered. Mr. Mucci commended the Park District employees for their efforts in implementing the pre-approval process.

Mr. Mucci made a motion to pre-approve the May purchase requisitions.

Mrs. Shumway seconded the motion and after voice vote, the motion was approved 2-0:

Mr. Mucci Yes Mrs. Shumway Yes

#### PRESENTATION OF VOUCHERS

The Board was presented with the vouchers that were paid during the month of April, 2014 in the amount of \$981,892.71. These vouchers represent the normal day-to-day operational expenses, approved budgeted expenses and payroll.

Mr. Mucci made a motion to accept the April 2014 previously paid vouchers as presented.

Mr. Shumway seconded the motion and after voice vote, the motion was approved 2-0:

Mr. Mucci Yes Mrs. Shumway Yes

#### **RECORDS RETENTION**

Mrs. Shumway made note that Park District records that were prepared and ready for disposal per the Park District Record Retention Policy, have been approved for disposal, via a meeting on May 13, 2014 with David Ondrey-Park District Legal Counsel, Mary Ruth Shumway-Park Board Commissioner, Michele Pennell-GPD Chief Financial Officer and Eileen Smith-GPD Records Retention Officer.

# **PURCHASING GUIDELINES**

The Board was provided with a draft of the revised Geauga Park District Purchasing Guidelines. Mr. Mucci requested that the term 'normal daily operational expenses' be more clearly defined and that such definition is included in the manual. The Board will be provided with the revised Guidelines for review and approval will be requested at a future Board meeting

# **2015 TEMPORARY BUDGET**

Ms. Pennell provided the Board with an update on the 2015 Temporary Budget, advising that per the Ohio Revised Code the Temporary Budget must be filed with the County Auditor by July 20<sup>th</sup>, and of deadlines for required public notice that the Temporary Budget is available for inspection at the Park District. The Board requested that Ms. Pennell provide them with a draft for review, and that a Special Board Meeting be scheduled for mid-June for discussions and revisions.

#### APPROPRIATIONS-BUDGET AMENDMENT #4 - RESOLUTION NO. 11-14

The Board was requested to approve Resolution No. 11-14, Appropriations Budget Amendment #4 to the 2014 Budget as follows:

Add a total of \$50,800.00 to the Land Improvement Fund to include:

#### \$50,800.00 - Contracts - Projects Account (6015-057-00-603)

 Equipment and material necessary to add all approved recreational opportunities including baseball backstops, bocce courts, horseshoe courts, tetherballs, soccer goals and sand volleyball courts at various existing parks. Total budget appropriations (including carryover encumbrance appropriations) for the Land Improvement fund after these additions will be changed to \$1,119,930.22 for the 2014 Fiscal year.

Mr. Mucci made a motion to approve Resolution No. 11-14 to add \$50,800.00 in appropriations to the Land Improvement Fund.

Mr. Shumway seconded the motion and after voice vote, the motion was approved 2-0:

Mr. Mucci Yes Mrs. Shumway Yes

#### **GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT MASTER CALENDAR**

Mrs. Shumway advised that Anna McDonald will be creating a Master Calendar for the Park District, and requested that all Department Heads coordinate via Ms. McDonald before scheduling to insure communication and coordination regarding Park District events.

#### **NASSAU STATION RENOVATION**

The Board was provided with a proposal in an amount of \$25,000.00 from Westlake Reed Leskosky for the requested design revisions to the Nassau Station.

Mrs. Shumway made a motion to approve the proposal in the amount of \$25,000.00 from Westlake Reed Leskosky for the design revisions to the Nassau Station restoration project.

Mr. Mucci seconded the motion and after voice vote, the motion was approved 2-0:

Mr. Mucci Yes Mrs. Shumway Yes

Mr. Oros brought the following board packet items to the Board's attention: Naturalist Department Interpretive Plan on proposed programming for the Nassau Observing Station based on Nassau Station design revisions and the Marketing Department facility usage report indicating that scheduled use of the Observatory Park facility usually included a request for a special program. At Mrs. Shumway's request, an explanation of how attendance numbers for facility visitation and Park District events are tracked was provided.

# RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

The Board was provided with an implementation schedule for the Board approved recreational additions to existing Parks. Brett Bellas advised that the horseshoe pits are complete, bocce ball courts will be started this week, and that the backstop, soccer goals and tetherball equipment should be installed by the end of next week.

The Board was also provided with information advising there will be no increase during 2014 to Park District insurance premiums due to the recreational improvements, and that the increase in 2015 will be \$75.00.

# **PARK DEVELOMENT – FUTURE PROJECTS**

The Board was provided with a recap of the April 28<sup>th</sup> planning meeting where current and proposed future projects were discussed. Aaron Young advised that in order to proceed with the 2015 anticipated projects – Frohring Meadows and Headwaters Park - contracted design must be completed in 2014. Mr. Oros recommended that cost proposals for both 2015 projects be provided to the Board for review at the June meeting along with project appropriations requests which, if approved, will allow the RFP's for design consultant fees to go out.

Mr. Mucci inquired as to any preliminary plans for Welton's Gorge and was advised there are none. Mrs. Shumway inquired as to the final estimate of the cost for the Nassau Station Restoration and was advised it will not be available until the design revisions are complete.

# **EMPLOYEE TRAINING**

Robin Pilarczyk reported that staff completed the Human Resource and Civil Discourse training within 4 days of deadline and experienced minimal problems. Ms. Pilarczyk reviewed scheduled training programs for the balance of 2014 and proposed web-based and presenter-based training for 2015, a copy of which will be provided to the Board. There were discussions regarding staggering of web-based training to limit the demand on Park District bandwidth, and on the Park District current bandwidth capacity.

# **IT/TECHNOLOGY UPDATE**

Don Lombardy reported that Windstream Communications will be sending a crew to Observatory Park to restore the land disturbed during the fiber cable installation. Implementation of the GPD Disaster Recovery Scheme has begun with the virtualization of the servers. The result is if a physical server hosting one of the images crashes, the virtual image can be restored from tape and placed on a different server for staff use, resulting in less down time. Bids were requested for a printer/copier to replace the 10-year old Sharp copier currently supporting the Ranger, NRM and Planning Departments. Ricoh came in with the best bid of \$112.38 for sixty (60) months with a per page cost of .009 for black and .06 for color copies, which includes a service agreement and all supplies except paper. There were discussions on the need for the new printer/copier.

Mrs. Shumway made a motion to approve the sixty (60) month lease of a new Ricoh printer/copier at a cost of \$112.38 per month, plus per copy costs.

Mr. Mucci seconded the motion and after voice vote, the motion was approved 2-0:

Mr. Mucci Yes Mrs. Shumway Yes

Mr. Lombardy reported that all network wall plates, distribution boxes and switch boxes have been identified which will be beneficial when trouble-shooting network issues and for future network installations. Mr. Lombardy reported that a digital pen and appropriate computers were researched and have been purchased for use by a member of the NRM Department, and all program downloads and training are complete.

There were discussions regarding the required frequency of changing passwords to access the Park District email accounts. Mr. Lombardy advised that the policy follows State of Ohio Auditor's recommendations, and the monthly changing of passwords applies to employees with access to financial data bases. Mr. Lombardy is working with the County to extend the password changing timing to three (3) months for all other employees, and is investigating ways to send notification alerts to all employees informing of password expiration dates

#### **FLEET ASSESSMENT:**

The Board was provided with a Geauga Park District Fleet Assessment Study for review and comments. Mr. Mucci led discussions on take-home vehicles relating to the Ranger Department's yearly mileage and the possibility of extending the use/life of the vehicles and reducing cost to the Park District, by eliminating take-home vehicles for the Ranger department. Sgt. McKinnon informed the Board that take-home vehicles help improve response time during emergency situations when Rangers must be called into work from home. Mr. Mucci inquired if local law enforcement agencies helped during these times, with confirmation from Sgt. McKinnon that they do, if available. Mrs. Shumway requested the Ranger Department prepare information for the June Board meeting that communicates to the Board and the Public why it benefits the Park District and the taxpayers/citizens of Geauga County for Rangers to take their vehicles home.

Matt McCue reviewed some of the recommendations made in the assessment – pooling vs. individual assigned vehicles and departments that may require an assigned vehicle. Mr. Oros proposed that he and Mr. McCue prepare a recommendation for presentation at the June Board meeting that outlines the number of vehicles the Park District currently has, those that are actually needed, those that should be retired, re-assigned to different departments or replaced. The report would also include recommendations for employee reimbursement when personal vehicles are used for work related trips, which may reduce overall vehicle cost to the Park District. Mr. Mucci recommended that an 'ideal' fleet be designed, then worked backwards utilizing the vehicles the Park District currently has and what would be needed. Mrs. Shumway added that future vehicle purchases should be based on actual need criteria.

Mr. Mucci requested that Paul Pira review his request and need for a replacement truck. Mr. Pira stated that the current truck does not meet the requirements for towing the tractor and trailer purchased last year that are substantially bigger than previous models. The decision to purchase heavier equipment was based on the fact that prior vehicle replacement schedules allowed for replacement of their current truck in 2014. Mr. McCue added that the current truck was slated to be kept in the fleet to accommodate NRM higher vehicle use in the spring-summer-fall months. Mr. Mucci asked if the truck was speced out and if it was one of the items removed from the 2014 budget, with Mr. Pira confirming both. Mr. Mucci and Mrs. Shumway agreed they are ready to relook at this item, based on need and towing safety issues. Ms. Pennell confirmed that a supplemental appropriations request in the amount of \$35,000.00 would be submitted to the Board for approval in June if the purchase is approved.

Mrs. Shumway made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2014 Dodge 3500 4 x 4 pick-up truck for use by the Natural Resource Management department, in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00.

Mr. Mucci seconded the motion and after voice vote, the motion was approved 2-0:

Mr. Mucci Yes Mrs. Shumway Yes

Ranger replacement vehicle recommendations will be reviewed after receipt of the Ranger Department report and Planning/Mgmt. fleet organization recommendations. Mrs. Shumway stressed that any Park District vehicles that are unsafe be brought to the Board's attention.

# **FLAG DEDICATION CEREMONY**

Paige Orvis gave an update on the patron's request to fly flags at Headwaters and Chickagami Parks, stating that Operations coordinated and had flags flying the day after the Board Meeting. To further celebrate the flags flying and to honor our Veterans the Park District will hold flag dedication ceremonies on Friday, May 30 at Headwaters and Chickagami at 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. respectively. The size of the current flags will be reviewed, and if necessary, will be replaced with larger ones. Ms. Orvis confirmed that the American Legion will assist with the ceremonies, and Mrs. Shumway has arranged for volunteers to sing the National Anthem. Mr. Mucci requested than invitations to the events be extended to all Geauga County judges, elected officials, including those that are not yet officially in office. Ms. Orvis confirmed that a press release has gone out regarding the events and Ms. Ward advised it is posted on The Park District website and social media accounts. Mr. Mucci requested that a schedule of events be available that would include any speakers and Master of Ceremonies.

#### AQUATIC WEED CONTROL, BEARTOWN LAKES

Paul Pira presented the Board with an Aquatic Weed Control Management Plan for Beartown Lakes, stating that over the years the ponds have been progressively infested with problematic weed species and excessively high nutrients that negatively affect fishing and aesthetics in the Park. Mr. Pira stated that the Natural Resource Management department has started weed treatment with herbicides, but is recommending the

Park District reach out to neighbors to discuss nutrient run-off, and to work with operations on goose damage management. Mrs. Shumway suggested contacting Auburn Township to insure all who were required to upgrade the septic systems have done so. Mr. Pira added that partnership with Chagrin River Watershed can assist with a watershed management plan.

# GEAUGA OHIO HORSEMEN'S - SPECIAL USE PERMIT REQUEST

Geauga Ohio Horsemen's Council (GOHC) submitted a request to hold a Flea Market at The West Woods Nature Center on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. All proceeds received by GOHC for selling vendor sites will be donated by GOHC to the Geauga Park District Bridle Trail Fund.

Mrs. Shumway made a motion to permit the Geauga Ohio Horsemen's Council to hold a Flea Market at the West Woods Nature Center on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The Ranger Department will be permitted to assist with traffic control.

Mr. Mucci seconded the motion and after voice vote, the motion was approved 2-0:

Mr. Mucci Yes Mrs. Shumway Yes

# WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT/2014-15 CONTROLLED HUNTING PROGRAM

Paul Pira provided the Board with a summary of the 2013-14 hunting program and proposal for the 2014-15 hunting season. Mr. Pira advised that there were a record number of hunting applicants for last year's program and 68 deer were harvested, most from archery. Newly requested information on time hunters spent on deer harvesting will, when comparison data is available, provide valuable information on harvest trends. There were questions and discussions on permit restrictions i.e., length of time and area of permitted hunting. Mr. Pira explained that under the current hunting program, most permits are for Park District closed preserves, and that permits are issued to those individuals who are neighbors and have Park access through their property, or to individuals who know the park neighbors and are able to utilize their property for access. The hunted preserves do not have access driveways or roads, making public access difficult, and limiting the number of permits that can be issued.

The Board inquired as to ways to increase the number of applicants that receive permits, possibly by finding solutions to the lack of public access to the Park preserves. The Board requested that NRM, and appropriate individuals, brain-storm ideas to include more of the general public in Park District hunts in order to create a more open and robust hunting program. Mrs. Shumway asked if any specie besides deer is being hunted on Park Property, with Mr. Ralph suggesting the Park District contact the Whitetail Unlimited local chapter for information on additional hunting opportunities.

#### **FEE SCHEDULE**

Information was made available to the Board for review of the current Park District Fee Schedule.

# PUBLIC RECORDS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

The Board requested that until the draft of the Public Records and Public Relations/Communications policies are reviewed for revision and adopted, all public records requests be filtered through the Interim Deputy Director for review prior to action on them and for approval prior to release to the public.

#### **SURPLUS PROPERTY**

The Board was asked to approve the following as Surplus Property:

	Inventory No.	Description	Starting Bid
1	1354 C	Craftsman Wet/Dry Vacuum (item defective)	Scrap
2	-	2 benches	Donate to Russell Twp Park

Mrs. Shumway made a motion to approve the items be declared surplus as presented.

Mr. Mucci seconded the motion and after voice vote, the motion was approved 2-0:

Mr. Mucci Yes Mrs. Shumway Yes

# **COMMISSIONERS' TIME**

Mr. Mucci advised that there is a zoning issue with Montville Township and that the Probate Court has retained Thrasher Dinsmore and Dolan to represent it in the matter. The Board feels that it is important that the Park District have its own representation, and so that there are not two attorneys from the same firm and to get diversity of thought, the Board has looked into retaining John Slagter of Buckingham, Doolittle and Burroughs for representation.

Mr. Mucci made a motion to hire Buckingham, Doolittle and Burroughs at a rate of \$275.00/hour to represent the Geauga Park District in regard to the Montville Township Zoning issue.

Mrs. Shumway seconded the motion and after voice vote, the motion was approved 2-0:

Mr. Mucci Yes Mrs. Shumway Yes

Mr. Mucci stated that the Leadership Assessment was completed in the beginning of the year and the Board is potentially looking at reorganizing the Park District's organization chart. The Board has looked into retaining Martin Galvin of Reminger Attorneys at Law, who specializes in HR work, to offer legal guidance to insure the Park District is compliant with employment law during the process.

Mr. Mucci made a motion to hire Martin Galvin of Reminger Attorneys at Law at a rate of \$275.00/hour on an advisory basis to offer guidance to insure the reorganization process is fair and compliant with employment law.

Mrs. Shumway seconded the motion and after voice vote, the motion was approved 2-0:

Mr. Mucci Yes Mrs. Shumway Yes

Mr. Mucci stated for the record that relationship with David Ondrey and Thrasher Dinsmore and Dolan is not being altered; the hiring of additional legal counsel is for specialized circumstances only.

## **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Augustine stated that as the Park is an environmental organization, it should make sure it needs large, 4-wheel drive vehicles for replacements. He also stated that the Division of Wildlife has a program to permit deer hunting in off season for deer population control, allows different types of guns to be used and suggested

the Park District look into this program. The Board agreed this is a good idea and advised that it would be the responsibility the Natural Resource Management Department to confirm there is a deer population problem in the Parks. Mr. Augustine also advised that when walking the trails Chickagami Park a lot of farm land can be seen. He suggested that the Park look into acquiring conservation easements to prevent development of the adjacent land. Mr. Augustine stated that he would like the Board to allow questions from the public at the beginning and end of Board meetings.

Mrs. Shumway responded to Mr. Augustine's vehicle question by confirming that John Oros and Matt McCue will be evaluating the possible of getting rid some of the fleet we have now and recommending pooling of vehicle use and reimbursing employees for use of their vehicle for Park District work. The Ford Explorers have been recommended due to the climate and location of where the vehicles are required to travel.

# **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Mucci made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation, personnel compensation and position vacancies.

Mrs. Shumway seconded the motion and after voice vote, the motion was approved 2-0:

Mr. Mucci Yes Mrs. Shumway Yes

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:59 p.m.

Mr. Mucci made a motion to come out of Executive Session.

Mrs. Shumway seconded the motion and after voice vote, the motion was approved 2-0:

Mr. Mucci Yes Mrs. Shumway Yes

The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:33 p.m. There were no items brought forward.

Mr. Mucci made a motion to adjourn the meeting

Mrs. Shumway seconded the motion and after voice vote, the motion was approved 2-0:

Mr. Mucci Yes Mrs. Shumway Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 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	
Mary Ruth Shumway, President	