

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 8, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held September 8, 2015 at The Meyer Center, Chardon Twp., Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 3:33 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, Executive	See EXHIBIT "A" attached
Anna McDonald, Executive Administrative Assistant	
Matt McCue, Director of Planning & NRM	
Michele Pennell, Director of Business & Visitor Services	
Dennis Sloan, Lt. Ranger	
Allan Frantz, Sgt. Ranger	
David Ondrey, Legal Counsel (Thrasher Dinsmore & Dolan)	

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

The Board was presented with minutes from the August 11, 2015 Regular Board meeting, August 19, 2015 Special Board meeting and August 24, 2015 Special Board meeting.

Mr. Orndorff made a motion to approve the August 11, 2015 Regular Board Meeting minutes.

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 approve the August 19, 2015 Special Board Meeting minutes.

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 approve the August 24, 2015 Special Board Meeting minutes.

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

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

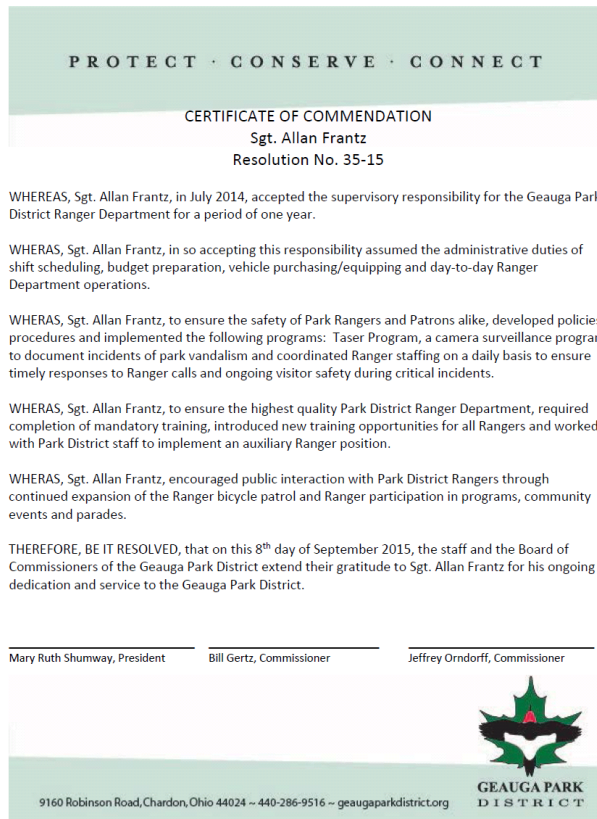
VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Susan Sifritt was honored as Volunteer of the Month for her assistance and commitment in attending the gardens at The West Wood Nature Center and Park District building at the Geauga County Fair grounds. Commissioner Gertz read and presented Ms. Sifritt with the following Certificate of Appreciation with thanks from the Board of Commissioners and employees of the Geauga Park District.



RANGER COMMENDATION, RESOLUTION #35-15

Mrs. Shumway presented the following Certificate of Commendation, Resolution #35-15 to Sgt. Allan Frantz for his dedication and service to the Park District for accepting supervisory responsibilities for the Ranger Department for a period of one year.



Sgt. Frantz thanked the Board, and expressed his appreciation to Mr. Oros for his support.

Mr. Gertz made a motion to enter the Certificate of Commendation, Resolution #35-15 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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – below are comment summaries:

Shelley Chernin, Munson Township, expressed concern regarding the Tea Party’s Liberty Camp and whether they violated Park District Rules and Regulations by shooting firearms at Chickagami Park during the camp.

Frank Gwartz, Parkman Township, questioned whether individuals in the Park District hunting program were signed up as volunteers as was mentioned by Park District staff at the May 2015 Board Meeting to insure liability coverage in case of an accident involving hunters in the Park or on adjacent properties.

Ed Buckles, Troy Township, expressed concern that there was no written plan on how tax monies would be spent, per directive from the Budget Commission, and voiced his displeasure on changes in the Park system that he felt had not been talked about in open session at Board meetings.

John Augustine, Parkman Township, stated his opinion that decisions regarding Park District properties/policies were being made by Park District administration and questioned why these decisions were not made by Commissioners during Board meetings.

Phil Gingrich, Middlefield, expressed his concern regarding the demolition of a Park District rental house because of the historical value of the house and the impact such demolition would have on the 200 year old white oak trees and bats located on the property.

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

Geauga Park District
FINANCIAL STATEMENT MONTH ENDED
August 31, 2015

GENERAL FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE AUGUST 1, 2015		5,603,721.25
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES		
Personnel	223,994.97	
Medicare	3,218.30	
Dental /Hospitalization	46,202.26	
OPERS July	32,991.06	
Vouchers	142,396.44	
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES		448,803.03

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCESGeneral Tax Collections

- Real Estate Tax (2nd half settlement, includes Mfg. Homes - \$3,159.28) 2,260,446.18

Investment Income

451.98

Gifts & Donations

636.90

- Nature Scopes - in memory of Ron Slogar - \$500.00
- North Coast Fossil Club Honorarium D.Best Ice Age Program - \$100.00
- Unrestricted - \$36.90

Fees

- Camping 660.00
- Shelters 200.00
- NAF Table Fees 735.00
- Utility fees 300.00
- Adventure Camp registration fees 300.00
- Programs - Out-of-county 44.00
- Programs 450.00

Sales

- Tree Tops - TWW 1,687.46

Other Receipts

- GPD Foundation rental space/equipment 216.43
- Observatory house - Sindelar 300.00
- Swine Creek house - Harry 400.00
- Chickagami house - Maksim, Kolar 438.70

Other

- BWC Refund
- Public Records requests - \$4.00, Juvenile Court restitution T.Wise - \$50.00 54.50
- Reimburse for sales tax charged - \$.50

- Local Government Funds 7188.36

- Auction proceeds - Grain Drill - \$482.00 - G. Conner 9,032.00
 - 2007 Ford Explorer - \$3,350.00 -B.Komminsk
 - 2008 Ford Explorer - \$2,500.00 - Cross Anchor FD
 - 2005 Ford Taurus - \$2,700.00 - M.Hammerlee

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES**2,283,541.51****ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF AUGUST 31, 2015****7,438,459.73****LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND****BEGINNING FUND BALANCE AUGUST 1, 2015****3,494,039.33**

EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES	
Vouchers	96,444.74
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES	96,444.74

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES	
<i>Investment Income</i>	277.56
<i>Royalties/In-Lieu Fees</i>	
- Hehmeyer - \$47.27, Sunnybrook - \$13.09, Ford Windsor - \$62.66	259.06
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES	536.62

ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF AUGUST 31, 2015	\$ 3,398,131.21
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RETIREMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE AUGUST 1, 2015	\$82,466.12
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES	6.39
<i>Investment Income</i>	6.39
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF AUGUST 31, 2015	\$82,472.51

PRESENTATION OF VOUCHERS

The Board was presented with vouchers paid during the month of August 2015. These vouchers represented the normal day-to-day operating expenses, approved budgeted expenses and payroll. All questions by the Board were satisfactorily answered.

Mr. Orndorff made a motion to accept the August 2015 paid vouchers into the record 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

RETIREMENT SEVERANCE POLICY 310.1 REVISION, RESOLUTION NO. 25-14;

The Board was provided with proposed revisions and backup documentation to Severance Policy 310.1 regarding pay-out of accrued sick time to employees retiring from Geauga Park District. This item was brought forward from the August 2015 meeting, pending legal counsel review. Mr. Ondrey (GPD legal counsel) requested additional time for review.

Mr. Orndorff made a motion to table this item to the October Board 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

PARK DEVELOPMENT PROJECT UPDATES

Mr. McCue provided the Board with updates on 2015 projects advising all are on schedule for completion in the fall.

After discussions regarding boat launchings at Headwaters Park during low-water periods, the Board asked Mr. McCue to contact the City of Akron to discuss the possibility of installing a boat ramp that could be utilized during the low-water periods, and to provide preliminary information and cost estimates for such a project.

Mr. Orndorff offered a suggestion of a pontoon boat for use at Headwaters Park that would allow individuals with disabilities or individuals who are not comfortable in a canoe or kayak, the opportunity to also enjoy being on the water.

After discussions on the newly renovated Frohring Meadows shelter and projected completion date, the Board inquired if the Park District had considered covered blinds for bird watching, and asked Mr. McCue to research and provide preliminary information on a covered bird watching blind.

CERTIFICATION OF TAX LEVIES

The Board was presented with Resolution No. 31-15, to approve and certify the tax rate and amount to be collected for tax year 2015 (2016 collection year).

Mr. Orndorff made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 31-15 accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor, at a tax rate totaling 2.7 mills collecting \$6,398,189.

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

NEW ACCOUNT APPROVAL

The Board was presented with Resolution No. 32-15 requesting a new account be established with the County Auditor to accept all transfers from Geauga Park District funds (Retirement Reserve or Land Acquisition) in the General Fund, as follows:

6017-057-999 General Fund Transfers-In

Mr. Orndorff made a motion to approve Resolution No. 32-15 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

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS & CERTIFICATION, BUDGET AMENDMENT #11, RESOLUTION NO. 33-15

The Board was presented with Budget Amendment #11, Resolution No. 33-15 to approve a supplemental appropriation of \$25,000 to the Retirement Reserve Fund and a certification of \$25,000 to the General Fund to cover retirement expenses for two (2) Park District employees.

Mr. Orndorff made a motion to approve Resolution No. 33-15 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

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS, BUDGET AMENDMENT #12, RESOLUTION NO. 34-15

The Board was presented with Budget Amendment #12, Resolution No. 34-15 to approve supplemental appropriations to the following General Fund accounts:

Nature Store Merchandise (6017-057-00-701-570-437-15) -- \$2,000.00

Computer Hardware (6017-057-00-601-610-14) -- \$12,000.00

Mr. Orndorff made a motion to approve resolution No. 34-15 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

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND, RESOLUTION NO. 36-15

The Board was presented with Resolution No. 36-15, to approve the creation of a Capital Improvement and Land Acquisition Fund (2016 CILA) for the purpose of accumulating funds from the general fund or land acquisition fund to be used for projects or land acquisitions as identified by the Park Board. The Resolution set out/included the rules, regulations and restrictions of the fund, and will become active in 2016.

Mr. Gertz made a motion to approve resolution No. 36-15 as presented.

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

CANINE UNIT PROPOSAL

Lt. Ranger Dennis Sloan presented the Board with a proposed outline for a Park District Canine Unit that would include two handlers (Park District Rangers) that currently own qualified canines. Lt. Sloan stated the benefits to the Park District and advised the only cost to the Park District would be for insurance.

After discussions the following motion was made:

Mr. Orndorff made a motion to authorize the Ranger Department to discuss the proposal with the Fraternal Order of Police Union for feedback.

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

COMMISSIONER’S TIME

The following items were discussed during Commissioners’ time:

- Mr. Oros announced the Park District’s ‘Fall Fest’ scheduled from 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 10th at Swine Creek Reservation.
- Mrs. Shumway announced record attendance of 9,986 patrons at Park District programs during the month of August.
- Mr. Gertz commended the Park District on commencing the use of Park District vehicles by employees for Park business instead of personal vehicles, which assures insurance coverage in the case of an accident.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Orndorff made a motion to enter Executive Session for land acquisition and pending legal.

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 entered Executive Session at 4:48 p.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 5:35 p.m. No items were brought forward.

Mr. Gertz made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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 meeting was adjourned at 5:36 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, Executive Director

Mary Ruth Shumway, President

