

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SEPCIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 22, 2015**

The special meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held April 22, 2015 at The Meyer Center Chardon Twp., Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners Mary Ruth Shumway, Bill Gertz and Jeffrey Orndorff were present.

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

Park District Employees	GUESTS
John Oros, Interim Director	Keith McClintock, Western Reserve Land Conservancy
Anna McDonald, Executive Administrative Assistant	See EXHIBIT "A" attached
Matt McCue, Planning & NRM Manager	
Michele Pennell, Director of Business & Visitor Services	
Robin Pilarczyk, HR Manager	
Brett Bellas, Grounds & Facilities Manager	
Allan Frantz, Ranger	
Ed Hunziker, Ranger	
Paul Pira, Natural Resource Management Director	

WESTERN RESERVE LAND CONSERVANCY – PRESENTATION

Mr. Oros introduced Keith McClintock of Western Reserve Land Conservancy

Mr. McClintock shared Western Reserve Land Conservancy’s Mission to “...provide the region with natural places that nourish and support vibrant and prosperous communities by identifying, preserving, restoring and maintaining essential assets like clean water, working farms, wildlife areas, and parks.”

Mr. McClintock provided information on region the Land Conservancy services, explained the different ways in which they help protect land, such as conservation easements, assisting with the purchase of land for public agencies, and facilitating land donations. Mr. McClintock also gave examples of how Western Reserve Land Conservancy assists Park Districts in acquiring properties, detailing funding opportunities utilized.

Mr. McClintock gave an organizational overview and advised to date 560 properties, totally 42,000 acres, have been protected with assistance from the Western Reserve Land Conservancy.

The Board and audience thanked Mr. McClintock for his presentation.

HEADWATERS PARK IMPROVEMENTS – CONTRACT AWARD

Mr. McCue advised the Board that four (4) bids were received for the Headwaters Park Improvements, with Hummel Construction being the low bidder. The Board was provided with three (3)

recommendations for completion of the project, with Mr. McCue and Mr. Oros recommending Option III based on the following:

- This option allows the project to maintain the original intent with only a minor reduction in scope to the playground area while maintaining the overall budget for the project.
- The submitted bid has been reviewed and determined to be complete
- A through reference check has been conducted by Peninsula Architects and the Park Districts prior experience with Hummel Construction on the Observatory Park – Phase II Project.
- The Ohio Auditor Findings for Recovery Database yielded no results

Option III

Award Hummel Construction Contract for Construction of Shelter for item 1 (Construction of new shelter and demolition of existing boathouse including all clearing, site work, and utilities required) and Add Alternate #1 (Covered porch on north elevation) for \$346,930.00.

- Geauga Park District Grounds and Facilities staff would perform the clearing, grading, and trail work required for the restroom and playground area.
- Reduce Playground scope by eliminating one piece (Turtle) would save \$18,000 on the playground budget (see attached 3D Rendering). This savings would allow \$7,070.00 in contingency for the construction of the shelter (2.0% of \$346,930). 10% is standard contingency for any unforeseen conditions/change orders that arise on projects. If additional funds are not to be allocated to
- Reallocate: \$18,000.00 from playground budget for construction of the shelter.

No increase to original budget for Headwaters Park Improvements and Playground budget.

Mr. Gertz made a motion to award the contract for Headwaters Park Improvements in the amount of \$346,930.00, utilizing Option III, as articulated above.

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

Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Gertz	Yes
Mr. Orndorff	Yes

Mr. Gertz made a motion to rescind the Board’s prior motion of March 10, 2015 approving the purchase of the Headwater’s Park playground equipment in the amount of \$99,750.00, which approval was included in the March 2015 purchase requisition pre-approvals.

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

Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Gertz	Yes
Mr. Orndorff	Yes

CONTROLLED HUNTING:

Mr. Oros advised that he and Paul Pira, Park Biologist, met with Commissioner Orndorff to review the Park District’s controlled hunting program. Mr. Orndorff requested that Mr. Pira provide information on surveys the Park District has utilized in the past, and possible future surveys that could be utilized to determine deer populations in the park and the need for controlled hunting.

Mr. Pira stated he feels there is a consensus that all agree high deer levels need to be addressed to maintain proper bio-diversity in the Parks. Mr. Pira advised that the Park District deer management program was initiated in 2006. Mr. Pira identified methods that the Park District has used in the past, or could use in the future, to determine deer populations:

- Infrared aerial camera surveys conducted in the winter months that pick up heat from animals to help identify parks with higher density of deer, and number of deer per square mile. Mr. Pira added this has not been done for quite some time in Geauga Park District, and this method is utilized by most park districts in the region.
- Helicopter surveys, conducted in winter months, to determine deer populations. The Park District has not utilized this method
- Browse surveys have been and could be continued be conducted by the Park District Natural Resource Management Department to measure damage deer is doing to vegetation in specific parks. The data could be analyzed to compare the results park by park to determine where deer management is needed.
- Natural Resource Management currently utilizes deer 'exclosures', which are 30' x 30' fenced areas that exclude deer and define the difference of vegetation growth inside vs. outside the exclosure. He added that this data is not always conclusive and difficult to interpret.

Mr. Orndorff asked for a timeline on when these studies should be performed and if any of these studies could be conducted to update the Park District's baseline data prior to the 2015-16 white tail deer hunting season. Mr. Pira advised that they could not utilize aerial surveys as they are conducted in the winter and browse surveys should commence in March. He added that viewing the existing deer exclosures to collect data, and viewing browse intensity by park to determine damage to vegetation could be utilized.

Discussions with held with meeting attendees regarding deer populations in different parts of the county. Comments from attendees included inquiries as to why common sense and following ODNR hunting recommendations is not used to determine deer populations instead of spending tax payer monies to determine if there is a need for controlled hunting, and if data from surveys would help target the Parks that needed deer management. Mr. Pira stated he felt it was important for the Park District to develop baseline data and solid data pertaining to deer populations in the Park, which data would assist in preparing park specific management plans.

Mr. Gertz relayed information regarding the large deer population his property and the need to control this population that has stayed steady since 1953.

The Board confirmed that at the May 2015 Board meeting Mr. Pira will provide the Commissioners with a staff recommendation/management plan for the hunting of white tailed only.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Gertz made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss land acquisition.

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

Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Gertz	Yes
Mr. Orndorff	Yes

Mrs. Shumway invited Mr. McClintock to attend Executive Session

The Board entered Executive Session at 10:08 a.m.

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

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

Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Gertz	Yes
Mr. Orndorff	Yes

The Board came out of Executive Session at 11:23 a.m. The following item was brought forward:

Mr. Orndorff made a motion to authorize staff for acquisition of real properties in Newbury and Burton Townships.

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

Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Gertz	Yes
Mr. Orndorff	Yes

Mr. Orndorff made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Gertz	Yes
Mr. Orndorff	Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.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 Director

Mary Ruth Shumway, President

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT

Board of Park Commissioners

April 22, 2015 - Special

The Meyer Center

Name	Organization/Company
Dave Chew	GPDF
Gaul & Jim Wohlken	Burtom
Dott & John Jeech	
Brenda Moosbrunner	Chapster
Nora Stanton	
DAVE PARTINGTON	MUNSON
Jay Keed	OHC Geauga
Barb Partington	MUNSON
Kathy Hannatty	Chardon Twp
Tom Lewis	
Paul Pira	GPD
Jacqueline Samuel	ix Foundation
Catherine White Jr	Munson
Elbert "	"
John Haggis Jr	Parkman Resident
Kathy Schroder	
Kim Laine	Probate Court
Michael J. Penzance Jr	Chardon Trustees
KATHY FLORA	THOMPSON
SKIP CLAYTON	CITIZEN.
Frank Gwartz	Parkman Twp.
Robu Th	GPD