

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held September 9, 2014 at the Meyer Center, Big Creek Park, Chardon Twp. Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. President Mary Ruth Shumway was in the Chair. Commissioners Louis Mucci and Brian Johnston were present

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

Park District Employees	GUESTS
John Oros, Interim Director	See attachment "A"
Anna McDonald, Executive Secretary	
Aaron Young, Director of Planning	
Michele Pennell, CFO	
Robin Pilarczyk, Director of Human Resources	
Paige Orvis, Director of Mkt. & Administrative Services	
Paul Pira, Director of Natural Resource Management	
Brett Bellas, Maintenance Supervisor	
Sandy Ward, Communications Specialist	
Matt McCue, Director of Strategic Planning	
Eileen Smith, Administrative Services Coordinator	
Wes Krigbaum, Operations Department	
John Kolar, Chief Naturalist	

Commissioner Mary Ruth Shumway addressed the guests present at the Board meeting:

"I would like to begin by thanking everyone for their attendance this evening. Your presence here this evening clearly demonstrates your passion for the Geauga County Parks.

Tonight we are here for a public meeting. This is not a public hearing. I will ask that you wait until called upon to speak. At the conclusion of the Board business and prior to the executive session I will call on Geauga County residents first to address the Board with their input into the business of the Park at the podium. I would ask that everyone listen to the person who has spoken before them and to not reiterate the thoughts but rather to just acknowledge that you agree with what has been stated. Those individuals called upon will have ample time to address the Board as it states in Article XVI of our Bylaws. I would ask that each individual try to keep their time at the podium to three minutes as we do have additional Park business to work through.

In August, this current Board told everyone at the meeting that we would review the section of the Bylaws directly addressing the uses in our Parks. At that time, we specifically told everyone present that no fracking or logging would take place; rather this was a direct response to a zoning issue. We will review the section marked Article XXI of the Bylaws this evening. Everyone in this room should hear the new revised wording. I will also ask that the proposed changes to Section XXI be entered in the minutes of the September Board meeting, and published on the website for public review.

The Mission of the Geauga County Park District is to preserve, conserve and protect the natural features of Geauga County and to provide outdoor recreational experiences to our residents of every age, every ability and at all times of the year. I personally and enthusiastically welcome individuals into the Geauga County Parks to explore, learn and identify all that Geauga County has to offer in our remarkable outdoors and in our fabulous facilities.

All three Board members are Geauga County residents and our ultimate goal is to work for the best interest of the Geauga County Park District. I ask that you will do the same.”

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

The Board was presented with minutes from the August 11, 2014 Board meeting. There were no questions from the Board.

Mr. Mucci made a motion to approve the August 11, 2014 Board meeting minutes as written.

Mr. Johnston seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion as approved 3-0.

Mr. Mucci	Yes
Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Johnston	Yes

The Board was presented with minutes from the August 12, 2014 Emergency Board meeting. There were no questions from the Board.

Mr. Johnston made a motion to approve the August 12, 2012 Emergency Board meeting minutes as written.

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

Mr. Mucci	Abstain
Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Johnston	Yes

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Board was provided with a copy of the August 2014 Financial Statement. Ms. Pennell provided an overview to the Board. All questions by the Board were satisfactorily answered.

Geauga Park District
FINANCIAL STATEMENT MONTH ENDED
 August 31, 2014
GENERAL FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE AUGUST 1, 2014	5,320,784.06
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES	
Personnel	227,384.58
Medicare	3,298.23
Dental /Hospitalization	47,275.64
PERS (July payment)	33,153.14
Vouchers	71,978.58
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES	383,090.17
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES	
<u>General Tax Collections</u>	
- Real Estate Tax (2nd half settlement, Public Housing GMHA Pilot)	2,608,371.87

Investment Income 143.17

Gifts & Donations 6,765.75

- GPDF Memorials - \$895.17 Patron Donations - \$ 152.42
- GPDF Chip Henry Institute -\$210.00 Naturescopes- \$5,508.16

Fees

- Camping 140.00
- Shelters/Room fees 520.00
- NAF Table Fees 925.00
- Utility fees 540.00
- Adventure Camp registration fees 750.00
- Programs - Out-of-county - OP Planetarium program 150.00
- Programs - CMNH-Kelsoe canoe, Women's Retreat 181.00

Sales

- Tapper's Treasures - MC 119.80
- Tree Tops - TWW 2,267.07

Other Receipts

- GPD Foundation rental space/equipment 212.18
- Observatory house - Sindelar 300.00
- Swine Creek house - Harry 400.00
- Burton Wetlands house- Kolar 400.00
- Hyde house - Krigbaum 400.00
- Chickagami house - Maksim 400.00
- Citation Disbursement 95.00
- Recycling proceeds - Scrap metal 332.03
- Refund - Walmart to adjust tether ball sale 0.01
- GPD Foundation reimbursement for postage Feb - Jul 2014 87.01
- Local Government Funds 7,093.70
- Auction Proceeds - Honda Civic - \$5,500.00, Reptile cage - \$25.00 5,525.00

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES 2,634,795.51

ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF AUGUST 31, 2014 7,573,812.48

LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE AUGUST 1, 2014 3,778,433.15

EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES		
Vouchers	91,388.69	
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES		91,388.69
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES		
<u>Investment Income</u>	98.08	
<u>Gifts & Donations</u>	9,860.12	
- GPDF - Observatory Phase III \$2,560.12, GPDF - Nassau \$7,300.00		
<u>Royalties/In-Lieu Fees</u>	216.86	
- Sunnybrook - \$32.74, Ford-Windsor - \$116.54 , Hehmeyer - \$67.58		
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES		10,175.06
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF AUGUST 31, 2014		\$ 3,697,219.52
<hr/>		
<u>RETIREMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT</u>		
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE AUGUST 1, 2014		\$ 82,423.68
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES		0.00
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES		2.11
<u>Investment Income</u>	2.11	
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF AUGUST 31, 2014		\$ 82,425.79

PURCHASE REQUISITION PRE-APPROVALS

The Board was presented with a list of outstanding Purchase Requisitions for pre-approval in the amount of \$95,663.60. All questions by the Board were satisfactorily answered.

Mr. Mucci made a motion to approve the September 2014 purchase requisitions.

Mr. Johnston seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved 3 – 0:

Mr. Mucci	Yes
Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Johnston	Yes

Mr. Mucci explained to the guests that the Board performs two reviews of spending vouchers: one pre-approving the upcoming month's vouchers, and one acknowledging the previous month's expenditures. He added that this change was initiated by this Board so that the District and Board have more accountability to the taxpayers regarding Park District expenditures.

PRESENTATION OF VOUCHERS

The Board was presented with the vouchers paid during the month of August 2014 in the amount of \$311,296.95. These vouchers represent the normal day-to-day operational expenses, approved budgeted expenses and payroll. There were no questions by the Board.

Mr. Mucci made a motion to accept the August 2014 paid vouchers into the record.

Mrs. Shumway seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved 3-0:

Mr. Mucci	Yes
Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Johnston	Yes

PARK DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS - 2014 CONSTRUCTION COST SUMMARIES

The Board was provided with informational summaries on 2014 construction project costs to date. Mr. Young advised that 2014 Asphalt Improvements and the Orchard Hills Playground projects are complete and provided updates on Maple Highlands Trail –Chardon Connector, Maple Highlands Trail – South and the Nassau Connector Trail at Observatory Park indicating all should be complete by the end of October, weather permitting.

PARK UPDATES – STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Board was provided with an update on the Strategic Planning process. Mr. McCue advised he is finalizing the inventory and analysis phase and progressing to the assessment and evaluation phase. He added that community leader, educational leader surveys and Park District departmental surveys are complete; Park visitor intercepts are underway; discussions are being conducted regarding the county-wide survey to determine if outside help may be necessary to supplement/assist the Park District with survey design and administration. Mr. Mucci inquired if Mr. McCue had reached out to any local colleges for assistance, if the questions have been developed and if there was a timeline for completion. Mr. McCue advised that he is working on the survey being sent out late 2014 / early 2015, with results complete by February 2015 which will allow plan formulation to begin in the spring of 2015. He added that the survey is one aspect of the Strategic Plan in addition to other objectives – financial, sustainability- and moving forward in a way that aligns with the Park District Mission.

PARK UPDATES – SPECIAL USE PERMITS

Habitat for Humanity: The Park District received a request from Habitat for Humanity for permission to serve alcohol at their volunteer appreciation dinner scheduled at The West Woods on November 5th, 2014.

Mr. Mucci made a motion to approve the request to allow alcohol at Habitat for Humanity’s volunteer appreciation dinner.

Mr. Johnston seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved 3-0:

Mr. Mucci	Yes
Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Johnston	Yes

Leadership Geauga: The Park District received a request from Leadership Geauga for permission to serve alcohol at their Alumni Event scheduled at The West Woods on November 8, 2104.

Mr. Mucci made a motion to approve the request to allow alcohol at Leadership Geauga’s Alumni event.

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

Mr. Mucci	Yes
Mrs. Shumway	Abstain
Mr. Johnston	Yes

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS – BUDGET AMENDMENT #8, RESOLUTION NO. 19-14

The Board was asked to approve an Appropriations Transfer, Resolution No. 19-14, Budget Amendment No. 8 to move appropriations already in place in one account to another account for payment. The Appropriations Transfer is in the amount of \$2.00 and will be transferred as shown below:

General Fund (6017)

\$2.00 – From Workers’ Compensation Account (6017-057-00-505) to Unemployment Account (6017-057-00-506)

- To move \$2.00 in appropriations from the Workers’ Compensation account which has a balance of \$14,570.93 remaining after the annual payment and recent transfer to the Unemployment account which has a \$722.00 balance and a cash transfer is required to pay for the June unemployment charges of \$724.00 for former employee R. Mast.

Mr. Johnston made a motion to approve Resolution No. 19-14 to transfer appropriations of \$2.00 from the General Fund-Worker’s Compensation Account to Unemployment Account.

Mr. Mucci seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved 3 – 0:

Mr. Mucci	Yes
Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Johnston	Yes

CERTIFICATION OF TAX LEVIES, RESOLUTION NO. 22-14

As part of the budget process, the Board is required to adopt a resolution certifying the tax levy millage and planned income from these tax levies to be collected in 2015. Ms. Pennell requested the Board approve Resolution No. 22-14 certifying anticipated income of \$5,461,027.00 from two (2) levies which have an outside millage of 2.00 mills. Ms. Pennell advised a third 0.70 mill levy was suspended for one year at the August 25, 2014 budget hearing by the Geauga County Budget Commission.

Current expense levy authorized by voters on November 8, 2005 - suspended	0.00	0.00
Current expense levy authorized by voters on November 6, 2012	1.00	\$2,943,541.00
Current expense levy authorized by voters on November 7, 2000	1.00	\$2,517,486.00
Total levies outside 10 mill limitation	2.00	\$5,461,027.00

Mr. Mucci requested information on how this action fits into what transpired at the August 25th Budget Commission hearing. Ms. Pennell advised that the Park District has a budget in place for 2015, being the budget that the Board approved and submitted to the Commission for approval. She confirmed the Budget Commission took the action to suspend the 0.70 levy, and that they have the authority to change the revenue side of the Budget and there is no action that the Board needs to take to the appropriation or expense side of the Budget. The Budget that the Board approved in July will go into effect in January 2015, with the revision of the removal of anticipated income from the suspended 0.70 levy. Ms. Pennell advised the non-collection of the levy is for one year, at which time the Park District can request re-instatement of the levy.

Mr. Mucci inquired if the Budget Commission had questioned the Park District size of the carryover balance in the past and if there had ever been any written communication by the Budget Commission. Ms. Pennell advised the Commission has questioned the cash balance, but approved previous budgets after the Park District provided them with a list of projects which would be funded by the cash balance, and that there has been no written communication from them regarding the cash balance. Mr. Johnston inquired that if in the past, the Park District ever had a pending land purchase with a confidentiality agreement, that could not be shared with the Commission

regarding the reason for the cash balance carryover. Ms. Pennell advised she was not aware of any such situation in the past. Mr. Johnston inquired if this situation arose with the Board, how it could be handled. Ms. Pennell advised the funds could be designated for land acquisition without providing specific information.

Mr. Mucci made the following comments: The current Board inherited a budget with 1.9 million dollar deficit, and though very detailed, included a lot of wasteful spending, including new cars not needed, un-necessary training and an 'other' category that included monies for unspecified expenses. The Board cut these items as it felt they were not a good use of taxpayer money. Mr. Mucci added that he is aware there is concern about the suspension of the levy relating to the day-to-day operations of the Park District. He stated that the Park has an 11.2 million dollar fund balance which is two (2) years worth of operating funds, while still collecting the tax monies that will replenish operating expenses. Mr. Mucci stated that the Mission of the Park can continue in a manner that is more respectful of the tax payer's money. Even with cutting the 2 million dollars—zero programs were cut and none of activities the Park District performs were affected. Mr. Mucci commended the Park District management and staff for operating efficiently and being respectful of tax payer's money.

Mr. Mucci made a motion to approve the Certification of Tax Levies, Resolution No. 22-14 as presented.

Mr. Johnston seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved 3 – 0:

Mr. Mucci	Yes
Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Johnston	Yes

RETIREMENT SEVERANCE POLICY, RESOLUTION NO. 20-14

The Board was presented with proposed revisions to the Park District Retirement Severance policy which would place a cap on sick-time pay out and adding language clarifying other leaves paid out in total at the time of retirement. Ms. Pilarczyk informed the Board that in the past the Park District paid out 25% of accrued sick days, and the proposal is to cap the number of paid out days at 30. Previously there has been no language regarding the pay out of other leaves. (Proposed amendment bolded and italics).

RETIREMENT SEVERANCE

Upon retirement, Geauga Park District offers an employee who retires within an Ohio Public Employee Retirement System with ten (10) or more years of Ohio public service, a cash payment for twenty-five percent (25%) of his/her accrued, but unused, sick leave ***up to a maximum of one-fourth of 120 days, or 30 days.***

Leaves such as vacation, personal leave, comp time, etc will be paid out in total in the employee's final paycheck.

The payment shall be at the rate of pay at the time of retirement. Accepting the cash payment eliminates all remaining sick leave credit accrued to that time.

Ms. Pilarczyk advised that the cap for sick day payout would be a cost savings to the Park District) and would mirror the County's policy. Mr. Mucci inquired as to whether there were any current employees that would lose any benefits by the proposed changes, and was advised there were if the eligible employees retired. Ms. Pennell gave information regarding the Park District's Retirement Reserve Account, which was created to assist with payouts of sick, vacation and leave time to retiring employees. Mr. Johnston provided information on a plan that the Sheriff's Department implemented regarding benefit payout that was a three-tier payout that benefitted the employees and requested that Ms. Pilarczyk review the Sheriff's Department policy. Mr. Johnston recommended that the Board table this item pending further information and options. Mr. Mucci concurred with Mr. Johnston and requested more information and additional recommendations that included a transitional process, be provided to the Board.

TRAVEL POLICY REVISION, RESOLUTION NO. 21-14

The Board was provided with a proposed revision to Policy 602.1- Travel, adding guidelines for reimbursement of meal gratuities: (Proposed addendum to policy in bold and italics.)

Reimbursement of meal gratuities is authorized at actual expense but not to exceed 15% of the actual meal expense. The amount of the gratuity shall count against the applicable meal rate.

Mr. Johnston made a motion to approve the addition of the guidelines for reimbursement of meal gratuities to Policy 602.1 – Travel.

Mr. Mucci seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved 3 – 0:

Mr. Mucci	Yes
Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Johnston	Yes

2015 FEE SCHEDULE, RESOLUTION NO. 23-14

The Board was provided with a proposed 2015 Fee Schedule for consideration. Ms. Smith provided an overview and rationale for the proposed fees, as follows:

- Camping fee: Recommend in-county camping fee of \$10.00 be implemented to discourage no-show campers. No increase to out-of-county campers.
- Lodge Heat Fee: Recommend increase heat fee from \$30.00 to \$35.00. Proposed fee to cover actual heat-fee costs to the Park District.
- Lodge Reservation: Recommend restricting lodge reservations to one per day (currently 2 per day which requires Operations Department to reset all lodges with multiple reservations between the hours of 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.)
- Convenience Fee: Recommend a \$10.00 fee to patrons who request heat the day of their reservation, to help cover the expense of dispatching a Ranger to turn the heat on.
- After-hours Staffing Fee: Recommend implementing a staffing fee for after-hours facility reservations, to include Building Host, Security (if necessary) and cancellation fee, to help cover the staffing expense
- Out-of-County Program Fee: Recommend increasing out-of-county program fees by \$1.00, with \$30.00 minimum, to help cover staffing and travel expenses.
- Citation Fees: Recommend increasing fee for parking in handicapped slot from \$25.00 to \$50.00 to discourage this practice.

After discussions on the proposed changes, the Board requested information on the amount current fees generate for each category, and estimates on what the proposed fees will generate, and recommendations on other ways to deal with the current issues other than raising fees. In addition, the Board requested that the items be presented individually for consideration and approval and requested the information on the handicapped parking fee currently charged by the Municipal Court. This item will be tabled to the October Board meeting.

SURPLUS PROPERTY

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

	Inventory No.	Description	Starting Bid
1	-	Laptop docking station CNU743XR97 (Item defective)	Scrap
2	-	Laptop docking station CNU743XRJ7 (Item defective)	Scrap

Mr. Johnston made a motion to approve the items declared surplus as presented.

Mrs. Shumway seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved 3 – 0:

Mr. Mucci	Yes
Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Johnston	Yes

COMMISSIONER’S TIME

Mr. Johnston addressed guest Debbi Mayo, advising he was informed that his response to some of Ms. Mayo’s remarks during Park District meetings were construed as abrasive to her. Mr. Johnston apologized to Ms. Mayo assuring her that he respected her opinions even though he may not agree with all of them, and assured her that it was not his intent to cause her any discomfort.

Mr. Johnston advised the guests that the Board appreciates the passion and dedication of the guests in attendance at this meeting. The Board is submitting into the record a proposed change to Article XXI of the Bylaws – Activities, which will be voted on at the next Board meeting. Mr. Johnston advised that the list previously included in Article XXI is gone. Mr. Johnston read the proposed Article XXI into the record:

**Proposed Revision
Geauga County Park District By-Laws
Section XXI – Activities
Presented for Review September 9, 2014 Board Meeting**

ARTICLE XXI ACTIVITIES

“Consistent with the purpose set forth in Article I, park activities, including preservation, conservation, and approved outdoor recreation, will include and may be conducted on park land pursuant to the provisions of O.R.C. §§1545.09 and 1545.11 and subject to the Rules and Regulations as amended from time to time by the Park Board.”

Mr. Johnston further advised that in the future he would not be adverse to an “ad hoc” debate with a group made of individuals from diverse interest groups to discuss proposed change to activities and recreation in the Park.

Mrs. Shumway advised that during the next few years the residents of Geauga County will hear a lot about Park development and wanted to clarify what that means. Mrs. Shumway read the Park District Mission:

“The Mission of the Geauga Park District is to preserve ,conserve and protect the natural features of Geauga County and to provide outdoor recreational experiences to our residents of every age, every ability and at all times of the year.”

Mrs. Shumway provided the following information provided by Matt McCue of the Planning Department:

- 1.5% - 6.7% of the following Parks are developed. Development, besides recreational amenities, includes driveways, parking facilities, restrooms, pavilions, amphitheaters, mowed and maintained property areas, facilities, and all trails.
- Orchard Hills: 237 acres with 6.5% developed (including the orchard)
- Frohring Meadows: 298 acres with 2.5% developed
- Swine Creek: 268 acres with 5.7% developed
- Observatory Park: 642 acres with 1.5% developed (including trails under construction)

Mrs. Shumway advised that she is communicating this information to help educate the public on the development of park properties.

Mr. Mucci stated that in all his experience in public activities he has never seen something get as misunderstood and misconstrued as Article XXI of the Bylaws, which was included in the Bylaws for zoning purposes. He added that the Board heard the criticism and understood how it could be misconstrued and that is why the Board worked to make the proposed changes that Mr. Johnston read.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – below are comment summaries:

Debbi Mayo, Munson Twp., addressed the Board from the podium. Ms. Mayo shared the results of the petition circulated by the Protect Geauga Parks group. The petition read: “We the undersigned who use and respect the Geauga County parks request that the changes made to the bylaws of the Geauga County Park District and approved at the July 8th 2014 meeting of the Park Board be revoked effective immediately.” Ms. Mayo exhibited a ‘check’ showing that 2,438 signatures in support of revoking the Bylaws. She added that those signing the petition were from all walks of life: parents, families, educators, scientists, elderly, young, birdwatchers, trail hikers, horse riders, people who like fishing, people who like holding hands in the park, and people that have donated land to the parks. In addition, the petition was signed by ATV users, hunters, firearm shooters, trappers, snowmobilers. Ms. Mayo commented on the importance of keeping the three rivers that run through the Park District clean as they flow into Lake Erie. She added that the group appreciates the steps the Board has taken in removing the list of activities, but would like the Bylaws returned completely and in its entirety, to what it was June 1st, 2014.

Judy Zamlen-Spotts, Chesterland, addressed the Board from the podium. Ms. Zamlen-Spotts requested her letter to the editor be entered into the minutes:

“How wonderful to read Brian C. Johnston’s response to residents’ concerns regarding proposed amendments to the Geauga Park District bylaws! It was my personal experience that previous park district officials did not respond with such compassion or respect, as did Mr. Johnston.

Brian Johnston showed great leadership in recognizing that there is a broad perspective that needs to be recognized and address in a thoughtful and balanced manner. He understands the need to support conservation efforts while providing essential recreational opportunities for all members of our community.

Under the direct of Judge Timothy Grendell, the Geauga Park District has become user friendly and open to all residents, not just the few who enjoyed private privileges or those who benefitted financially from grandiose land purchase deals.

I’m grateful to Geauga Park Commissioners Lou Mucci, Mary Ruth Shumway and Brian Johnston for their dedication and service, true service to the residents of Geauga County.”

Ron Weich, Middlefield, addressed the Board from the podium. Mr. Weich stated that he remembers when the Parks were built, and spent a lot of time in them as a Cub Scout. He added that he appreciated what the Board did in the proposed change to Article XXI to the By-laws. Mr. Weich suggested that before additional changes are made to any of the Parks, that the survey be completed so the Park District is aware what is important to residents of Geauga County.

Erik Gerard, Hemlock Hills Homeowner’s Association, addressed the Board from the podium. Mr. Gerard advised that several times a year the Association takes advantage of reserving the Affelder House at The West Woods. He added that he applauded the Commissioners on addressing the Park District regarding fiscal policies. Mr. Gerard advised that he has to report back to the Homeowner’s Association regarding the proposed gas and oil drilling in the Park District, and stated that even if the verbiage is being removed, it does not mean that the intent is gone. Mr. Mucci responded that this is one of the most misconstrued points, and there was never, or is there any intent by the Board to conduct oil and gas drilling in the Park District. Mr. Gerard thanked the Board.

John Augustine, Parkman Twp., addressed the Board from the podium. The Board thanked Mr. Augustine for attending all the Board meetings, for his comments, and for his work on repairing and maintaining the Nassau

telescope. Mr. Augustine reiterated Ms. Mayo's comments and requested that the Board return the Bylaws to the way they were to make it clear that to protect, preserve and conserve are the primary things the Park District is concerned about, and that any other changes in the Park are overseen by those three things. Mr. Augustine stated that people who voted for the Park levies did so because they want the monies used to protect natural areas. He stated that the Park District could use its excess monies to preserve the lands of Geauga County, through easements, working with Western Reserve Land Conservancy and to purchase farm land easements. Mr. Mucci stated that he agrees with Mr. Augustine regarding the purchase of properties to preserve, but purchases will be well-thought out and that the tax payer's money will be spent wisely. Mr. Mucci addressed the comments regarding the changes to the bylaws, confirming the fact that the bulk of the changes were to internal operating procedures, and they will not be revoked. Mr. Augustine made comments concerning the suspension of the levy and the authority of the actions taken.

Ed Buckles, Troy Township, addressed the Board from the podium. Mr. Buckles commented on the lack of Board authority regarding the suspension of the levy at the Budget Commission meeting, and stated the Board needs to be clearer and open on what it is doing. He added that the group disagrees wholeheartedly with the proposed changes to the Bylaws, because the previous Bylaw language stated..." no activities would be considered in the park that are not consistent with conserve, protect and preserve"... and that language needs to be returned to the Bylaws. Mr. Buckles offered the Board a Resolution to be entered into the minutes which would return the Bylaws to their form prior to the July 8th 2014 Board Meeting:

"It is hereby resolved that all changes to the by-laws of the Geauga Park District authorized by vote of the Geauga Park Board at its meeting on July 8, 2014 are hereby rescinded and shall be of no force or effect."

Mr. Buckles further commented that goal of the Board to have better financial controls is a wonderful thing, but the heart has been cut out of the Executive Director's job, and that it will be difficult to find qualified individuals for the position. He added that a survey is a wonderful idea, and gave his opinion on how it should be conducted. Mr. Buckles stated that there appears to be a political under current in the county for loosing public tax support for the Park District, grants are being rejected from government agencies, the Park District is not cooperating with other conservation groups, and private donations that have conservation strings attached are not being accepted. Mr. Mucci stated the Park District welcomes cooperation with all the other conservation groups in the area, and using those relationships the staff has built with these organizations is encouraged. The Park District will accept grant money that is available. Regarding private donations and contributions with easements, Mr. Mucci stated that one of the unique things about the Park District is the Park District Foundation, a wonderful example of a public/private partnership and the Board and Park District will do whatever is in the District's power to honor the intent and enforce the requests of donors. There were discussions regarding the suspension of the levy, Park District operating budget, Park District spending on current and future projects and possible land acquisitions. Mrs. Shumway stated the Park District has current properties that could be further developed, but that the Board needs to wait until the results of the survey are in so that future projects are in line with the needs and wants of the residents of Geauga County.

Kathryn _____, South Russell, addressed the Board from the podium. Kathryn recited the current Mission of the Park District and inquired as to what is now stopping any resident from coming to our Parks and enjoying them as they are. Kathryn added that our Parks offer a needed peaceful, natural setting for quiet and leisure time that people don't get anywhere else. She added that areas for ballparks, private land for hunting and snowmobiles are easy to come by, but it is almost impossible for residents to find the natural settings we have in our Park system. Kathryn stated that activities such as walking, hiking, bird watching and sitting by a pond are inclusive to all residents and activities such as snowmobiling, use of ATV and hunting are exclusive to those that have the equipment and skills. She stated she would like the parks to return to what they were... "conserve, preserve and protect the natural areas, the only natural areas that everybody can enjoy".

Patrick Robinson, Middlefield, addressed the Board from the podium. Mr. Robinson thanked the Board and Park District Staff for their hard work. He stated he appreciated the views of those speaking this evening, but there were things he did not agree with. Mr. Robinson stated that 2,500 signatures collected by the group are significant

but felt, though denied by the group, are from the elite few. The group said that if some of the outdoor activities on list are added to the Parks, the Park District is excluding those that do not have the skills for them. He added that excluding some of these outdoor activities on the list (that he and others enjoy) excludes him and others from enjoying the Parks and the definition of 'protect, preserve, conserve and connect' has to be defined because, until it is defined, it is everyone's individual definition. Mr. Robinson stated he agrees with and enjoys the activities that most in attendance are in support of, that he has spent a lot of time in the Parks, and would like to see additional activities in our parks that fit into "preservation and conservation". He again thanked the Board and stated that he believes things are going the right direction.

Catherine Whitright, Munson, addressed the Board from the podium. Ms. Whitright stated she has lived in Geauga County for a lot of years Park District is special and important. She added that the Park District has been going well for quite a long time she would like to see it continue on as it has been.

Susan Vesta, Russell, addressed the Board from the podium. Ms. Vesta thanked the Board for saving money. She shared a favorite saying 'it is not what you say, but how you say it'. Ms. Vesta said that in this instance, 'it is not what you did, but how you did it". She added that the last minute meeting changes, the rushed way of implementing the new Bylaws, has put all on guard. Ms. Vesta said one of the reasons they would like the Bylaws returned to the version prior to the July 8th version is because they feel the changes were not handled correctly, and that the Board has a lot of proving to do to earn the group's trust back. She added that she is concerned that the Board went from a 'rubber stamp' Board and shifted to a Board making all the decisions. She reiterated that the Bylaws should go back to the way there were in June and then work to incorporate the changes that make sense, insuring the language and mission to protect and preserve stays the same.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Mucci made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal issues.

Mr. Johnston seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved 3 – 0:

Mr. Mucci	Yes
Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Johnston	Yes

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:43 p.m.

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

Mr. Johnston seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved 3 – 0:

Mr. Mucci	Yes
Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Johnston	Yes

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:09p.m. The following item was brought forward.

Mr. Mucci stated that since the February 11th work session it has been clear that some type of re-organization and reallocation of resources was necessary for the District to move forward.

Mr. Mucci made a motion to adopt the recommendations put forth by the Interim Director as far as the reallocation of resources and restructuring of the organization.

Mrs. Shumway seconded the motion.

Mr. Johnston stated that he is not voting for the motion because: a) he does not have enough information and b) unless it is economically driven he is not in favor of it at this time.

After roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved 2 – 1:

Mr. Mucci	Yes
Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Johnston	No

Mr. Mucci made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mrs. Shumway seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion passed 3-0.

Mr. Mucci	Yes
Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Johnston	Yes

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 Director

Mary Ruth Shumway, President

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
 Board of Park Commissioners
 The Meyer Center – Big Creek Park
 September 9, 2014 – Regular

EXHIBIT "A"

Name	Organization/Company
Wesley Krigbaum	GPD
Curt Harris	
Barbara Freckley	
John Freckley	
Marsell Whitcomb	
Walker C. Philburt	
Katharine Porter	
Frederick Porter	
Peggy Ann	
Ken Schmidt	
Dorothy Lemmey	
Charles Fletcher	
ERIK GERARD	Hemlock Hills Homeowners Assoc.
Asta	
Deborah Barber	
Tim Barber	
Shirley Schellentrast	
Gabrielle C. Schmal	
Moose Pedersen	
Bruce Oppenheim	
Michelle Smith	Auburn Township - Resident
Stephen Keto	Auburn Township Res.

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
 Board of Park Commissioners
 The Meyer Center – Big Creek Park
 September 9, 2014 – Regular

Name	Organization/Company
Michelle Long	Chesterland
John [unclear] John [unclear]	Montville
Jim Rittenhouse	Auburn Twp.
Alison Pignolet	Russell Twp
Catherine Whitigie	Munson Twp
Elyse Whitigie	" "
Mary Lou Cook	RUSSELL TWP.
Martine Blab [unclear]	Geauga
Daria Zebrowski	Geauga
Jean Strzyan	Geauga/Chardon
John [unclear]	Packman Resident
Margaret [unclear]	
Sue [unclear]	Joy Twp
Koz Kvet	Chardon Twp
PAUL Pira	GPD
[unclear]	Twins
Linda Holding	Auburn Twp
Jan [unclear]	Munson Twp.
Chris [unclear]	Munson Twp.
[unclear]	GPD
Ethan Laczko	neighbor

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
 Board of Park Commissioners
 The Meyer Center – Big Creek Park
 September 9, 2014 – Regular

Name	Organization/Company
Debbi Mayo	Munson
KATHLEEN WEBB	Munson
KATHY FLORA	THOMPSON
Eric Reiter	Chardon
Jeanne HRENKO	Euclid
Nick Truschack	Buxton
Ben Truschack	Buxton
Frank Wohlken	Buxton
J. A. Wohlben	Buxton
Rose Yaeger	Newbury
Chris Yaeger	Newbury
Jennifer Salo	Geauga Ch. Horseman's Comm.
DEBBIE REITER	
Tom + Diane Jones	A Wind in the Woods Farm
Jim Ewing	The Plain Dealer
LEATHER RICHIE THAMAN	BAIRBRIDGE
Digg Hoopes	Bainbridge
Pet Reel	
Karen Brubaker	Newbury
Robert Novack	Russell
Sandy Wood	Auburn
Lee Schumann	St. Russell

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
 Board of Park Commissioners
 The Meyer Center – Big Creek Park
 September 9, 2014 – Regular

Name	Organization/Company
Robert Couglin	
Linda Sanders Couglin	Hamlet
Marilyn A. ...	
JACK AL FISHER	
TERRY S. GROYLE	Chardon
MATT VALESCHIO	S. Russell
Tom & Dianine Holman	CF
Pat Wynn	Concord
Jeannine Saltus	Clandon
Wanda Myers	Benton
Patrick Robinson	Middlefield
Kate Ritchie	East Clarion
Kery Ritchie	,
Sandy Ward	GPD
Barbara Smith	Chardon
Louise Keller	BURTON

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
 Board of Park Commissioners
 The Meyer Center – Big Creek Park
 September 9, 2014 – Regular

Name	Organization/Company
Michelle Rossman	Ottc
Aliy Soms	Munson Twp
DIETER Soms	MUNSON TWP
Chris Arkler	MUNSON TWP
Tom N. Carr	ME
Rudolph Kastelic	munson
STAN Piekos	Newbury
Stella Grabulak	OHC
Ann Postulley	OHC
Beth Liff	OHC
Allison Titgemeier	Munson
Ronald Wick	middlefield village
Paul Huplinger	South Russell
Linda Swaney	Burton
STEVE WICK	CHARDON
Linda Henry	Chardon
Dan Best	Chardon

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
 Board of Park Commissioners
 The Meyer Center – Big Creek Park
 September 9, 2014 – Regular

Name	Organization/Company
Jim MURKIN	RUSSELL TWP TRUSTEE
James Kenney	Auburn
Joy Deo	Fairbridge
Dianne Bossi	Niantburg
Sherry J. Gell	Chardon
Nora & Jack Stanton	OHC
Karen Dunaway	Russell
E. Dennis	Chardon
Nana Kender	Russell
Paul + Susan Fink-Kiplinger	S. Russell
Bobby & Bezie Zebrowski	BURTON
BARB PARTY	MUNSON TWP
David J. Party	MUNSON TWP
Sandy Buckles	Troy
Ed Buckles	Troy
CUBAN FESTA	RUSSELL
TONY FESTA	RUSSELL
IN/A Summit	BAINBRIDGE
John S. Stanton	Newbury
Denise	Auburn
Matthew Johnson	NOVELTY
John Nolan	Benton