

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 9, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held February 9, 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	
Michele Pennell, Director of Business & Visitor Services	
Stephanie Zigman, Human Resources Manager	
Brett Bellas, Grounds & Facilities Manager	
Dennis Sloan, Lt. Ranger	
Denise Weisbarth, Ranger	
David Ondrey, Legal Counsel (Thrasher Dinsmore & Dolan)	

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

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

Mrs. Dottore made a motion to approve the January 12, 2016 regular Board Meeting minutes. Mr. Gertz seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved 3-0.

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

FALL PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

John Oros introduced the Fall photo contest winner Deanna Meyer, whom was not present. She photographed the fall foliage in Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve, and also had the 2nd place photograph. Stewart Hastings of Bainbridge photographed his dog Elsa at the West Woods and claimed 3rd place.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – below are comment summaries:

- Kathryn Hanratty, Chardon Twp., urged the Park Commissioner’s to understand the impact of the decisions they will make, and learn about the parks. She commented about park history, conservation, and changes to bylaws. Ms. Hanratty disputed statistics regarding developed park land vs. preserved park land, and said that building more stuff and promoting the use of thrill machines is not needed to make the parks available to more people. She submitted printed handouts to the Board and requested they be included in the meeting minutes.

Commissioner Gertz commented that some of the statistics cited by Ms. Hanratty were not sanctioned by this board.

- Ed Buckles, Troy Twp., said he felt the board packet minutes shortchanged the outbursts and public comments from the previous board meeting. Mr. Buckles expressed his concerns with John Oros

and snowmobiling including; special use permits, other trails that are available, previous Board rejection and the Environ report. He spoke about previous park incidents, and suggested the Board check out what fiduciary duty means. Mr. Buckles finished by stating the Board can delegate their authority, but not their responsibility and needs to ask themselves who they are responsible to. He also submitted a written handout with his comments to the Board.

- Joan McAllister, Munson Twp., stated she has known John Oros professionally for many years, and is a consultant from the state of Ohio that has been through the parks for many years, but is here today as a resident. She explained she loves nature, the parks, and has noticed a different mindset in Geauga County than she has seen out west, in the Rockies and Colorado. Ms. McAllister feels fear of what will happen if we allow something is holding us back from opportunities here. She said she is someone that likes to use the park for all purposes.
- John Augustine, Parkman Twp., commented about being allowed to make statements but not ask questions and said that this has never been the case before. He urged the Board to allow questions and he understands if they need to get back to him if they don't have the answer right away. He stated that an important issue like snowmobiling came up and he recommended the board have more flexibility by taking public input into consideration. Mr. Augustine asked if anyone has ever been ticketed. Ms. Dottore replied that she wrote down all of his questions about the signs and would get back to him.
- Kathleen Webb, Munson Twp., commented about snowmobiling and said there is approximately 100 miles of connected trails available for use and a few miles in Observatory Park is not needed. She stated the Commissioners should have criteria besides the Ohio Revised code to guide them, and common sense criteria should be used. Ms. Webb said they are allowing a very small group to use the park to the exclusion of everyone else without a snowmobile on those trails. She provided the board with a copy of her comments and common sense criteria.
- Shelly Chernin, Russell Twp., expressed her views regarding snowmobiling and the bypassing of the Board of Commissioner's by the Executive Director, and asked why temporary non-compliance with park rules came before the Board for a vote in relation to the Wall that Heals but not in relation to snowmobiling in the park. Ms. Chernin urged the Board to reject the bylaw changes, asked if the Park District still has a Natural Resource Management department, and asked the people in the room to stand up to the bully.
- Nick Smrdelj, Claridon Twp., stated he is a snowmobiler and is amazed by the misinformation out there and that newer snowmobiles are relatively quiet and do not tear things up. He said he doesn't always have the time to drive to New York to snowmobile on the trails located on private property, state and local park lands. Mr. Smrdelj stated that most snowmobilers are responsible, and people should keep an open mind.

Mr. Gertz stated that he made a point at the last meeting to say he is against snowmobiling, and hasn't changed his mind. He also respects the people who came to the meeting today, however he believes the problem is with the snowmobilers who trespass. Mr. Gertz also pointed out that he has been on the Board for over a year, and Judge Grendell has never directed him in anyway whatsoever and he has a lot of respect for him.

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

Geauga Park District

FINANCIAL STATEMENT MONTH ENDED

January 31, 2016

GENERAL FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE JANUARY 1, 2016

6,275,578.61

EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES	
Personnel	222,165.70
Medicare	3,181.52
Dental /Hospitalization	52,978.94
OPERS December 2015	32,179.18
Vouchers	64,424.42
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES	374,929.76

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES	
<u>Investment Income</u>	1,334.66
- January 2016	
<u>Gifts & Donations</u>	1,198.00
- Michael & Tony Holub - \$52.00 for Nature Scopes , Bird Box - \$21.00	
- Cave Man Crawl - Junction Auto - \$500.00, Kinetico - \$100.00	
- Junction Auto Sales - \$500.00 for Chip Henry Institute	
- Valley Art Center - \$25.00 in memory of Jeffrey Fincun	
<u>Fees</u>	
- Camping	480.00
- Shelters	100.00
- Utility fees	4,080.00
- Workshops - General - Public program	120.00
- Programs - Out-of-county	48.00
- Programs	272.00
<u>Sales</u>	
- Tree Tops - TWW	1,490.99
<u>Other Receipts</u>	
- Agricultural Lease - G. Soltis - Observatory Park	425.00
- GPD Foundation rental space/equipment	216.43
- Observatory house - Sindelar	300.00
- Swine Creek house - Harry	400.00
- Chickagami house - Kolar	400.00
- Muni Court Citation	20.00
- Public Records requests - \$23.17, Juvenile Court restitution - \$100.00	131.92
- TWWNC Restroom personal needs - \$6.75	
- Emerge testing of on-line Reservation System - \$2.00	
- Local Government Funds	8,135.55
<u>Refunds</u>	
- Real Estate tax refund - Exempt properties	1,274.34
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES	20,426.89

ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015 **5,921,075.74**

LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE JANUARY 1, 2016 **2,883,745.83**

EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES	
Vouchers	6,453.11
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES	6,453.11

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES	
<u>Investment Income</u>	598.86
<u>Royalties/In-Lieu Fees</u>	3.33
- Stinchcomb - \$3.33	
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES	602.19

ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF JANUARY 31, 2016	\$ 2,877,894.91
<u>RETIREMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT</u>	
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE DECEMBER 1, 2015	\$ 57,509.51
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES	
<i>Investment Income</i>	11.88
- January 2016	
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES	11.88
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF JANUARY 31, 2016	\$ 57,521.39

PRESENTATION OF VOUCHERS

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

Mr. Gertz made a motion to accept the January 2016 paid vouchers into the record as presented. 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

BYLAW AMENDMENTS, RESOLUTION NO. 3-16 and RESOLUTION NO. 4-16

The Board was provided with proposed revisions to the Park District Bylaws which were presented and entered into the record at the January 12, 2016 Board meeting.

ARTICLE XI PAYMENT OF BILLS AND OBLIGATIONS

All vouchers in payment of bills shall be certified by the Executive Director, Deputy Director, or the Executive Directors’ designee. Expenditure Vouchers and Payroll Vouchers shall be approved and certified to the Geauga County Auditor by the Executive Director, Deputy Director, or the Executive Directors’ designee, and shall ~~be ratified be approved prior to payment~~ by the Park Board. ~~The Park Board, may, at its discretion, designate a threshold level upon which approval vouchers may be granted by the Executive Director or Deputy Director. This discretion may also be given for purposes of payment amounts over the threshold level that are determined by the Executive Director to constitute an emergency or urgent need that, if delayed, could cause substantial harm to the current operations of the Park District. All approvals of emergency or urgent payments shall only be made after discussions with the President and shall be presented for discussion at the next public meeting of the Park Board. The list of vouchers may be included in the Journal of Proceedings by reference.~~

ARTICLE XII CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP, BOARD APPROVAL

No contract, agreement, deed, option or other document or action creating any right or obligation, contractual relationship from, in or to the Park Board shall be executed, given, transferred, assigned, delivered, accepted or received on behalf of the Park Board except with the approval or authorization of the Park Board, ~~unless same has been approved in the annual appropriations, and/or unless it is not covered by the competitive bidding requirements of ORC 307.86~~ The Executive Director, Deputy Director, or the Executive Directors’ designee have authority to execute change orders on existing goods or services of approved annual appropriations and other contracts not covered by the requirement of ORC 307.86 to the extent they do not exceed the budgeted amount approved by the Park Board.

Mrs. Dottore made a motion to approve Resolution No. 3-16 to adopt the amendments to Article XI of the Bylaws into the record as presented at the January 12, 2016 Board 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

Mrs. Dottore made a motion to approve Resolution No. 4-16 to adopt the amendments to Article XII of the Bylaws into the record as presented at the January 12, 2016 Board 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

NEW FUND/ACCOUNT APPROVAL, RESOLUTION NO. 5-16

A resolution requesting a new fund and account be established with the County Auditor’s office called the 2016 Capital Projects/Land Acquisition Fund for the purpose of accumulating resources for the construction, acquisition or improvement of fixed assets of the Park District as allowed per Ohio Revised Code 5705.13(C).

Mrs. Dottore made a motion to approve the proposal, Resolution No. 5-16, 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

CASH TRANSFER – 2016 LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND, RESOLUTION NO. 6-16

A cash transfer is being requested to move \$2,000,000 cash from the General Fund (6017) to the Land Improvement Fund per the approved budget.

Mrs. Dottore made a motion to approve the proposal, Resolution No. 6-16, 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

BUDGET AMENDMENT #2, RESOLUTION NO. 7-16

A request to increase 2016 supplemental appropriations in the General Fund for the amount of \$1,092,981 as follows:

- **6017-057-00-601-874-14) Contract-Services – IT – Utilities Telecommunications Increase \$1,056** – to account for the monthly service of the DSL line
- **(6017-057-00-801-610-14) – Equipment – IT- Computer Hardware Increase \$825** – to account for the one-time purchase for equipment
- **(6017-057-00-901.0101) Other County Tax Expenses Increase \$87,000** – to account for fees charged by County Auditor/Treasurer on R/E collection
- **(6017-057-00-901.0102) Other State Tax Expenses Increase \$4,100** – to account for fees charged by County Auditor/Treasurer on State Tax collections
- **(6017-057-00-999) Transfers Out Increase \$1,000,000** – To enable a transfer of a total of \$2,000,000 to occur to the Land Acquisition Fund for purposes of possible land acquisition

Mr. Gertz made a motion to approve Resolution No. 7-16 as presented.

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

BUDGET AMENDMENT #3, RESOLUTION NO. 8-16

A request to increase 2016 supplemental appropriations in the Land Improvement Fund for the amount of \$1,000,000 as follows:

- **(6015-057-00-802) Land Acquisition Increase \$1,000,000** – Bringing the new total available appropriations in this fund equal to \$2,500,000

Mr. Gertz made a motion to approve Resolution No. 7-16 as presented.

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

2016 LARGE BUDGETED EXPENDITURES

John Oros brought the large expenditure items in the approved budget for 2016 to the Board’s attention.

Mr. Gertz inquired whether or not we had employed the use of white amur fish in any of the park fishing areas. John Oros explained we have stocked this type of vegetation eating grass carp in the past, and the park biologist will take a look at possibly stocking them in 2016.

THE ROOKERY – ASPHALT TRAIL RESURFACING, CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS & COST ESTIMATES

A request to approve improvements to The Rookery with an estimated budget of \$70,000 is being distributed for bids.

Mrs. Dottore made a motion to approve.

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 REALLOCATION – NOTIFICATION

A reallocation of funds was requested to allow appropriations currently designated in line items within the General Fund for purposes designated, to be used for a Human Resources training conference instead, in the total amount of \$2,620.

SURPLUS PROPERTY

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

	Inventory No.	Description	Starting Bid
1	3395	Brillion spring tooth culti-mulcher	\$25.00
2	-	Large glass display case	\$20.00
3	2066 E	Cannon Power Shot digital camera (item is defective)	Scrap
4	2073 E	DELL Inspiron 1501 laptop computer (item is defective)	Scrap
5	3363 E	DELL Precision 390 computer (item is defective)	Scrap
6	1126 T	Scat Trak skid steer loader	Trade in

Mrs. Dottore made a motion to approve the items declared surplus as presented.

Mr. Gertz 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 gave an update on snowmobiling. He stated that 13 permits were issued to date, and verified the park, staff and management team were ready to open in January on Saturdays and Sundays from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. He stated Park Rangers conducted directed patrols and no issues were reported.
- Jackie Dottore requested everyone consider new agenda layout options to help improve communication and offer more explanation to the current agenda layout. She also recommended adding approval of the agenda to the list at the beginning of the meeting.
- John Oros suggested the Regular Board Meeting time remain at 10 a.m., every second Tuesday of the month going forward. The Board agreed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Diane Jones inquired as to whether there was an expectation of taking any action. John Oros and Jackie Dottore responded they did not know.

Mrs. Dottore invited John Oros, and Legal Counsel David Ondrey into Executive Session with the Board.

Mr. Gertz made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the possible purchase of property, potential disciplinary action for a personnel matter, and pending litigation.

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

The Board entered Executive Session at 11:05 a.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 12:26 p.m. No items were brought forward.

Mr. Gertz made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:28 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

Jackie Dottore, President

Exhibit A

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
 Board of Park Commissioners
 February 9, 2016 - Regular
 The Meyer Center

Name	Organization/Company
Ron + Louise Krammick	Munson residents
Shelley Chemin	Russell
Kory HANRATTY	Chardon Twp
John Kogutian	Puckaway Resident
Nick Smaoelt	Chardon Twp.
Tom + Diane Jones	A Wind in the Woods
Bobb + Dave Partridge	Munson Twp
Jim Wohlke	Burton
Gayle Wohlke	Burton
MATT MOORE	Geo
Branda Morsbringer	Chester
Gene Velnd	Munson
Joe Kozick	Trues
Joan McAllister	Munson Twp
Lillian Gilbert Whitely	Munson Twp
Go Twp	Russell
Charles Morrow	Chardon
Jesse	Bainbridge Twp
Stewart Hastings	" "