

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 12, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held May 12, 2015 at The Meyer Center, Chardon Twp., Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.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	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, Natural Resource Management Director	
Holly Sauder, Volunteer Coordinator and Special Events Assistant	
David Ondrey, Legal Counsel (Thrasher Dinsmore & Dolan)	

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

The Board was presented with minutes from the April 11, 2015 Special Board Meeting. There were no questions from the Board.

Mr. Orndorff made a motion to accept the April 11, 2015 Special Board Meeting minutes as presented.

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 Board was presented with minutes from the April 14, 2015 Regular Board Meeting. There were no questions from the Board.

Mr. Gertz made a motion to accept the April 14, 2015 regular Board Meeting minutes as presented.

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

The Board was presented with minutes from the April 22, 2015 Special Board Meeting. There were no questions from the Board.

Mr. Orndorff made a motion to accept the April 22, 2015 Special Board Meeting minutes as presented.

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

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

The West Geauga Interact Club (High School Club) was honored as Volunteer of the Month for its year-long support of Geauga Park District. Commissioner Bill Gertz read and presented club officers Jessica Fenander and Jackson Howard with the following Certificate of Appreciation with thanks from the Board of Commissioners and employees of the Geauga Park District:



SKIP CLAYPOOL – Presentation

Mr. Claypool thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and stated he was presenting as a citizen of the county, not a County Commissioner.

There was dialogue between Mr. Buckles and the Board regarding the fact the Mr. Claypool, as a private citizen, was permitted to present as an agenda item when he (Mr. Buckles) has requested to be put on the agenda to speak about the changes to the Park District Bylaws and has been turned down. After discussions, Board President Mary Ruth Shumway stated Mr. Buckles would be placed on the June agenda, be permitted to speak for the same amount of time as Mr. Claypool received, and that Mr. Buckles presentation should be limited to his requested topic: Changes to the Bylaws.

Mr. Claypool stated his presentation addressed the concept of land conservancies in general – not specifically the Western Reserve Land Conservancy. Mr. Claypool’s presentation was titled: Conservation Easements – The Dark Side, and covered the following agenda items, offering examples and information for each item.

- Room for Agreement
- Principles/Definitions
- Competing Ideologies
- What is wrong with Conservancies
- What is the alternative

Mr. Claypool thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. A copy of the presentation was not provided to the Park District.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION – FAIRMOUNT SANTROL

Mr. Gertz presented John Holbrook of Fairmount Santrol the following Certificate of Appreciation for the generous donation of trees towards the reforestation efforts at Orchard Hills Park, and for the 80 hours employees spent helping our Natural Resource Management Department plant them.



Mr. Pira, Park Biologist also thanked Fairmount Santrol for their continued support.

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Board was provided with a copy of the April 2015 Financial Statement. There were no questions from the Board.

Geauga Park District
FINANCIAL STATEMENT MONTH ENDED
 April 30, 2015

GENERAL FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE APRIL 1, 2015	7,736,101.81
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES	
Personnel	208,739.53
Medicare	3,001.87
Dental /Hospitalization	45,736.40
OPERS March - includes Gwirtz \$3,879.62	34,313.42
Unemployment Transfers (March - E. Smith)	2,090.00
Vouchers	283,661.67
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES	577,542.89
- State Reimbursement Tax (10% rollback)	341,988.98
 <i><u>Investment Income</u></i>	 301.93
 <i><u>Gifts & Donations</u></i>	 1,321.05
- Bird Box - \$ 21.05, Naturescopes - \$200.00	
- Memorial M.Logan - \$100.00 for animal care	
- Fairmount Santrol \$1,000.00 Caveman Crawl sponsorship	
 <i><u>Fees</u></i>	
- Camping	645.00
- Shelters	240.00
- NAF Table Fees	150.00
- Utility fees	840.00
- Adventure Camp registration fees	5,705.00
- X-Treme Days Camp registration fees	210.00
- Workshops - General - Public program	160.00
- Programs - Out-of-county	84.00
- Caveman Crawl Race registrations	140.00
- Programs	93.00
 <i><u>Sales</u></i>	
- Tapper's Treasures - MC	95.31
- Tree Tops - TWW	3,866.59
 <i><u>Other Receipts</u></i>	
- 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 - vacated 4/3/2015	66.65

- Chickagami house - Maksim	400.00
- Muni Court Citation W.Byler restitution	296.00

Other

- BWC Refund	12,921.05
- HAS insurance claim - \$100.00, Public Record request - \$7.05	107.05
- Local Government Funds	6,443.81
- Auction proceeds - Jacobsen tractor	7,105.00

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES 384,492.60

ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF APRIL 30, 2015 7,543,051.52

LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE APRIL 1, 2015 3,178,265.88

EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES

Vouchers	497.68
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EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES 497.68

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES

<u>Investment Income</u>	136.94
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<u>Royalties/In-Lieu Fees</u>	121.69
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- Hehmeyer - \$86.20, Sunnybrook - \$35.49

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES 258.63

ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF APRIL 30, 2015 \$3,178,026.83

RETIREMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT

- - -

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE APRIL 1, 2015 \$82,450.09

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES

<u>Investment Income</u>	3.55
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ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF APRIL 30, 2015 82,453.64

PURCHASE REQUISITION PRE-APPROVALS

The Board was presented with a list of outstanding Purchase Requisitions for pre-approval in the amount of \$62,897.14. All questions by the Board were satisfactorily answered.

Mr. Orndorff made a motion to approve the purchase requisition pre-approvals, in the amount of \$62,897.14.

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

PRESENTATION OF VOUCHERS

The Board was presented with vouchers paid during the month of April 2015 in the amount of \$578,040.57. These vouchers represent the normal day-to-day operating expenses, approved budgeted expenses and payroll. There were no questions from the Board.

Mr. Gertz made a motion to accept the April 2015 paid vouchers into the record.

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

Ms. Pennell provided answers to Board inquiries from the April 2015 meeting as follows:

- There would be minimal cost savings on Park District insurance premium if car deductibles were increased from \$500 to \$1000 (\$485.00/year).
- Park District insurance would cover hunters injured in park but damage to adjacent property caused by hunters would not be covered.

VACATION POLICY REVISION – RESOLUTION NO. 20-15

The Board was presented with Resolution No. 20-15, proposed revisions to the Geauga Park District Vacation Policy. Ms. Pilarczyk provided data regarding number of part-time employees, departments in which they worked and the value they provide to the Park District. The following revision proposals were put forth to the Board:

Vacation Leave – 411.11

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 employees 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).

Vacation Leave Requests – 411.12

~~Vacation leave is not available for part time or seasonal employees.~~ Vacation leave must be utilized in ~~four~~ **two (2)** hour block minimums.

Vacation leave must be requested in writing on a Request for Leave form to the immediate supervisor to allow time for scheduling in order to meet the needs of the department. For leave of ~~four (4)~~ **two (2)** twenty-four (24) hours, the employee must submit the request at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance. For leave of twenty-four (24) or more consecutive hours, the employee must submit the request at least fourteen (14) days in advance. A request for leave does not ensure automatic approval.

A supervisor may grant vacation leave of ~~four (4)~~ **two (2)** to twenty-four (24) hours with shorter notice than otherwise required.

Mr. Orndorff made a motion to approve the vacation policy changes as presented in Resolution No. 20-15.

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

BASS LAKE CLUB AGREEMENT

Mr. Oros proposed to the Board that it table the decision on extending the Bass Lake Club Agreement to the June 12, 2015 Board, at which meeting Tom Foster president of the Bass Lake Club, will present his perspectives and reason for continuing the Agreement. The Board concurred.

Mr. Oros proposed to the Board that they act on the EPA request that the Park District remove recreational amenities at Bass Lake Preserve, or acquire an additional three (3) acres of property for an environmental covenant to replace the portion of the Preserve with the recreational facilities. The EPA has placed an August 15, 2015 deadline for completion of their request.

After discussions, the Board requested that prior to making a decision on the EPA's request, the Park District should explore the possibility of acquiring an additional three (3) acres of land on which to place an environmental covenant, and provide the Board with an update at the June 9, 2015 Board meeting.

PARK DEVELOPMENT PROJECT UPDATES

Mr. McCue provided the Board with updates on 2015 projects.

HEADWATERS PARK IMPROVEMENTS – REALLOCATION OF FUNDS

Mr. McCue requested a reallocation of funds within the Land Improvement Fund due to the elimination of the Playground from the project. Mr. McCue requested the Board reallocate \$31,478.00 in the Land Improvement Fund that was budgeted for the Playground to the Headwater Park Improvement Project for the Shelter. This reallocation would bring the budget for this project to \$385,478.00 allowing a standard 10% contingency for construction of the shelter.

Mr. Orndorff made a motion to reallocate \$31,478.00 in the Land Improvement Fund budgeted for the playground to the Headwater Park Improvement Project for the Shelter.

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

There were discussions regarding ADA accessibility compliance for the Frohring Meadows boardwalk project with Mr. McCue confirming the project is ADA compliant, and that appropriate permits have been received from the State of Ohio.

NASSAU STATION RESTORATION PROJECT PROPOSALS

The Board was provided with construction drawings and cost estimates for the Nassau Station restoration project, which is currently scheduled for bidding and construction in 2016. The project encompasses the

renovation of the building, upgrades to the driveway and parking area, telescope restoration and computer system upgrades. The recommended budget for this project is \$1.4 million dollars, with commitment of \$775,000.00 of the funds from Geauga Park District Foundation. Mr. McCue requested Board commitment to the project for planning purposes.

There was discussion on proposed programming, telescope restoration, ADA accessibility, computerization of the telescope for use by off-site organizations and possible partnerships with universities, astronomical associations and other interested groups.

Mr. Gertz made a motion to approve a \$1.4 million dollar budget for the Nassau Station restoration project.

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

Paul Pira, Park Biologist provided the Board with summary information on the 2014-15 controlled deer hunting program and recommendations for the 2015-16 program. Mr. Pira recommended that the Park District continue with the white-tailed deer controlled hunting program for archery, gun (regular and youth), and muzzleloader. Mr. Pira requested the Board approve continuation of the controlled hunting program which is needed to help alleviate the problems the number of deer in Ohio are causing and to help maintain biodiversity.

The Board requested Mr. Pira address recommendations for deer density surveys. Mr. Pira stated data from deer surveys could be utilized to ascertain deer impacts on Geauga Park District properties. Options presented were: Aerial Infrared Surveys, Helicopter Surveys (visual surveys), spotlight surveys, deer browse/vegetation surveys, deer camera surveys and information received from hunter surveys.

Mr. Orndorff made a motion approve the 2015-16 controlled hunting program as presented and to commit to a deer density survey process to assist in the evaluation and preparation of the 2016-17 white tail deer controlled deer hunting program, subject to staff recommendations on the methodology used for the data collection.

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

BY-LAW REVISIONS

The Board was presented with proposed amendments to the Board of Park Commissioners Bylaws for review. The Board was asked to enter the proposed changes into the record for adoption at the June Board meeting.

Mr. Orndorff made a motion to put the adoption of proposed changes to Bylaw Articles IV, V and VI for Regular, Special and Emergency Sessions of the Park Board on the agenda for the June 9, 2015 Board meeting, as follows:

ARTICLE IV

REGULAR SESSIONS

The regular sessions of the Park Board shall be held once a month on a regular day and at a regular time, unless otherwise ordered by the Park Board. When said regular session day falls upon a legal holiday, the regular session shall be rescheduled by the Park Board. The day and time of regular sessions shall be determined by action of the Park Board. *The time and place of all regular sessions of the Park Board may be determined by consulting the Park District’s website at [wwwgeaugaparkdistrict.org](http://www.geaugaparkdistrict.org), or by calling the Park District at 440 286 9516 during regular business hours, or by requesting in writing reasonable advance notification of such regular sessions from the Park Board by either regular mail or by e-mail.*

ARTICLE V

SPECIAL SESSIONS

Special Sessions of the Park Board shall be held upon call of the President. The Executive Director may request a special session of the Park Board upon approval by the President. A quorum of Board members must be present to conduct a special session and to conduct any business. Notices of special sessions shall be given by telephone to, mailed to or personally served on, each Board member at least forty-eight hours before the time of such session. If any member of the Park Board is out of the County, or otherwise unreachable, for a period of at least forty-eight hours before such special session, failure of such member to receive notice of a special session shall not invalidate such session or any of its proceedings. *The time and place of all regular sessions of the Park Board may be determined by consulting the Park District’s website at [wwwgeaugaparkdistrict.org](http://www.geaugaparkdistrict.org), or by calling the Park District at 440 286 9516 during regular business hours, or by requesting in writing reasonable advance notification of such regular sessions from the Park Board by either regular mail or by e-mail.*

ARTICLE VI

EMERGENCY SESSIONS

Emergency sessions of the Park Board may be held upon call of the President, or upon request to the Executive Director by two members of the Park Board. Notices of emergency sessions shall be given by telephone or personally served on each member at least one hour before the time of such session. *The time and place of all regular sessions of the Park Board may be determined by consulting the Park District’s website at [wwwgeaugaparkdistrict.org](http://www.geaugaparkdistrict.org), or by calling the Park District at 440 286 9516 during regular business hours, or by requesting in writing reasonable advance notification of such regular sessions from the Park Board by either regular mail or by e-mail. Due however to the emergency nature of such sessions, advance determination of the time and place and purpose of such emergency sessions may necessarily be difficult or impossible to provide in every instance.*

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 leave the language as is in Article XVI – Session Agenda - regarding public input and to strike items 3, 5 and 8 as agenda topics and to put this item on the agenda for the June 9th 2015 Board Meeting for adoption, as follows:

ARTICLE XVI SESSION AGENDA

The meeting Agenda of the Park Board shall be prepared, following a discussion prior to the regular meetings, between the ranking official of the Geauga Park District staff and the President of the Board. The meeting agenda should provide for ample time for public input into the business of the Park Board consistent with the timely and efficient consummation of official Park Board business. Adjustments to the published agenda are allowed at the discretion of the President of the Board or a majority of the Commissioners of the Board present. The following topics should be considered for inclusion onto the agenda:

1. Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance

- ~~3. Adoption of Agenda~~
- 4. Approval or amendment of minutes of the previous meeting
- ~~5. Introduction of Guests~~
- 6. Presentation of Financial Statement
- 7. Presentation of Vouchers
- ~~8. Communications to the Park Board~~
- 9. Open to the Public
- 10. Unfinished Business
- 11. New Business
- 12. *Adjournment*

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

SURPLUS PROPERTY

The Board was asked to approve the following as Surplus Property. There were no questions by the Board.

	Inventory No.	Description	Starting Bid
1	1128 E	Fast Track 650 vinyl plotter	\$500.00
2	-	HP ScanJet 3970 scanner (item no longer software compatible)	Scrap
3	1888 E	DELL Flat panel computer monitor (item is defective)	Scrap
4	2144 E	DELL Flat panel computer monitor (item is defective)	Scrap

Mr. Orndorff 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:

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

COMMISSIONER’S TIME

2015 Connect Winter Photo Contest: Ms. Pennell announced the winner of the 2015 Connect Winter Photo Contest. The competition drew 50 entries with the winning photo taken by Steve Zavoda of Painesville, captioned “A Day Off Work”. Mr. Zavoda was presented with a framed copy of his work and a pint of 2015 Geauga Park District maple syrup. Ms. Pennell advised the second place photo of a quartet of American Cardinals taken at The West Woods, was taken by Kim Greve Tomba. All photo entries can be viewed on the Park District’s Facebook page.

House Bill 8: Mrs. Shumway addressed proposed House Bill 8 (H.B. 8) which was passed by the Ohio House in March 2015, and is pending vote by the Ohio Senate. H.B. 8 gives control of oil and natural gas resources owned or controlled by park properties created under ORC 1545 to the Chief of the ODNR Oil and Gas Division. If this bill passes, park properties could be included in the formation of a ‘unit’ comprised of adjacent private properties that wish to be involved drilling, allowing horizontal drilling of Park owned

properties. State Parks have been exempted from House Bill 8. A letter from Judge Grendell (Exhibit "B") regarding this issue is attached.

Mr. Oros advised he has been in contact with Brian Zimmerman of Cleveland Metroparks regarding H.B.8 and that Mr. Zimmerman is soliciting legal opinion on it, and that Woody Woodward, executive Director of Ohio Parks and Recreation Association will be lobbying against the approval of this House Bill.

Fishing Event for Special Needs Children: Mr. Oros advised the Board of the Fishing Event for Special Needs Children scheduled for May 19 at WC Best Preserve. The event is sponsored by Geauga Park District's Chip Henry Institute, Geauga County Educational Service Center and Geauga Rotary Club. Jim Dvorak of Burton Rotary is the event coordinator.

E-Z Go Transport Vehicle: Mr. Orndorff requested an update on the purchase of a 12-person EZ-Go transport vehicle for elderly or handicapped individuals for park programs/tours. An update will be provided at the June 12 Board Meeting.

Pine Brook Preserve: Mr. Orndorff requested Mr. Ondrey provide a recap of his findings on the obligations and responsibilities of Geauga Park District in regard to Pine Brook Preserve. Mr. Ondrey reported as follows:

- Per environmental covenant Geauga Park District (GPD) has no obligation to inspect Pine Brook until the Ohio Wetlands Foundation is released from its obligation to eradicate certain invasive species. Upon Ohio Wetlands meeting its goal they will be released and GPD will take over invasive species management/eradication and insuring the environmental covenant is not breached.
- Geauga Park District (GPD) does have the right, but not the obligation, to inspect the property to make sure the environmental covenant is not being violated, i.e. no subdivision of property, no commercial development, no gas or oil drilling, no changing of environmental footprint, no cutting of trees.

Mr. Orndorff inquired whether the Park District is obligated to monitor activities other than those covered in the environmental covenant with Mr. Ondrey advising no, per the Management Agreement the property managers have the right to utilize the property for hunting and trapping.

June 12, 2015 Board Meeting: Mrs. Shumway confirmed that Ed Buckles will be on the June Agenda to for a presentation regarding changes to the Bylaws. She also advised that there will be a presentation regarding mountain biking at the June Board meeting (Jake and Chad).

Telescope Donation: Ms. Pennell provided information on a telescope donation from Glenn and Deborah Renwick and requested the Board make a motion to approve the donation. The donation consists of a LX200-ACF 16" telescope with tripod, valued at \$15,999.00. Ms. Pennell advised that the addition of this telescope to the Observatory Park campus will enhance the programming for the general public and local school districts and expressed thanks on behalf of the Park District and specifically, the Naturalist Department who will be utilizing the equipment.

Mr. Orndorff made a motion to accept the donation of a LX200-ACF 16" telescope with tripod, valued at \$15,999.00 from Deborah and Glenn Renwick.

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – below are comment summaries:

Kathryn Hanratty, Chardon Township addressed the Board from the podium. Ms. Hanratty stated (personal opinion) she objects to the politicizing of the Parks and cited Mr. Claypool’s presentation as basic ‘Tea Party’ script. She added the indoctrination schools they are planning for the summer are counter to the spirit of the Park District and if the path and logic of Mr. Claypool and the Tea Party were followed, the Park District would be dissolved and put into the hands for private individuals for whatever they considered to be stewardship. Ms. Hanratty provided the Board with job descriptions from various park districts across the state for the position of Executive Director for Board review.

Shelly Chernin, Novelty Twp., addressed the Board from the podium. Ms. Chernin stated changes made to Articles IV, V and VI included time and date of meetings and that per ORC Statute 121.22(f) notice of special and emergency sessions must also include the purpose of the meeting. Ms. Chernin suggested that the Board might want to include wording regarding notification to the news media of special and emergency sessions. Ms. Chernin thanked the Board for not including time limits for public comments in Article XVI.

Elsie Tarczy, South Russell, addressed the Board from the podium. Ms. Tarczy stated she is a member of the Tea Party and she applauds Mr. Claypool for taking the time to research Conservation Easements and provide the information to the Board/public. She added the Tea Party supports the parks and she objects to Ms. Hanratty’s comments. She added the Tea Party tries to educate the public on current issues, holds candidate nights and they are here to educate the public and the children about the Nation, how it was formed and what it stands for.

John Augustine, Parkman Township, addressed the Board from the podium. Mr. Augustine shared an article from Cleveland Museum of Natural History magazine regarding its program to increase/protect the Spotted Turtle population and that Geauga Park District was instrumental in starting the project. He reported he spoke with Ohio Wetland Foundation who said it relied on Geauga Park District to monitor the Pine Brook property, and that Naturalists are permitted to hold four (4) programs a year at Pine Brook. Mr. Augustine gave his views on how he feels money should be spent on the renovation of the Nassau Observatory, and suggestions regarding the telescope restoration. Mr. Augustine commented on Mr. Claypool’s presentation regarding who best protects property stating it is more complicated than private ownership is good and government is bad. He added that farmers who enter into environmental/farming covenants are paid to follow the restrictions placed on the property and are fully aware of them.

Mr. Orndorff responded to Ms. Chernin’s comments regarding changes to the Bylaws indicating there has been an effort to supply the time, place and purpose of special and emergency sessions. He requested Mr. Ondrey review the changes to the Bylaws to determine if further adjustments need to be made.

Mike Petruziello, Chester Township, addressed the Board from the podium. Mr. Petruziello stated he resented the comments regarding the Tea Party. Mr. Petruziello feels the Geauga Park District is the gem of Geauga County and as President of the Tea Party he sat as a Park Board Commissioner. He questioned why people have a problem with educating children on how this country was founded. He added that there is too much venom – people have different views – and the bickering should stop and we should get on developing the parks for everybody. Mr. Petruziello thanked the Commissioners for the efforts.

Chris Hippely, of Middlefield, addressed the Board from the podium. Ms. Hippely commented on the EPA request to remove the Bass Lake recreational amenities stating she does not like the EPA or government dictating what is done with our parks. Ms. Hippely added she is insulted on the uninformed opinion regarding what goes on within the Tea Party such as their Liberty Camp.

Mr. Gertz made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss land negotiations and for personnel updates.

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

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

The Board entered Executive Session at 5:52 p.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 6:19 p.m. There were no items brought forward.

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 6:20 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 Director

Mary Ruth Shumway, President

Exhibit "A"

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
 Board of Park Commissioners
 May 12, 2015 - Regular
 The Meyer Center

Name	Organization/Company
Nora Stanton	OHC.
Jay Deo	Geauga OHC
DENVER SALLEE	CITIZEN
Gayle Wohlken	Burton Citizen
Jim Wohlken	Burton Citizen
KATHY FLOEA	THOMPSON
Catherine - Elbert Whiteight	Munson Twp
Shelley Chernin	Russell
Esther Lacche	Neighbors
Louise Kamovich	Ron Kamovich
KATHLEEN WEBB	RESIDENT
Chris Hall	
BOBBY & DAVE PARTINGTON	Munson Twp.
Linda O'Brien	Russell
Jessica Fenander	WGHS Interact
Kathy Schaefer	Claridon
Star Piekos	Newbury
Jackson Howard	Interact
PAUL PIRRA	GPD
Judy W. Leady	Resident
[Signature]	GPD
John H. Luyck	Parkman Resident

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT

Board of Park Commissioners

May 12, 2015 - Regular

The Meyer Center

Name	Organization/Company
Cherie Taracy	
Dane + Chris Huppel	Resident tax payer
Kathy Hilty	CLIFTON PARK TWP.
Mark Smith	Madison, OH
Kim Lauer	Probate Ct.
Joe Koziol	Tennes
Sola Skinner	Newbury
FRAN CVERNA	"
Ken Zernick	Munson
Jo Leon	Russell
Sue Prior + Paul Kiplinger	S. Russell
Jeff Flynn	Munson
Holly Sander	GPD
John Hildner	FMSA
FRANK JACOBSON	RESIDENT
Becky Strong	BURTON
Michael Petrucciello	CHESTER
Robert Petrucciello	CHESTER
Frank Gwartz	Parkman Twp.
N.J. HOWARD	S. RUSSELL
Steve Zavoda + Lauren Zavoda	Peinesville
Marionna Hupke	Montrose

Exhibit "B"



COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
PROBATE / JUVENILE DIVISION
GEAUGA COUNTY

TIMOTHY J. GRENDELL – JUDGE

Courthouse Annex, 2nd Floor
231 Main Street, Suite 200
Chardon, Ohio 44024
Voice: 440-279-1830
Fax Probation: 440-285-5025

May 8, 2015

Commissioner Mary Ruth Shumway
Commissioner Jeff Orndorff
Commissioner Bill Gertz
Gauga Park District
9160 Robinson Road
Chardon OH 44024

Dear Commissioners Gertz, Orndorff and Shumway:

I am writing to bring to your attention proposed H.B. 8. This proposed legislation, if passed by the Ohio Senate and signed by the governor, would give exclusive control over the oil & natural gas resources owned or controlled by the Gauga Park District to the Chief of the ODNR Oil & Gas Division. In other words, an oil & gas driller could ask the ODNR Division Chief to include Gauga Park's subterranean mineral rights in an oil or gas well "pool" or "unit" without your consent or approval. You, as the appointed Park Board, would have no say in the matter. Even more troubling, H.B. 8 says the ODNR Division Chief "shall" issue a pooling order including public land (except State Parks). This means that the Chief will have no discretion. If a driller seeks to include the Park's public land, the Chief "shall" include it in the pool.

While the legislation does not allow for the drilling of a well on the public land (i.e. county park property), wells could be drilled in close proximity of the public land and apparently horizontal drilling could occur under the public land to reach the "oil or natural gas resources" under the public land.

This proposed taking of the subterranean mineral rights of public land, such as our County's park property, is unprecedented and not in the best interest of protecting and preserving our wonderful county parks.

As a legislator, I opposed oil & gas drilling on public property. This proposed usurpation of local control over the oil & natural gas resources under the County Parks is worse, and if enacted

would constitute a backdoor way of dragging our parks into the oil & gas business without your consent or approval. Such loss of local control would be potentially harmful to our parks.

I am bringing this matter to your attention because of the potential negative impact that passage of H.B. 8 could have on our parks.

H.B. 8 was passed by the Ohio House in March 2015 by a 98-0 vote (which included Sarah LaTourette). The Ohio Senate still has to vote on the bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy J. Grendell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T".

Judge Timothy J. Grendell