

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
February 10, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held February 10, 2015 at The Meyer Center Chardon Twp., Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m. Commissioners Mary Ruth Shumway and Bill Gertz were present.

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

<b>Park District Employees</b>	<b>GUESTS</b>
John Oros, Interim Director	See EXHIBIT "A" attached
Anna McDonald, Executive Administrative Assistant	
Matt McCue, Planning & NRM Manager	
Michele Pennell, Director of Business & Visitor Services	
Robin Pilarczyk, HR Manager	
Brett Bellas, Grounds & Facilities Manager	
Paul Pira, Park Biologist	
Tommy Yokum, Park Planner	
Teresa Runion, Special Events Coordinator	
Tami Gingrich, Natural Resource Management	
David Ondrey, Legal Counsel (Thrasher Dinsmore & Dolan)	

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION - #11-15 AND #12-15**

Mr. Oros presented Resolutions of Appreciation to two (2) twenty-five year employees, Tami Gingrich and Teresa Runion.

# RESOLUTION

## OF APPRECIATION TAMI GINGRICH

Resolution No. 11-15

WHEREAS, Tami Gingrich has faithfully served Geauga Park District since May 1, 1989, when she was hired as a seasonal naturalist, previously serving among seasonal staff, and throughout her terms as full time naturalist, field naturalist and research assistant;

WHEREAS, Tami Gingrich, a gifted interpreter, exudes a genuine love and passion for Geauga's wild animals that is truly contagious and inspirational, and has connected many residents and volunteers to Nature through her annual wild bird banding, Project Feederwatch and the Great Backyard Bird Count;

WHEREAS, Tami Gingrich has shared her skills through public programs, citizen science projects, photography and her work with the Natural Resource Management Department, lending her vast knowledge of birds, insects and mammals to collect baseline data for long-term management plans, guiding the responsible development and stewardship of park lands, a legacy far-reaching through time;

WHEREAS, Tami Gingrich has long been in charge of the Park District's important Monarch butterfly tagging and monitoring and, through countless hours of egg collection and care for caterpillars, is the one person absolutely key to the annual success of the popular Monarch display at The Great Geauga County Fair, more important now than ever to educate on the Monarch's drastic decline;

WHEREAS, Tami Gingrich has been responsible for the building and maintenance of park bluebird boxes (her long-running citizen science "Bluebird Box Docs" are some of the most loyal and dedicated volunteers) and for the past 11 years has coordinated the annual 24-hour BioBlitz event, engaging professionals in all areas to volunteer their time to collect valuable biological data for the Park District;

WHEREAS, Tami Gingrich has coordinated the Park District's small research grant program, helping numerous college students obtain much-needed funding for research to complete their educational degrees, and has also assisted many young Eagle Scouts in successful completion of their projects;

WHEREAS, Tami Gingrich has been recognized statewide for her expertise in moths and butterflies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Geauga Park District Board of Commissioners extends its gratitude to Tami Gingrich for her contributions 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Mary Ruth Shumway*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Bill Gertz*

## Geauga Park District

Ms. Gingrich thanked the Board and shared memories of starting her career in a house trailer with Teresa Runion, Dan Best, Sherry Bosworth and Director O'Meara. She added that Geauga Park District is a wonderful park system full of natural resources and many endangered species. Ms. Gingrich is looking forward to continuing to help protect our natural resources for future generations.

# RESOLUTION

## OF APPRECIATION TERESA RUNION

Resolution No. 12-15

WHEREAS, Teresa Runion has faithfully served Geauga Park District since January 17, 1990, when she was hired as a clerk, and throughout her terms as secretary, special events coordinator and development associate;

WHEREAS, Teresa Runion possesses an exceptional blend of organization, drive, enthusiasm, creativity and professionalism, as well as the ability to harness the talent and ambition of a diverse range of personalities and working styles to meet deadlines and stay on target, always to celebrated results;

WHEREAS, Teresa Runion, as a tremendous team leader, coordinated the annual Nature Arts Festival every year before last; annual amphitheater series; nature center artist exhibitions; community arts projects such as *Infinite*, *discARTed*, *Biocentennial*, *Creativity Tapped* and *Nature of Metal*; volunteer flea market; Great Geauga County Fair building presence; and numerous dedications, grand openings and special events such as Holly Days, Art Takes a Bough and Winter Solstice;

WHEREAS, Teresa Runion has become intricately woven into, and highly respected by, Geauga's arts community, and serves as a valued and trusted ambassador to the arts, media and community at large;

WHEREAS, Teresa Runion exemplifies an adventurous attitude toward new endeavors, most recently embracing an unplanned year-long switch to the Development Department in the face of its important fundraising goals and new skill sets, where she proceeded to attract sponsorships worth \$9,800 for the Caveman Crawl 5K and further fundraising for *Nature Scopes*, the Chip Henry Institute and more;

WHEREAS, Teresa Runion has resumed her position as special events coordinator with renewed vim and vigor, leading the first-ever Frozen Fest to record-breaking attendance and tremendous public applause, and has laid out an ambitious and exciting schedule of special events for 2015, some time tested, some original, all sure to connect audiences new and old to all the Park District has to offer;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Geauga Park District Board of Commissioners extends its gratitude to Teresa Runion for her contributions 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Ruth Shumway

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Gertz

## Geauga Park District

Ms. Runion thanked the Board, and also commented on many changes during the past twenty-five years. She added that the Park District is a great place to learn things and is excited to continue with the Park District on its journey forward. Ms. Runion stated that it does not feel like she has been here twenty-five years because she loves what she does.

The Board personally thanked Ms. Gingrich and Ms. Runion for their service.

Matt McCue, Interim Director of Planning and Operations, introduced Tommy Yokum as the Park District's new Park Planner.

### **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

The Board was presented with minutes from the January 13, 2015 Board Meeting. There were no questions from the Board.

Mrs. Shumway made a motion to accept the January 13, 2015 Board Meeting minutes as presented.

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

Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Gertz	Yes

Mrs. Shumway asked Kimberly Laurie, Probate Court Liaison, to share information on the February 7, 2015 meetings Judge Grendell held with County residents.

Ms. Laurie read a letter to the Board and Mr. Oros which referenced Frozen Fest and Citizen Suggestions for Parks resulting from Judge Grendell’s meeting with Geauga County citizens. See EXHIBIT “B” attached.

**PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

The Board was provided with a copy of the January 2015 Financial Statement. All questions from the Board were satisfactorily answered.

**Geauga Park District  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT MONTH ENDED  
January 31, 2015**

**GENERAL FUND**

<b>BEGINNING FUND BALANCE JANUARY 1, 2015</b>	<b>6,328,931.67</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES &amp; OTHER USES</b>	
Personnel	217,565.90
Medicare	3,118.13
Dental /Hospitalization	46,044.18
OPERS December	29,922.91
Unemployment Transfers (December E. Smith)	1,672.00
Vouchers	51,688.39
<b>EXPENDITURES &amp; OTHER USES</b>	<b>350,011.51</b>
<b>REVENUES &amp; OTHER SOURCES</b>	
<i>Investment Income</i>	325.39
<i>Gifts &amp; Donations</i>	87.50
- Bird Box - \$27.50 , Geauga Walkers - \$60.00	
<i>Fees</i>	
- Camping	255.00
- Shelters	200.00
- Utility fees	2,490.00
- Workshops - General - Public program	36.00
<i>Sales</i>	
- Tapper's Treasures - MC	44.20
- Tree Tops - TWW	1,236.71

Other Receipts

- GPD Foundation rental space/equipment	212.18
- Observatory house - Sindelar	300.00
- Swine Creek house - Harry - ( January paid in December)	0.00
- Burton Wetlands house- Kolar	400.00
- Hyde house - Krigbaum	400.00
- Chickagami house - Maksim	400.00

Other

- Reimbursement for late fee -Easton Telecommunications - \$0.64	11.82
- TWWNC Ladies RR personal - \$ 2.50, Public records request \$ 4.80	
- Reimbursement for tip on credit card over 15 % N.Sindelar - \$1.88	
- Reimbursement for test on web by Emerge - \$2.00	
- Local Government Funds	7,744.21

**REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES** **14,143.01**

**ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF JANUARY 31, 2015** **5,993,063.17**

**LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND**

**BEGINNING FUND BALANCE JANUARY 1, 2015** **3,262,218.74**

**EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES**

Vouchers	54,192.57
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**EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES** **54,192.57**

**REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES**

Investment Income 167.02

Royalties/In-Lieu Fees 141.60

- Hehmeyer - \$95.90, Stinchcomb - \$ 21.94
- Sunnybrook - \$23.76

**REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES** **308.62**

**ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF JANUARY 31, 2015** **\$ 3,208,334.79**

**RETIREMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT**

- - -

**BEGINNING FUND BALANCE JANUARY 1, 2015** **\$ 82,438.43**

**REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES** **4.26**

Investment Income 4.26

**ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF JANUARY 31, 2015** **\$ 82,442.69**

**PURCHASE REQUISITION PRE-APPROVALS**

The Board was presented with a list of outstanding Purchase Requisitions for pre-approval in the amount of \$382,370.10. All questions by the Board were satisfactorily answered.

Mr. Gertz made a motion to approve the purchase requisition pre-approvals, in the amount of \$382,370.10.

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

Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Gertz	Yes

**PRESENTATION OF VOUCHERS**

The Board was presented with the vouchers paid during the month of January 2015 in the amount of \$404,204.08. These vouchers represent the normal day-to-day operating expenses, approved budgeted expenses and payroll. There were no questions from the Board.

Mrs. Shumway made a motion to accept the January 2015 paid vouchers into the record.

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

Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Gertz	Yes

**PARK DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS - 2015 CONSTRUCTION COST SUMMARIES**

The Board was provided with informational summaries on 2015 construction project costs to date. Mr. McCue advised there have been no developments and that 2015 projects are currently out for bid.

Mr. McCue advised that the Public Survey is being programmed and tested and will be available on-line on Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>.

**NATURAL RESORCE MANAGEMENT PRESENTATION**

Mr. McCue introduced Paul Pira, Park Biologist, who presented information on the Natural Resource Management Plans developed for each Park Property. The Management Plans are part of the overall Park District planning process and this presentation was a follow-up to the Planning Process overview presented to the Board in November 2014.

**SMALL RESEARCH GRANTS**

Mr. Pira gave an overview of the Park District Small Research Grant program stating it is a wonderful way to encourage science/research and enables the Park District to reach out and build relationships with the schools and universities in Northeast Ohio.

The Board was presented with a request to approve the following 2015 Small Research Grant:

*Incorporation of Community Assembly Theory in a Restoration Ecology Framework for Practical Land Management Application*  
 Christopher Chaney, University of Akron  
 Two (2) year Grant: \$6,000.00

Mrs. Shumway made a motion to approve the Small Research Grant as presented.

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

Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Gertz	Yes

**OBSERVATORY PARK LAND SWAP**

The Board was presented with information on a possible land swap in Montville, Ohio wherein the Park District would swap 22 acres of hayfield for 32 acres of high-quality wetland with endangered plants and a beech-maple forest. The Park District land is part of Observatory Park and the other land is owned by James Marsic.

Mr. Gertz made a motion to proceed with negotiations with Mr. Marsic.

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

Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Gertz	Yes

**VACATION POLICY REVISION, RESOLUTION NO. 6-15**

The Board was presented with the following proposed addition to the Park District Vacation policy allowing part-time employees to accrue paid vacation days:

*Part time employees of Geauga Park District shall be eligible for vacation leave with full pay upon the attainment of the first year of employment with Geauga Park District and annually thereafter. The ratio between the hours worked and the vacation hours earned by a part time employee shall be the same as the ratio between the hours worked and the vacation hours earned by a full -time employee. Part-time employee are employees whose regular hours of service for Geauga Park District total less than 40 hours per week, and whose hours of GPD service total at least five hundred twenty (520) hours annually. (ORC325.19 (B) and (J) (1)(2).*

The Board requested this item be tabled until a third Park Board Commissioner is appointed.

**PR & COMMUNICATIONS POLICY REVISION, RESOLUTION NO. 7-15**

The Board was presented with a revised Public Relations and Communications Policy as follows:

**PUBLIC RELATIONS POLICY  
AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Information and education are essential cornerstones of Geauga Park District’s mission. Providing information to individual citizens, constituent groups and the media is an important responsibility. Because any employee communicating with individuals in the public or media is perceived as speaking on behalf of the entire District, it is important that good judgment and care be exercised at all times.

To ensure that District communications are properly coordinated, all communication to the print, radio or television media should be coordinated through the ~~Marketing Director and/or~~ Executive Director. ~~and/or Deputy Director.~~

Spokespersons may be designated for specific issues, events or departments to provide media support as authorized by the ~~Marketing Director and/or~~ Executive Director. ~~and/or Deputy Director.~~

Employees in a position to speak on behalf of their department should feel free to provide factual, timely information about programs, events and activities for which they have direct knowledge, involvement and responsibility.

Employees are not authorized to offer personal information on matters falling outside of their direct knowledge, involvement and responsibility. Employees should not speculate or offer personal opinions on District matters.

In particular, employees must not discuss matters of policy, personnel actions, or official investigations, nor should they offer personal opinions or speculation on any such matter.

No response should be made to any member of the public or media on sensitive issues without first receiving authorization from the ~~Marketing Director and/or~~ Executive Director ~~and/or Deputy Director~~.

Any employees with questions regarding a particular public or media inquiry should seek guidance or authorization through the appropriate chain of supervisory personnel before responding.

Mr. Gertz made a motion to approve Resolution No. 7-15 accepting the revisions as presented.

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

Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Gertz	Yes

**PERSONAL LEAVE POLICY – RESOLUTION NO. 8-15**

The Board was presented with the following proposed additions to the Park District Personal Leave policy regarding Personal Days:

*New Full time Employees whose start date falls prior to June 1st will receive 12 hours of personal leave upon their hire. New Part time employees whose start date falls prior to June 1<sup>st</sup>, will receive 8 hours of Personal leave upon their hire.*

*Full time employees whose start date is June 1 thru August 31<sup>st</sup> will receive 8 hours of personal leave upon their hire. Part time employees whose start date is June 1 thru August 31 will receive 4 hours of personal leave upon their hire*

Mr. Gertz made a motion to approve Resolution No. 8-15 accepting the additions as presented.

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

Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Gertz	Yes

**PERSONNEL POLICY – MISSION STATEMENT REVISION, RESOLUTION NO. 9-15**

The Board was provided with a copy of the current Geauga Park District Mission Statement for replacement/inclusion in Personnel Policy 101.1 as follows:

***MISSION STATEMENT***

*This mission of 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.*

Mr. Gertz made a motion to approve Resolution No. 9-15 to replace/include the current Park District Mission Statement in Personnel Policy 101.1.

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

Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Gertz	Yes

**SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS, BUDGET AMENDMENT #1, RESOLUTION NO. 10-15**

An Appropriation Transfer was presented to the Board requesting approval of Resolution No. 10-15 to add \$15,202.36 in appropriations to the 6017-901-5701 account to cover the payment of real estate taxes.



Mr. Gertz made a motion to approve Resolution No. 10-15 as presented to add appropriations in the amount of \$15,202.36 to account 6017-901-5701.

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

Mrs. Shumway        Yes  
Mr. Gertz                Yes

**SURPLUS PROPERTY**

The Board was asked to approve the following as Surplus Property. All questions by the Board were satisfactorily answered.

	<b>Inventory No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Starting Bid</b>
1	1061 T, 1342 T	New Holland Tractor w/front end loader & back hoe attachments	Trade in (\$5,000 value) for replacement tractor
2	1811-1814 T, 3407 T	Jacobsen Tractor w/ mower, snow blower, edger & blower attachments	\$5,000

Mr. Gertz 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 2 – 0:

Mrs. Shumway        Yes  
Mr. Gertz                Yes

**BOARD MEETING NOTIFICATION**

The Board had requested that legal counsel provide an opinion regarding an amendment to the Bylaws adding a rule outlining notification of Board Meetings. Mr. Oros advised that no action will be taken on this proposal until a third Board member is in place.

Mrs. Shumway gave a summary of the proposed amendment, and advised that the proposed amendment will be posted on the Park District website for public review. She added that anyone who would like to be on the Park District e-mail list for notification of Board Meetings should contact the Park District. Mrs. Shumway advised the public of upcoming Special Board meetings relating to the Executive Director position.

**COMMISSIONER'S TIME**

Mr. Gertz stated that although we restrict our thoughts to Geauga County and our Park, he wanted to bring a national problem to light. Mr. Gertz advised that the Canadians are trying to promote Pebble River Mine in Alaska which, if allowed to go forward, will decimate the acreage mined, with no plans to take care of the waste. Mr. Gertz stated that he sent a letter to Washington protesting the project and suggested others may want to research this project also – adding that Alaska is one of our States and we need to take care of it.

Mrs. Shumway thanked Park District employees for their work on Frozen Fest and that this event is a prime example of what the Board was trying to accomplish during the last year: While we can conserve, preserve and protect the natural features of Geauga County, we can also provide outdoor recreational activities experiences for all ages, all abilities at all times of the year. Mr. Gertz, Mr. Oros and Ms. Pennell also thanked staff for their efforts on this very successful event.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** - below are comment summaries:

**Tom Jones**, Auburn Twp., addressed the Board from the podium. Mr. Jones asked John Augustine to give an apology for degrading our Amish neighbors during the last meeting.

**John Augustine**, Parkman Twp., addressed the Board from the podium. Mr. Augustine stated he has no apology to make at all and that he did not degrade anyone, he used an example of possible problems that may result from the way the survey is being distributed and collected, and that Mr. Jones owed him an apology for calling him a militarist. Mr. Augustine stated that he feels it is inappropriate for Judge Grendell to approve the Park District newsletter; gave a “bravo” to Mr. Gertz for his comments on Pebble River Mine; and feels the Park District should ask Mr. Marsic to sign a conservation easement to insure any property he receives from the Park District cannot be developed.

**Frank Jacobson**, S. Russell Twp., addressed the Board from the podium. Mr. Jacobson raised questions regarding the length of beaver trapping season, how it is determined that trapping is necessary in a Park, and whether other solutions were looked into, why the hunting and trapping lotteries were not open to the public. Mr. Pira and Mr. Oros provided responses in regard to his questions.

**Ellen Fisco**, Russell Twp., addressed the Board from the podium. Ms. Fisco stated she appreciates reading all the letters to the editor regarding the Park District, and personally thanked Mrs. Shumway for her letter. She added that she attended and enjoyed the February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting with Judge Grendell and the interaction with others who were in attendance. Ms. Fisco also attended the Environ presentation at Patterson Fruit Farm which she found to be very educational and enlightening. Ms. Fisco commented on the new procedure requiring payment for use of the Park District facilities (TWW and Meyer Center). Mr. Oros confirmed that there is no charge for Geauga County residents to attend most Park District programs, but a fee for organizations to use our facilities has been added, and this policy will be revisited. Mr. Oros also advised that all park programs are listed in the Park District newsletter and indicate the cost, if any. Mrs. Fisco thanked the Park District for the wonderful job it is doing.

**Ed Buckles**, Troy Township, addressed the Board from the podium. Mr. Buckles thanked Ms. Fisco for her comments regarding their program at Patterson Fruit Farm, Mr. Gertz for his concern regarding issues outside of Geauga Park District, and Mr. Pira for the excellent Natural Resource Management presentation. Mr. Buckles commented he received information on the GPD Trapping program and questioned why the trapping permits issued did not follow the GPD Trapping Program recommendations. Mr. Oros stated that it is important to note that trapping recommendations are reciprocated with the Natural Resource Management Department, and if there are mistakes and housekeeping issues they will be addressed. Mr. Buckles commented that Burton Wetlands was included for trapping which is a State Nature Preserve, which excludes certain activities including hunting and trapping. Mr. Oros confirmed this would be looked into.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Gertz made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss legal issues, personnel and land acquisition.

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

Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Gertz	Yes

The Board entered Executive Session at 5:04 p.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 5:29 p.m. No items were brought forward.

Mrs. Shumway made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Gertz	Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 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,

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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

February 10, 2015 - Regular

Name	Organization/Company
KATHY FLORA	THOMPSON
Carolyn Morrow	Chardon
FRANK JACOBSON	<del>FRANK</del> S. RUSSELL
B. and D. Parzyt	Munson
Esther Laczko	Neighbor
Catherine Elbert Whitzler	Munson
Janice Plicht	Chardon
Shelley Chernin	Russell
Gaye Wohlsen	Burton
Steve Drenth	G.P. Foundation
J. A. Wohlben	Burton
Paul Pina	GPD
Robert Ahn	GPD
Brenda Wroosburger	Chester
Matt Miller	GPP
Steve Kardos	Hartbees
W.S. Jr	Madison
Lisa Rummel	GPD
MARK SHAYER	MIDDLEFIELD
Jo Jelen	
John Dugan	Parkman
Pat Green	



Exhibit "B"



**COURT OF COMMON PLEAS**  
*PROBATE / JUVENILE DIVISION*  
GEAUGA COUNTY

**TIMOTHY J. GRENDALL – JUDGE**

Courthouse Annex, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
231 Main Street, Suite 200  
Chardon, Ohio 44024  
Voice: 440-279-1830  
Fax Probation: 440-285-5025  
Fax Court: 440-285-8751  
[www.geaugacourts.org](http://www.geaugacourts.org)

February 10, 2015

Geauga County Park Board  
9160 Robinson Road  
Chardon, Ohio 44024

RE: Frozen Fest and Citizen Suggestions for Parks

Dear Park Board Members and Director Oros:

Judge Grendell asked me to pass on his congratulations to the Board, Director Oros and the staff on the success of Frozen Fest. The participation of over 1,700 people demonstrates the value of our county parks as a great place for Geauga County residents to gather, learn, appreciate nature and enjoy the recreational benefits provided by our wonderful Park District.

Judge Grendell also asked that I share with the Park Board the results of his informal meetings on Saturday with residents who joined him in his chambers for coffee, donuts and conversation about our world-class county parks. The residents discussed a variety of matters, including but not limited to:

1. A request for a bridal trail at Orchard Hills
2. A request for more dedicated bridal trails throughout the parks
3. A request for a Dog Park
4. A request for a Disc Golf course at one of the parks
5. A request for a meeting between the Park District and representatives of the Chagrin Valley Hunt organization to discuss park usage for periodic dog training exercises

6. A request for more sledding hills and volleyball courts, but no motorized dirt bikes
7. One resident was interested in discussing a possible land sale to the Park District
8. A request that the Park District discontinue its \$20.00 facility use fee
9. A request for non-motorized boat access for kayaks, canoes and row boats, to the stream below Headwaters Dam near Grandview Golf Club
10. A request for identification and protection of medicinal herbs along a bike trail

Contrary to suspicious assumptions made in some letters to local newspapers, the residents met with Judge Grendell informally in his chambers and the Judge dressed casually. All of the residents seemed to enjoy the opportunity to meet and speak freely with the Judge and many thanked Judge Grendell for the opportunity to speak with him about their desires for the parks.

Because of the success of these meetings, Judge Grendell and I intend to hold similar open meetings with individual residents in the future.

Thank you,

Kimberly Laurie  
Budget Coordinator/County Liaison

cc: Judge Tim Grendell  
David Ondrey of Thrasher, Dinsmore and Dolan  
Anna McDonald, Geauga Park District Executive Administrative Assistant