

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 10, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held May 10, 2016 at The Meyer Center, Chardon Twp., Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 10:04 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.

Park District Employees	GUESTS	
John Oros, Executive Director	See EXHIBIT "A" attached	
Sheryl Hatridge, Executive Administrative Assistant		
Matt McCue, Director of Planning & Operations		
Paul Pira, Park Biologist		
Stephanie Zigman, Human Resources Manager		
Dennis Sloan, Lt. Ranger		
Denise Weisbarth, Ranger		

John Oros called roll.

John Oros proposed to move Commissioner's Time to immediately follow approval of the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mrs. Dottore made a motion to approve the agenda with the proposed change, Mr. Barker seconded the motion. 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 addressed the issue of cell towers. He stated former boards had previously considered cell towers and he wanted to bring the issue to the attention of the current Board. Mr. Oros stated after discussion with staff, staff is not recommending to construct any cell towers and does not feel it is part of the park mission or fits into park aesthetics. He said barring any objections, the Park is not proposing any cell tower construction nor does he feel they would.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

The Board was presented with minutes from the April 12, 2016 Regular Board meeting.

Mr. Gertz made a motion to approve the April 12, 2016 regular Board Meeting minutes.

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

Mrs. Dottore made a statement on behalf of the Board. She stated that the Commissioner's, the Director, all of the employees of the Park and the Judge are a team, and requested that all concerns and comments be addressed to the park, not individuals, and comments should be limited to park business. Mrs. Dottore said personal attacks are just not necessary and any other concerns can be emailed to individuals.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – below are comment summaries:

- Ed Buckles, Troy Twp., commented about cell towers and a Lake Metroparks brochure he brought in. Mr. Buckles said in Lake County, residents get treated as smart, environmentally conscious, participating citizens with a valued expanding resource in their park system, and he feels they receive hidden agendas, dismissive attitudes and cell towers here. He also mentioned that the Park had not identified a Volunteer of the Month for at least 3 months.
Mr. Gertz stated that the Volunteer of the Month would be starting back up again in the near future.
- Lucy Coakley, Munson Twp., - Thanked the board for not considering cell towers and asked why there isn't a sign on Robinson Rd. at the entrance that says the park is in this direction and to turn right. She said there should be a sign.
- Barb Partington, Munson Twp., - Stated she asked questions about hunting at the last meeting and had yet to receive a reply. She stated that given non-responsiveness she has to assume something is being hidden, and she will continue to ask questions and will continue to assume when responses aren't forthcoming that there is a hidden agenda, cover-up or possibly illegal activities taking place since she can't think of any other reason why questions aren't being answered. She also said she didn't think the flyer was a good representation of the Park and that there is a need to rethink how the Park District communicates with the public.
- Patrick Robinson, Middlefield, - Commented about the personal attacks from the public that attend the board meetings. He addressed the Lake Metroparks program and stated they do great things but also have items that can be criticized and noted slandering someone in the public sector makes this meeting look like the political atmosphere of our country right now. He stated people would get a lot further being nice and talking about things, not attacking other people's character and he asked that they clean up their comments to the Board and park staff.
- Kathrine Malmquist, South Russell, – Stated that Patrick had a great idea, and the video recordings are available on their website. She expressed her concern with the cost of the glossy mailer she received, and the number of ads and cost for the television advertising. She stated hopefully someone could tell them the cost of the mailer and the TV ads.
- Mary Lou Toth, Russell, – Stated she wanted to know what happened to the signs in the parks, there are no signs telling where horses can go, or bikes can go, only signs that dogs have to be on a leash. John Oros explained that an inventory analysis has been requested for our trails to improve them. She said that she has seen bikes on unpaved trails and that she had a terrible time finding the Meyer Center at Big Creek Park, and made deprecatory comments about the faces on the Park poster in the pavilion. Mrs. Dottore and Mr. Barker reminded her this was a business meeting and that there was nothing comical or park business related about her comments.
- Kathryn Hanratty, Chardon Twp., - Repeated her questions from the previous board meeting. She asked about how the Board thinks the changes being proposed and implemented with an increased dedication to active recreation and diminishment of focus on conservation protects the people of Geauga County in the long term, how the power given to the executive director over the budget, personnel and the direction of the parks benefits Geauga County and the Park District, and why there is no 10 year or even 5 year plan for the future of the park district available to the public, and lastly whether this is intentional or in the works.
- Shelley Chernin, Russell, - Stated she had questions about the mailer she received and felt that it was not up to the standards of the staff, and there were inaccuracies in the mailing regarding the

percentage of the natural state of the Park District. She gave her opinion that the mailer was unprofessional, and asked who wrote it, paid for it, and where it came from.

Mr. Gertz stated while people at this meeting have made negative comments about the mailer, he has received nothing but good comments.

- John Augustine, Parkman Twp., - Complimented the park maps and suggested perhaps having some available made on material that won't tear. He said he doesn't believe that people are making attacks, but expressing how they feel. Mr. Augustine said the parks should protect biodiversity and natural areas first and wondered if any of the Naturalists have been consulted about the Rangers using an ATV in the Parks to patrol, and whether underpasses were being planned for the spotted turtles this year.
- Kristen Sammut, Munson Twp., - Thanked the board for not considering cell towers and expressed her hope that the snowmobiling and turkey hunting programs would be re-evaluated after this year. She also wondered if a survey of Geauga County residents has been done or distributed to see how people feel about these programs going on in their parks.
- Kathleen Webb, Munson Twp., - Explained she tries to put herself in the Board's shoes, and perhaps the Board could try to put themselves in her shoes as well. She brought a copy of the Explorer Magazine from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and said Ed and Sandy Buckles were recently awarded the Naturalist certificate for completing 150 hours of class time, presentations, lectures and field trips. She recommended taking classes such as those offered at the Natural History Museum to the Board.

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

Geauga Park District

FINANCIAL STATEMENT MONTH ENDED

30-Apr-16

GENERAL FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE APRIL 1, 2016	6,115,133.53
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PERSONNEL EXPENDITURES

Salaries	369,248.62	
Medicare	5,324.09	
Dental /Hospitalization	51,590.90	
OPERS March 2016	30,763.33	
Cash Transfer of funds to new Capital Projects Reserve Fund	2,850,000.00	
		3,306,926.94

VOUCHERS

- Contract Services	47,027.99	
- Supplies	15,772.69	
- Materials	23,552.54	
- Equipment	38,926.80	
- Auditor's fees	2,255.26	
- Other	1,481.00	
- Travel	1,431.55	
- Advertising	8,140.15	

138,587.98

EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES

3,445,514.92

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES

Interest April 2016 2,062.97

General Tax Collections

- State Rollback Reimbursement 2016 395,092.07
- State Grant - Ranger training NAMI 1,000.00
- Local Government Funds 6,389.37

Gifts & Donations

1,764.93
- Bird Box - \$14.93, H.Wilcox memorials - 150.00,
- N. Oliverio memorial - \$100.00, Anderson NAF
sponsorship - \$ 1,500.00

Fees

-Camping 625.00
- Shelters 300.00
- Utilities 1,065.00
- Workshops 40.00
- Programs 604.00
- Out of County 102.00
- Caveman Crawl Race registrations 60.00
- NAF Table fees 300.00
- X-Treme Days Camp fees 240.00
- Adventure Camp fees 2,150.00

Sales - TWW - \$1,701.26, MC - \$23.25

1,724.51

Other Revenue Receipts

- GPD Foundation rental space / equipment 216.43
- Observatory House Rent - Sindelar 300.00
- Swine Creek House Rent - Harry 400.00
- Chickagami House Rent - Kolar 400.00
- Muni Citations 40.00
- Public Records Request 1.00

- Refunds - Middlefield Tire - \$14.37, Sugaring supplies
returned- \$36.00 50.37

- Auction Proceeds 695.00

- 820 Culti Packer - \$260.00, Band Saw - \$435.00

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES

415,622.65

ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF APRIL 30, 2016

3,085,241.26

LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE APRIL 1, 2016 4,846,945.54

EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES

Vouchers

- Contract Services 4,113.08
- Project Contracts 10,761.62

EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES 14,874.70

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES

Interest - April 2016 1,881.72

Other - Royalties/In-Lieu Fees 149.78

- Hehmeyer - \$52.66, Ford Windsor - \$68.23, Sunnybrook
- \$28.89

- Pinebrook Wetland Mitigation Credits for 2015 389,760.00

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES 391,791.50

ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF APRIL 30, 2016 5,223,862.34

RETIREMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE APRIL 1, 2016 57,556.27

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES

Interest April 2016 22.30

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES 22.30

ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF APRIL 30, 2016 57,578.57

PARK CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE APRIL 1, 2016 -

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES

Interest April 2016 -

- Cash Transfer from General Fund 2,850,000.00

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES

ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF APRIL 30, 2016 2,850,000.00

PRESENTATION OF VOUCHERS

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

Mrs. Dottore made a motion to accept the April 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

BUDGET AMENDMENT #4, RESOLUTION NO. 11-16

A request for a resolution to approve an amendment to the 2016 budget resulting in certification and appropriation of \$10,000.00 revenue to the K-9 fund for donations received for the newly established K-9 fund, once approval is received from the State of Ohio.

Mrs. Dottore made a motion to approve Resolution No. 11-16, 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

PLANNING AND OPERATIONS UPDATE

Matt McCue presented current updates for construction at Nassau Station and the Rookery. He pointed out that there is a planning page on the Park District website or he encouraged anyone with a question to please call. Mr. McCue stated the work at Frohring Meadows that just began was approved last year and is a demonstration garden that could not be started because it was too late in the fall. He mentioned programs held in April, including a successful demonstration prescribed burn at Frohring Meadows, and the Natural Resource management team held an Earth Day celebration at Frohring Meadows with several partners including Geauga Soil & Water, Chagrin River Watershed, Lake Erie Alleghany Partnership for Biodiversity, Kent State Geauga, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and the Chagrin Valley Astronomical Society. Mr. McCue also shared that a reforestation event at Orchard Hills Park was held and volunteers from Cargill Corporation and NRM staff planted over 500 trees. Paul Pira, Park Biologist, commented about doing many of these beneficial programs for many years at the Park District. Jackie Dottore and John Oros thanked Paul and his staff in the Naturalist department for all of their hard work. Mr. Oros stated the park staff puts hard work and integrity into all of the park programs and to imply anything else is simply not true nor is it dictated by the Executive Director.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

John Oros made a motion to move into executive session to discuss property acquisition.

Mrs. Dottore made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss 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 10:49 a.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 11:28 a.m. No items were brought forward.

John Oros announced the next board meeting will be scheduled for June 14, 2016 at 10 a.m. at Big Creek Park.

Mrs. Dottore 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 11:29 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,

John Oros, Executive Director

Jackie Dottore, President