

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
December 29, 2014**

The special meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held December 29, 2014 at the Meyer Center, Chardon Twp., Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. President Mary Ruth Shumway was in the Chair. Commissioners Brian Johnston and William Gertz were present.

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

<b>Park District Employees</b>	<b>GUESTS</b>
Anna McDonald, Executive Administrative Assistant	
Michele Pennell, Director of Business & Visitor Services	See EXHIBIT "A"
Robin Pilarczyk, HR Manager	
Brett Bellas, Grounds and Facilities Manager	
David Ondrey, Thrasher, Dinsmore & Dolan (legal advisors to Geauga Park District)	

Mrs. Shumway made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the FOP Contract which is the Ranger Contract.

Mr. Buckles interrupted the meeting stating that he did not believe the meeting was properly called under the Open Meetings Law.

Mrs. Shumway asked David Ondrey, legal advisor to the Park District, to address the question. Mr. Ondrey stated that he was not sure what the criticism was.

Shelley Chernin, introduced herself and announced she would read from Section 122.21(F) from the Ohio Revised Code. She relayed the following: "Every public body, by rule, shall establish a reasonable method whereby any person may determine the time, place and purpose of all Special Meetings". Ms. Chernin further stated that as far as she could tell, the Park District had no rule to establish any reasonable method, and that no one at the meeting knew the purpose of the meeting until they walked in, though they all tried to find out. She further added that the Park District may notify the media, but because of their (the media's) publishing schedule they are not notifying the public.

Mrs. Shumway asked Ms. McDonald to explain the Park District procedure for announcing Special meetings.

Ms. McDonald advised that the Park District has a list of media publications and individuals who have requested notice of Park District meetings. She added that the agenda, as it was presented to attendees today, was attached to the notification list and that it was sent out the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December, which exceeds the 24 hour requirement for notice of Special board meetings. A copy of the notice sent and attachment is attached as EXHIBIT "B".

Mr. Buckles stated that the Agenda did not appear anyplace and that the Agenda at today's meeting is different from the Agenda that was read to him by the news media. He further stated that due to inadequacies in the notice that this meeting does not meet the requirements of the Open Meeting Law is of no force and effect for any actions taken.

Mr. Ondrey thanked the group and excused the audience as the Board was going into Executive Session.

Mr. Buckles stated that the Board was opening itself to the possibility of a lawsuit in Common Pleas Court for injunctive relief and that this is not the first time this has occurred. He added that should the lawsuit be successful, the Ranger contract could be challenged, and the Park District might be subject to paying legal fees.

Mr. Ondrey again asked the audience to leave the room so the Board could go into Executive Session.

Mr. Gertz seconded the motion to go into Executive Session and after roll-call voice vote the motion was approved 3-0.

Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Johnston	Yes
Mr. Gertz	Yes

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mrs. Shumway asked for a motion to approve the Ranger contract, which is required to be approved prior to January 1, 2015.

Mr. Gertz made a motion to approve the Ranger contract.

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

Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Johnston	Yes
Mr. Gertz	Yes

Mr. Ondrey explained that the contract with the Rangers, who are represented by the FOP (Fraternal Order of Police), was a three (3) year contract that expired at the end of this year. He added that John Oros has been in meetings with the representative of the FOP and the new contract is the result of the ongoing negotiations. The final version of the new contract with has not yet been prepared, the changes will be assimilated and the parties will sign off on it. It was a requirement of the contract that the Board approve the new contract that it will be for three (3) years.

Mr. Johnston 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. Johnston	Yes
Mr. Gertz	Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 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,

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John Oros, Interim Director

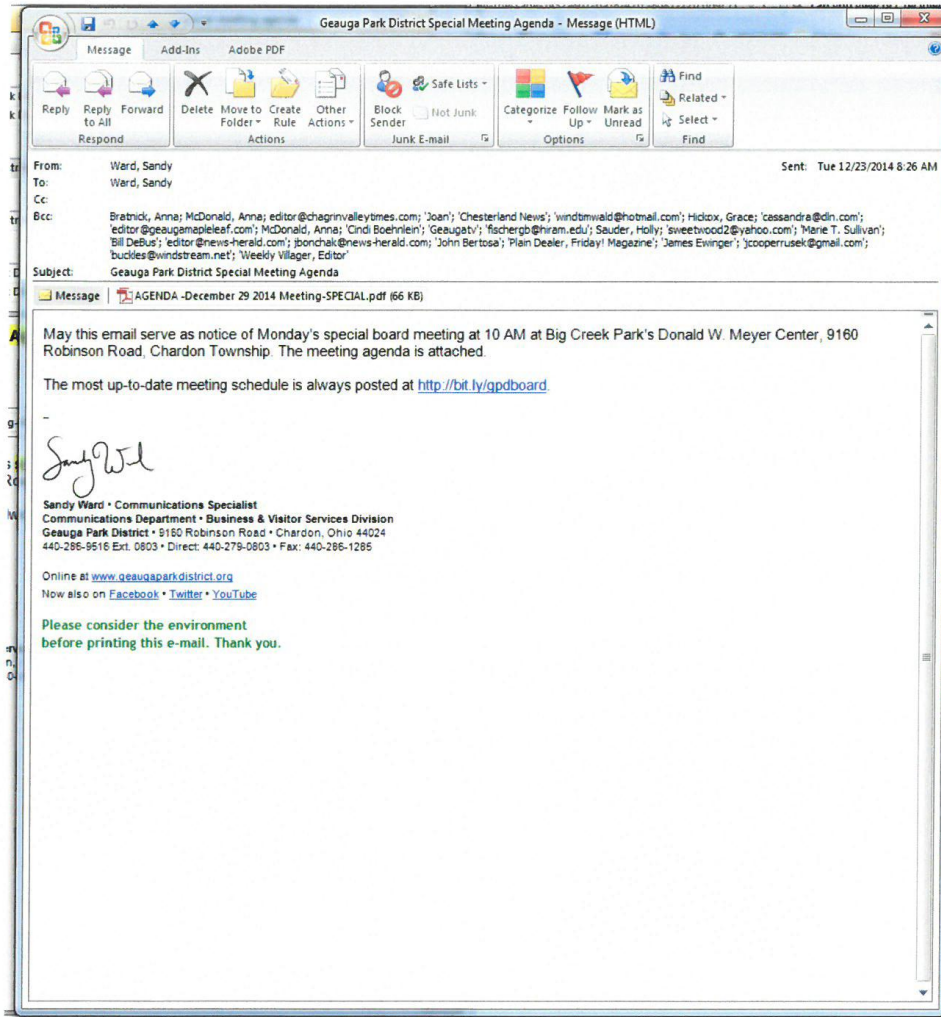
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Mary Ruth Shumway, President

Exhibit A

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT**  
 Board of Park Commissioners  
 The Meyer Center  
 December 29, 2014 – Special

Name	Organization/Company
Robert Felt	BPD
Jay Kuro	OHC
Nora Stanton	O.H.C.
John Evers	
Natalie Kowz	
Frank Evers	
Shelley Chernin	
Gayle Wierken	
Pratt Allen	OPD volunteer
Janis Wohlben	Burton
Brenda Parfitt	P.G.P. Monson resident
Kathryn Hannan	Citandon Twp
Catherine: Elbert White Jr	Monson Twp
Frank Swartz	Parkman Twp
KATHY FURNA	THOMPSON
Brenda Maasbruggen	Chester
John Hegastine	Parkman Resident
STAR Piekas	Newburg
Jeanne Henry	CF





**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL Board Meeting**  
December 29, 2014 – The Meyer Center – 10:00 a.m.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Executive Session, to discuss Personnel, proposed FOP Contract
- V. FOP Contract
- VI. Adjournment

