

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
April 12, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held April 12, 2016 at The Meyer Center, Chardon Twp., Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. Commissioners Bill Gertz, Jackie Dottore and Len Barker were present.

John Oros called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

<b>Park District Employees</b>	<b>GUESTS</b>
John Oros, Executive Director	See EXHIBIT "A" attached
Sheryl Hatridge, Executive Administrative Assistant	
Matt McCue, Director of Planning & Operations	
Stephanie Zigman, Human Resources Manager	
Brett Bellas, Grounds & Facilities Manager	
Dennis Sloan, Lt. Ranger	

John Oros called roll.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mrs. Dottore made a motion to approve the agenda, Mr. Gertz seconded the motion. After roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved 3-0.

Mr. Gertz	Yes
Mrs. Dottore	Yes
Mr. Barker	Yes

**ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

The Board was presented with minutes from the March 15, 2016 Regular Board meeting.

Mr. Gertz made a motion to approve the March 15, 2016 regular Board Meeting minutes.

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

Mr. Gertz	Yes
Mrs. Dottore	Yes
Mr. Barker	Yes

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** – Below are comment summaries:

- Ed Buckles, Troy Twp., commented about the minutes, agenda, distribution to the public, failure to properly announce the meeting, and said it is clear what the people wanted was not the administration's agenda so the people were ignored and their access curtailed. He said Protect Geauga Parks is asking for transparency in decision making and suggested the Board take back control and suggested classes about nonprofits and conservation.
- John Augustine, Parkman Twp., requested additional time to address the board regarding a number of issues, including turkey hunting, and asked if any naturalists were consulted. He stated he is against it if it is just as a recreational activity, unless there is good reason for it and feels it will be detrimental for other people who like to visit the park. Mr. Augustine asked why the Park District has maple sugaring and said there are no trail maps available at the kiosks at Swine Creek. He also said he called the park about snowmobile violations and submitted video of tracks in the snow that

weren't on the trails in Observatory Park for the record. Lastly Mr. Augustine said he recalled past use of white amurs were a disaster.

- Brenda, Chester Twp., stated it is hard to know what to address specifically if you don't know the agenda, and shared her concerns about the park survey, and understanding conservation in regards to turkey and deer hunting. She explained that it can be upsetting to think about going into the parks and seeing the killing of animals for those who value nature, and said there is a difference between nature lovers and people who are outdoorsmen and urged the Board to be mindful of that.
- Barb Partington, Munson Twp., read questions she would like the Board to answer about youth hunting, including whether it is considered a recreational program, who made the decision to allow this activity in the park, is there a written document outlining the guidelines for this program, how many permits are being issued, is there an age limit and is there a management plan.
- Shelley Chernin, Russell Twp., commented about the Park District not welcoming or valuing the public's input and imposing more limits on public comment time and content. She asked why the Park District doesn't want the public involved in decision-making and why they won't engage in open conversation. Ms. Chernin said this is disturbing behavior coming from a government agency that they pay for and is supposed to be working for them.  
Mr. Gertz assured her that the Board does listen to the public.
- Kathryn Hanratty, Chardon Twp., asked several questions she requested be part of the public record. She asked how the Board thinks the changes being proposed and implemented benefit the people of Geauga County; how unfettered power given to the new executive director over the budget, personnel and the direction of the parks benefits the people of Geauga County, and lastly why there is no 10 year or even 5 year plan for the future of the park district available to the public.
- Dave Partington, Munson Twp., stated the Park District knew on February 29, 2016 that the Wall that Heals was going to be moved to the fairgrounds, and although there may have been good reason, it is not a place of quiet contemplation. He said it was a bad decision for moving it and for not saying so on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

**PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

The Board was provided with a copy of the March 2016 Financial Statement. There were no questions by the Board.

*Geauga Park District*  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENT MONTH ENDED**  
March 31, 2016

**GENERAL FUND**

<b>BEGINNING FUND BALANCE MARCH 1, 2016</b>	<b>3,512,198.86</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES &amp; OTHER USES</b>	
Personnel	210,806.15
Medicare	3,015.84
Dental /Hospitalization	54,505.92
OPERS February 2016	31,097.42
Vouchers	174,045.23
Auditor's Fees on Real Estate tax settlement	54,356.70
<b>EXPENDITURES &amp; OTHER USES</b>	<b>527,827.26</b>
<b>REVENUES &amp; OTHER SOURCES</b>	
<i>General Tax Collections</i>	
- Real Estate Tax (1st half settlement 2016 - Includes Mfg. Homes )	3,105,036.16

- (net settlement \$3,050,679.46 after auditor's fees)

Investment Income 1,521.02

- March 2016

Gifts & Donations 9,354.32

- Bird Box & Water feature - \$107.17 , J.Fincun Memorial donation - \$100.00

- H.Wilcox Memorial donations -\$75.00 , Caveman Crawl donations - \$2,000.00

- Cleveland Foundation quarterly donation- \$455.50

- Cleveland Foundation B.B. Metzenbaum Fund donation - \$2,000.00

- Chip Henry Institute donations - \$4,100.00

- SAR and Tree Tappers Ball - \$516.65

Fees

- Camping 430.00

- Shelters 200.00

- Utility fees 1,815.00

- Programs - Out-of-county 76.00

- Caveman Crawl Race registrations 80.00

- Programs 274.00

Sales

- Tree Tops - TWW 854.20

- Syrup Sales 938.72

Other Receipts

- Agricultural Lease - G. Soltis - OP - \$1,375.00, J.Soltis - Farley - \$600.00, 2,575.00

- E.Petersen - Hyde-Kaplan - \$600.00

- GPD Foundation rental space/equipment 216.43

- Observatory house - Sindelar 300.00

- Swine Creek house - Harry 400.00

- Chickagami house - Kolar 400.00

- Public Records requests - \$1.00 , WR Co-op annual distribution of dividends - \$51.42 52.52

- Reimburse tax difference on Home Depot purchase - \$.10

- Local Government Funds 6,218.56

- Auction proceeds - Display Case - \$20.00 B.Fisco 20.00

**REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES 3,130,761.93**

**ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF MARCH 31, 2016 6,115,133.53**

**LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND**

**BEGINNING FUND BALANCE MARCH 1, 2016 4,867,862.55**

**EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES**

Vouchers 22,349.98

**EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES 22,349.98**

**REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES**

Investment Income 1,236.92

- March 2016

Royalties/In-Lieu Fees 196.05

- Farley - \$109.60, Hehmeyer - \$55.97, Sunnybrook - \$30.48

**REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES 1,432.97**

**ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF MARCH 31, 2016 4,846,945.54**

**RETIREMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT**

**BEGINNING FUND BALANCE MARCH 1, 2016** **57,537.73**

**REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES**

*Investment Income* 18.54  
- March 2016

**REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES** **18.54**

**ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF MARCH 31, 2016** **57,556.27**

**PRESENTATION OF VOUCHERS**

The Board was presented with vouchers paid during the month of March 2016. These vouchers represented the normal day-to-day operating expenses, approved budgeted expenses and payroll.

Mrs. Dottore made a motion to accept the March 2016 paid vouchers into the record as presented. Mr. Barker seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved 3-0:

Mr. Gertz                      Yes  
Mrs. Dottore                 Yes  
Mr. Barker                    Yes

**SURPLUS PROPERTY**

The Board was asked to approve the following as Surplus Property.

	<b>Inventory No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Starting Bid</b>
1	2083 C	Choremaster pressure washer (item is defective)	Scrap
2	2149 E	DELL flat panel monitor (item is defective)	Scrap
3	1883 E	DELL flat panel monitor (item is defective)	Scrap

Mrs. Dottore made a motion to approve the items declared surplus as presented. Mr. Barker seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved 3 – 0:

Mr. Gertz                      Yes  
Mrs. Dottore                 Yes  
Mr. Barker                    Yes

**RESOLUTION #10-16 – NEW K9 FUND**

John Oros presented a request to create a new K9 donation fund to help support the two canines with the Ranger department through donations.

Mr. Gertz made a motion to discuss.

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

Mr. Gertz                      Yes  
Mrs. Dottore                 Yes  
Mr. Barker                    Yes

**4 WHEELER REQUEST FOR RANGERS**

John Oros presented a request to utilize \$5,685 remaining in the Operations vehicle budget for the purchase of a 2016 Polaris Sportsman 4 wheeler to be used for patrolling Geauga Park District trails and boundaries by the Ranger Department. Mr. Gertz commented that he would like to see the 4 wheeler painted white with the Geauga Park District logo so it is clear it is our unit.

Mr. Gertz made a motion to discuss.

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

Mr. Gertz	Yes
Mrs. Dottore	Yes
Mr. Barker	Yes

**PLANNING UPDATES**

Planning presented current construction cost summaries for Observatory Park, The Rookery, Orchard Hills asphalt trails, and Ruth Kennan asphalt trail. Matt McCue answered questions regarding current cost savings and Jackie Dottore explained the budget amounts, bid amounts and the current cost difference.

**GOHC FLEA MARKET REQUEST**

John Oros presented a request for a special use permit to utilize the West Woods to run the summer flea market on Saturday, July 16, 2016. He explained all proceeds from vendor sites will be donated to the Bridle Trail Fund.

Mrs. Dottore made a motion to discuss.

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

Mr. Gertz	Yes
Mrs. Dottore	Yes
Mr. Barker	Yes

**COMMISSIONER’S TIME**

The following items were discussed during Commissioners’ time:

- John Oros informed the Board of recent inquiries requesting to put cell towers on park properties near Route 608 and Chardon-Windsor Roads and he believes in Beartown Lakes. He said he wanted to give the Board time to consider the requests and they will vote whether to allow this at the May board meeting. Jackie Dottore requested a proposal or more information before the May board packet if it is available.
- John Oros explained that Mrs. Dottore met with Matt McCue before the board meeting for an information session regarding the planning, construction and bid process, along with the requirements in the state of Ohio. He also offered the opportunity to meet with Matt to Mr. Barker. Mrs. Dottore stated that it was very informative.
- Mr. Gertz stated he received a very nice birthday card from the “loyal opposition” last month and he felt it was a good example of both sides being able to work together. He thanked them for the card.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

John Oros requested a motion to go into executive session to discuss property, the purchase of property, the potential to purchase property and property acquisition.

Mrs. Dottore made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss property, the purchase of property, the potential to purchase property and property acquisition.

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

Mr. Gertz	Yes
Mrs. Dottore	Yes

Mr. Barker                      Yes

The Board entered Executive Session at 10:41 a.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 11:55 a.m. The following items were brought forward:

John Oros requested that the Board allow the Executive Director to enter into negotiations for a piece of property located in Thompson Twp.

**PROPERTY PURCHASE NEGOTIATION**

Mrs. Dottore made a motion to allow the Executive Director to enter into negotiations for purchase of property in Thompson Township.

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

Mr. Gertz                      Yes  
Mrs. Dottore                Yes  
Mr. Barker                    Yes

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING**

John Oros announced the next meeting will be May 10, 2016 at 10 a.m. at the Meyer Center.

Mr. Gertz made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Mr. Gertz                      Yes  
Mrs. Dottore                Yes  
Mr. Barker                    Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 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, Executive Director

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Jackie Dottore, President