

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 5, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held November 5, 2014 at the Meyer Center, Big Creek Park, Chardon Twp. Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 5:38 p.m. President Mary Ruth Shumway was in the Chair. Commissioner Brian Johnston was present. Commissioner Lou Mucci was not in attendance.

President 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"
Anna McDonald, Executive Administrative Assistant	
Aaron Young, Director of Planning & Operations	
Michele Pennell, Director of Business & Visitor Services	
Robin Pilarczyk, HR Manager	
Matt McCue, Planning & NRM Manager	
Brett Bellas, Grounds & Facility Supervisor	

Mrs. Shumway advised that John Oros would start the meeting with an announcement. Mrs. Shumway asked that all visitors remain professional and courteous during the meeting.

Mr. Oros advised that he was in possession of a letter dated November 5, 2014 from Louis Mucci addressed to Judge Grendell. Lou Mucci, Geauga Park Commissioner, has resigned his post as Geauga Park Commissioner, effective today. The letter will be entered into the record – EXHIBIT "B"

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Mrs. Shumway introduced the November Volunteer of the Month – Steve Allenson. Mr. Allenson has been a Park District volunteer since 2008 and is an employee of Cargill Corporation. In addition to his many years of volunteering, his work with Cargill takes him deep into the salt mines under Lake Erie, allowing him to donate salt crystals to the Naturalist Department for use in geology programs.

Mr. Allenson recognized that the Park District conservation efforts meshed with Cargill Corporation's community service initiative and he helped organize a team of Cargill employees that have worked alongside the Park District's Natural Resource Management Team for the past 5 years on projects such as invasive specie removal and reforestation projects. Mr. Allenson has also connected the Cargill Cares Foundation with the Park District Foundation to provide financial support for the NatureScopes program.

The following Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Mr. Allenson, with thanks from the Park Board and employees of Geauga Park District.



ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

The Board was presented with minutes from the September 9, 2014 Board meeting. There were no questions from the Board.

Mr. Johnston made a motion to approve the September 9, 2014 Board meeting minutes as written.

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

Mrs. Shumway Yes

Mr. Johnston Yes

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Board was provided with a copy of the September 2014 Financial Statement. Ms. Pennell provided an overview to the Board. All questions by the Board were satisfactorily answered.

Geauga Park District
FINANCIAL STATEMENT MONTH ENDED
September 30, 2014

GENERAL FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE SEPTEMBER 1, 2014	7,573,812.48
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EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES

Personnel	214,897.29
Medicare	3,118.74
Dental /Hospitalization - (includes COBRA reimbursement)	47,810.29
PERS (August payment)	48,392.20
Vouchers	88,042.77

EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES	402,261.29
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REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES

General Tax Collections

- State Reimburse Tax (10% rollback , Manufactured Home)	401,235.10
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Investment Income

142.22

Gifts & Donations

1,009.58

- GPDF Memorials - \$200.00 Patron Donations - \$110.33
- GPDF Chip Henry Institute - \$110.00, Naturescopes- \$175.00
- Affelder Trust - \$414.25

Fees

- Camping	200.00
- Shelters	180.00
- Canoe and Kayak - Voyageur	65.00
- NAF Table Fees	75.00
- Utility fees	810.00
- Adventure Camp registration fees	630.00
- Programs - Out-of-county	28.00
- Programs - OP Planetarium programs	56.00

Sales

- Tapper's Treasures - MC	129.00
- Tree Tops - TWW	688.14
- Credit Card - All facilities	2,011.12

Other Receipts

- 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	400.00
- Chickagami house - Maksim	400.00
- Refund - Walmart sales adjustment for tether ball replacement	53.28

Other

- Local Government Funds	7,163.02
- GPDF design services -\$ 471.78, Geico insurance settlement -\$335.00	842.47
- Public Records - \$20.69, Maple Syrup Fair entry -\$15.00	
- Auction Proceeds -Ford Explorer	3,666.66

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES **421,096.77**

ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 **7,592,647.96**

LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE SEPTEMBER 1, 2014 **3,697,219.52**

EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES

Vouchers	73,354.15
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EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES **73,354.15**

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES

<u>Investment Income</u>	96.41
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<u>Grants Payments -</u>	70,000.00
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- LWCF - BAK - Middlefield Wetland Acquisition

<u>Royalties/In-Lieu Fees</u>	862.36
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- Sunnybrook - \$181.40, Ford-Windsor - \$178.15 , Farley- \$502.81

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES **70,958.77**

ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 **\$ 3,694,824.14**

RETIREMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE SEPTEMBER 1, 2014 **\$ 82,425.79**

EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES **0.00**

Vouchers

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES **2.13**

<u>Investment Income</u>	2.13
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ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 **\$82,427.92**

The Board was provided with a copy of the October 2014 Financial Statement. Ms. Pennell provided an overview to the Board. All questions by the Board were satisfactorily answered.

Geauga Park District
FINANCIAL STATEMENT MONTH ENDED
 October 2014

GENERAL FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE OCTOBER 1, 2014	7,592,647.96
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES	
Personnel	424,437.10
Medicare	6,174.53
Dental /Hospitalization (Includes COBRA reimbursement)	46,774.06
PERS (September payment)	30,824.95
Vouchers	82,884.76
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES	591,095.40
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES	
<u>Investment Income</u>	240.78
<u>Gifts & Donations</u>	2,171.27
- GPDF Memorials - \$1000.00, Patron Donations - \$331.27	
- Naturescopes- \$590.00, Cobra Pipeline Annual - \$250.00	
<u>Fees</u>	
- Camping	200.00
- Shelters	120.00
- Canoe and Kayak - Voyageur	165.00
- Utility fees	1,260.00
- Workshops - General - Public program	54.00
- Programs - Out-of-county	61.00
- Cave Man Crawl Race registrations	0.00
- Programs - OP Planetarium programs	18.00
<u>Sales</u>	
- Tapper's Treasures - MC	69.80
- Tree Tops - TWW	1,610.68
<u>Other Receipts</u>	
- 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	400.00
- Chickagami house - Maksim	400.00
- Citation Disbursement - \$100 damage reimbursement, \$20 citation	120.00
- Recycling proceeds - Scrap metal	2.84

Other

- GPDF postage - \$1.44, Public records request - \$1.00	2.44
- GPDF design services -\$ 471.78, Geico Insurance settlement - \$335.00	
- Local Government Funds	8,194.03
- Auction Proceeds -Ford Explorer	5,101.00
- Auction Proceeds - Cameras, elliptical, electronics, tent, chest, canopy tent	517.56

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES **22,020.58**

ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2014 **7,023,573.14**

LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE OCTOBER 1, 2014 **3,694,824.14**

EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES

Vouchers	131,368.11
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EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES **131,368.11**

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES

<u>Investment Income</u>	126.95
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- LWCF Grant Reimbursement - BAK - Middlefield Wetland Acquisition

<u>Royalties/In-Lieu Fees</u>	876.57
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- Sunnybrook - \$44.66, Ford-Windsor - \$102.04 , Farley- \$577.07
- Hehmeyer- \$152.80

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES **1,003.52**

ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2014 **\$ 3,564,459.55**

RETIREMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE OCTOBER 1, 2014 **\$ 82,427.92**

REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES **2.84**

<u>Investment Income</u>	2.84
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ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2014 **\$ 82,430.76**

PURCHASE REQUISITION PRE-APPROVALS

The Board was presented with a list of outstanding Purchase Requisitions for pre-approval in the amount of \$85,137.18. There were numerous questions from the Board, with the following requests: John Oros to contact Reminger Co., LPA (legal service) to determine if there are any outstanding expenses that have not yet been submitted to the Park District. The Board requested the invoice of \$1,000.00 for membership in Geauga Growth Partnership be removed pending information on membership benefits to the Park District.

Mrs. Shumway made a motion to approve the outstanding purchase requisitions, with the removal of the Geauga Growth Partnership invoice in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Mr. Johnston seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved 2 – 0:

Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Johnston	Yes

PRESENTATION OF VOUCHERS

The Board was presented with the vouchers paid during the month of September 2014 in the amount of \$475,615.44. These vouchers represent the normal day-to-day operational expenses, approved budgeted expenses and payroll. There were no questions by the Board.

Mrs. Shumway made a motion to accept the September 2014 paid vouchers into the record.

Mr. Johnston seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved 2-0:

Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Johnston	Yes

The Board was presented with the vouchers paid during the month of October 2014 in the amount of \$722,463.51. These vouchers represent the normal day-to-day operational expenses, approved budgeted expenses and payroll. There were no questions by the Board.

Mr. Johnston made a motion to accept the October 2014 paid vouchers into the record.

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

Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Johnston	Yes

PARK DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS - 2014 CONSTRUCTION COST SUMMARIES

The Board was provided with informational summaries on 2014 construction project costs to date. Mr. Young advised that 2014 Asphalt Improvements to Besse Benner are complete and under budget by approximately 23%. The Orchard Hills Playground project is complete. The Observatory Park Connector trail is complete and is approximately 11.4% under budget. The Maple Highlands Trail – South is complete, open to the public this week and is .1% under budget and the Maple Highlands Trail Connector project is paved and should be complete (weather permitting) within the next week at 8.2% under budget. All questions by the Board were satisfactorily answered.

AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS, RESOLUTION NO. 28-14

The Board was provided with a copy of proposed amended Bylaws as submitted in writing at the September 9th Board Meeting.

ARTICLE XXI ACTIVITIES

“Consistent with the purpose set forth in Article I, park activities, including preservation, conservation, and approved outdoor recreation, will include and may be conducted on park land pursuant to the provisions of O.R.C. §§1545.09 and 1545.11 and subject to the Rules and Regulations as amended from time to time by the Park Board.”

Mr. Johnston made a motion to approve the revised Bylaws, Resolution No. 28-14, as submitted and presented at the September 9th, 2014 Board Meeting.

Mrs. Shumway seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the motion was approved 2-0:

Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Johnston	Yes

LIFE OF A PARK PLANNING PROJECT – (powerpoint presentation)

Aaron Young, Director of Planning and Operations, presented information on the 2 year cycle of a Park District project. The presentation included timing and tasks for each of the following: Project Identification, Inventory & Analysis, Concept/Design, Master Plan, Design Development, Permitting, Construction Documents, Bidding & Award, and Construction Administration.

APPROPRIATIONS TRANSFER/CERTIFICATION CHANGE – BUDGET AMENDMENT #9, RESOLUTION NO. 29-14

The Board was asked to approve an Appropriations Transfers/Certification Changes, Resolution No. 29-14, Budget Amendment No. 9 as follows. All questions by the Board were satisfactorily answered.

A request for a Revenue Certification change based on actual YTD receipts for the following funds and accounts:

6015 – Land Improvement		Certification Change		
Acct.#	Account Name	Current Budget	Requested Change	Amended Budget
450	Interest	3,000.00	(2,000.00)	1,000.00
451	Donations	752,000.00	(221,497.76)	530,502.24
452	Other	115,880.00	2,500.00	118,380.00

6017 – General Fund		Certification Change		
Acct.#	Account Name	Current Budget	Requested Change	Amended Budget
401	Property Tax	5,592,990.00	2,262.48	595,252.48
410	State Reimb RE			

		748,269.00	49,187.56	797,456.56
420.5701	Park Board Fees	38,430.00	7,800.00	46,230.00
450	Interest	2,000.00	(300.00)	1,700.00
451	Donations	74,604.86	28,198.28	102,803.14
452.5701	Other Revenue	35,254.08	27,529.70	62,783.78
452.5703	Refunds	-	629.22	629.22

An Appropriation Transfer was requested to move appropriations as indicated below:

6017 - Appropriation Transfer

Acct.#	Account Name	Current Budget	Appropriation Transfer	
			Requested Change	Amended Budget
505	Workers Comp	35,051.00	(13,000.00)	22,051.00
502	Medicare	43,476.35	1,000.00	44,476.35
503	Hospitalization	639,671.01	8,000.00	647,671.01
506	Unemployment	11,586.00	4,000.00	15,586.00

Mr. Johnston made a motion to approve Resolution No. 29-14 as put forth.

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

Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Johnston	Yes

SURPLUS PROPERTY

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

Item	Inventory No.	Description	Starting Bid
1	2162 E	Dell 1800 MP projector (Item defective)	Scrap
2	-	Poster rack display	* Donate
3	373 C	Mitsubishi U52 4 head VCR (Item did not sell at auction)	Scrap
4	369 C	JVC 35" Television (Item did not sell at auction)	Scrap

5	-	Misc. office furniture no longer needed (desks, chairs, tables, foot rest)	**Sold as lot
6	-	Gray office chair	Scrap
7	-	Black office chair	Scrap
8	2077 V	2008 Ford F450 4x4 Dump Truck-567 YRQ	\$20,000

*** Item donated to the Geauga Historical Society**

****Items sold as lot starting bid \$50**

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

Mr. Johnston seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved 2 – 0:

Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Johnston	Yes

COMMISSIONER’S TIME

Mrs. Shumway addressed the group stating she felt most were in attendance today because they felt that this Board was putting recreation on the same level as preservation and conservation, and that is not accurate. Mrs. Shumway stated that less than 3% of Geauga Parks were developed property or ‘recreation’. She advised that there will be additional developments in the future, all which will be constructed on property that is already developed – no undeveloped land will be used for the park improvements. Mr. Young advised that the Board will receive detailed plans for future improvements at the December Board meeting.

Mrs. Shumway explained that in the Park District the words recreation and development are synonymous and include: driveways, parking lots, trails, pavilions, outhouses and amenities located in mowed and maintained areas. There are many areas in the Park District that the public may never see due to the sensitivity of plant and animal life that should not be disturbed – preservation that will never be touched. She added that John Oros will provide an update on what the Park District is doing to help people connect with Geauga Park District.

Mr. Oros recognized Mr. Rich Frenchie, President of Geauga Park District Foundation, and thanked him for coming. Mr. Oros stated that he wanted to speak on behalf of the Park District’s excellent staff and volunteers. He stated that he works for the staff and the Park District is in some ways better and some ways different than in the past, but we are connecting with people. Mr. Oros shared the following highlights:

- In 2015 the Affelder House (part of TWW) will be made more accessible to the public and available for public reservations;
- The parking lot at Besse Benner Metzenbaum Park was re-asphalted with monies acquired from ODOT;
- Natural Resource Management has spent time planning wetland improvements for shorebird management at Frohring Meadows;
- Headwaters Park will have improvements such as renovation of an old boathouse and increased camping facilities;

- Maple Highlands Trail will have additional trails complete this year to include the Chardon connector and extension of Maple Highlands Trail South from Headwaters Park, through Grandview and to Swine Creek.
- Our Natural Resource Management Department, under our Park Biologist, is working on a management plan for Oakton properties to insure the integrity of the property's natural resources;
- There are two additional trails being constructed at Observatory Park – one by our staff, one by an outside contractor;
- Reforestation efforts at Orchard Hills mentioned during our Volunteer of the Month presentation, have been ongoing with assistance from Cargill and in conjunction with our Natural Resource Management Department;
- Public Survey – Matt McCue from our planning department has been soliciting requests for proposals to assist the Park District and it is anticipated the survey may be ready for distribution during the first quarter of 2015;
- In September our finance department processed 184 vouchers; Volunteers gave 670 hours with cash value of \$14,338; Our Naturalist Department of 8 held 50 programs with an average attendance of 72 per program; Total attendance at TWW, Observatory Park and all programs was 4,693; Rangers had contact with 668 patrons.
- In October finance processed 216 vouchers; Volunteers gave 521 hours with cash value of \$11,149; The Naturalist Department held 88 programs with an average attendance of 45 per program; Total attendance at TWW, Observatory Park and all programs was 1,741.

Mr. Oros also shared positive comments that the Park District receives from Patrons regarding programming, staff, presentations, cleanliness of the Parks and the positive impact of our programming on the children and citizens of Geauga County.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - below are comment summaries:

James Wohlken, Burton, addressed the Board from the podium. Mr. Wohlken read excerpts from the Park District *Voices of Nature* publication regarding the intent and process for Geauga Park District's 2015-2025 Strategic Plan, stating that the plan to get public input is wonderful. He expressed his concern regarding changes that have occurred without public input and felt that some of the changes may not have occurred had the public been offered the opportunity to give their input. He encouraged the Park Board to set aside time, apart from Board meetings, to talk with the county residents.

Garrett Meyer, Geauga County resident for 18 years, addressed the Board from the podium. Mr. Meyer stated that some of his best memories are from living close to Beartown Reservation and that he was unaware of most of the changes going on in the Park until he read a newspaper article which asserted some serious things. He stated that he contacted the Park District and requested Mr. Oros' and Mr. Curtin's resumes for review, and found the article that stated Mr. Oros he would defy anyone putting the resumes side by side to deem that Mr. Oros is inferior or incapable. Mr. Meyer added that there is no better way to utilize the Parks than to give the residents as many ways as possible to access different ways to use them. He added that the change in the Bylaws did not omit preservation and conservation and that he would like to see more bike trails in the Parks.

Bill Schwinn, volunteer with the Park District, addressed the Board from the podium. Mr. Schwinn thanked Mr. Oros for acknowledging the hard work in the Park. He inquired as to how the change in

titles to many of the Park District staff benefitted the employees and Geauga Park District. Mr. Schwinn also stated that as a long time cyclist, when riding bikes on the trails one has to be very careful about the other users and would like the Park District to acknowledge that some uses are not compatible. Mr. Oros stated that the case statement read at a prior Board meeting that speaks best to Mr. Schwinn's questions. In addition, the current Board of Park Commissioners identified that some reorganization was necessary to change the way the former Park District Executive Director ran the organization. Mr. Oros stated that title changes occurred when job descriptions changed and were determined with the entire management team, and added that change is sometimes necessary to get results. Mr. Oros offered to make the case statement available to Mr. Schwinn.

Mary Toth, who lives across from The West Woods Nature Center, addressed the Board from the podium. Ms. Toth stated that she loves The West Woods and that on Sunday morning while walking her leashed dog on an unpaved trail she met a bicyclist "barreling down the trail". She further stated she contacted a Ranger who told her bicyclists should not have been on the unpaved trail, but that Ms. Toth should control her dog. She added that she feels very, very threatened in the Parks now and living in the same house on Rte. 87 for 69 years she has seen a lot of changes, and is not happy with what is going on her Park. She requested that the Park District post new signs so that all patrons know what/who is permitted on the trails.

Kathryn Hanratty, Chardon, addressed the Board from the podium. Ms. Hanratty stated she welcomes the new spirit of cooperation, hopes that all can work together and that the group is 100% behind the staff. She stated that the goals of Protect Geauga Parks group are to: Revoke the current Bylaws and reinstate the pre-July 2014 Bylaws until a new re-write is completed; Reinstate the Bylaws primary mission of the Parks of conservation over recreation; Require that Board and personnel conduct all business related to the use, disposal or acquisition of Park property in an open forum; Any and all surveys and polls of the public should be done in a professional, unbiased way and follow the methodology used in the 2008 survey; The Board should revise the Bylaws regarding the authority of executive director position to make it more attractive to executive director level individuals, as the current Bylaws make the position very unattractive; The group would like work with state and local officials to revise state law to make park boards more accountable to the public.

Mrs. Shumway stated that Bylaws have been revised by past Boards and can be revised by future Boards. Mr. Oros stated there has been no new land acquisitions brought forth since he has been in the position of Interim Director, and that input from the public on future acquisitions will be part of the Strategic Planning processes.

Kathleen Webb, Munson Twp., addressed the Board from the podium. Ms. Webb stated she appreciated the PowerPoint presentation and that she had questions on how the Board operates. She inquired whether between the September meeting and the November meeting if two or more of the Board members met together. Mrs. Shumway advised they had not and Mr. Johnston advised that he requested the November meeting be rescheduled due to the fact he would be out of state on November 12th and he wanted to make sure he was in attendance. Mr. Johnston further stated that unfortunately sometimes personal commitments require cancellation of Board meetings. Ms. Webb inquired how Park District bills were paid if the Board did not approve them. Mr. Oros and Ms. Pennell explained that the Park District purchasing guidelines were followed, which allows for approval and payment of day-to-day expenses, and provides approval authority for invoices up to set thresholds. The purchase requisitions the Board approved at this meeting were above the staff approval thresholds. Ms. Webb inquired if

there was a presentation on how the Board operated and how the Sunshine Laws applied, and appreciated the comments regarding public input.

Joseph Bastulli, who resides across from Sunnybrook Park, addressed the Board from the podium. Mr. Bastulli inquired as to why half of the paved walking trail was removed and stated it was his assumption the trail was removed as a payback to a group that was not in favor of development /construction of the park. Mrs. Shumway stated that was an incorrect assumption and it was removed due to the close proximity of a neighboring property. Mr. Bastulli questioned information provided to him by the Board, and stated that individuals from Metzenbaum, handicapped people, dog walkers and Seniors no longer have use of the trail that was highly utilized. Mr. Bastulli stated that he sincerely believes that after investigation and hearing from this Board that it looks like the Park is being torn apart piece by piece.

John Leech, former Park Commissioner, addressed the Board and group from the podium. Mr. Leech stated there is a lot of enthusiasm in Geauga County for the Park District which includes the people who work in the park and that the residents of Geauga County. He added that due to the way differences are being aired, he is embarrassed to say he lives in Geauga County. Mr. Leech stated that what he heard tonight is that the Park Commissioners and members of the community are willing to listen to each other. He added that we are getting nowhere and wasting time with the newspaper articles and that everyone here wants the best parks. Mr. Leech added that if everyone would work together we could get away from fighting in the newspapers and we can protect our parks.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Shumway made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel and land acquisition.

Mr. Johnston seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved 2 – 0:

Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Johnston	Yes

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:07 p.m.

Mr. Shumway made a motion to come out Executive Session.

Mr. Johnston seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved 2 – 0:

Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Johnston	Yes

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:42 p.m. The following item was brought forward.

Mrs. Shumway made a motion to approve the hiring of an additional Park District Ranger.

Mr. Johnson seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved 2 – 0:

Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Johnston	Yes

Mrs. Shumway made a motion to approve Resolution No. 27-14 to enact a 6.9% increase in Park District health insurance costs paid by the employees, which increase is to be split between the Board and the employee. The new rate will follow the Geauga County Employee contribution rates set out below:

CEBCO/ANTHEM Wellness Rates - 2015

Type	Coverage	Monthly Premium	Monthly County Contribution	Employee Bi-Weekly	Employee Monthly
Enhanced	Family	\$1,251.18	\$1,159.18	\$ 46.00	\$ 92.00
Enhanced	Single	\$ 474.68	\$ 437.68	\$ 18.50	\$ 37.00
Basic	Family	\$1,103.08	\$1,075.08	\$ 14.00	\$ 28.00
Basic	Single	\$ 418.50	\$ 407.50	\$ 5.50	\$ 11.00

CEBCO/ANTHEM Standard Rates - 2015

Type	Coverage	Monthly Premium	Monthly County Contribution	Employee Bi-Weekly	Employee Monthly
Enhanced	Family	\$1,251.18	\$1,117.18	\$ 67.00	\$ 134.00
Enhanced	Single	\$ 474.68	\$ 420.68	\$ 27.00	\$ 54.00
Basic	Family	\$1,103.08	\$1,062.48	\$ 20.30	\$ 40.60
Basic	Single	\$ 418.50	\$ 402.50	\$ 8.00	\$ 16.00

Mr. Johnson seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved 2 – 0:

Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Johnston	Yes

Mr. Johnston made a motion to adjourn the meeting

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

Mrs. Shumway	Yes
Mr. Johnston	Yes

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
 The Meyer Center – Big Creek Park
 November 5, 2014 – Regular

Name	Organization/Company
Jane McCullum	Newburg
Bill McCullum	Newburg
Jo Fedor	Russell
Susan Siefert	Bainbridge
Stan Puck	Newburg
Matthew Sobel	Russell
Shelley Chernin	Russell
Mark Binny	Thompson
Jesse Brown	Auburn
Jim Ritterhouse & HEATHER JIM HILMAN	Auburn
Betsey Lane	Bainbridge
David Allen	Chardon Twp.
Rick Porter	Chardon Twp
Ari Karotka	Hambden
IMRB KAROTKA	HAMBDEN
Joy Sings CUFF	CHESTER
Janice Kiri	Chardon Township
Carolyn Rice	Chardon Township
Mary Slingluff	Chester Township
Marlene Blatney	Clarendon Twp
Jos. Rozel	Times

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
 Board of Park Commissioners
 The Meyer Center – Big Creek Park
 November 5, 2014 – Regular

Name	Organization/Company
Tom + Diane Jones	a friend in the woods
Louise + Ron Kimnich	Preserve Conserve <u>Protect!</u>
Ray Sen	
GPT Geo	Geauga O.H.C.
Nora Stanton	Geauga O.H.C.
Brenn Enstake	
J.A. Wohlben	Burton Ohio
Gangle Wohlben	Burton, OH
Alison W. Gea	Chesterland, OH
Franz Gueitz	Parkman Twp.
Ann Jacobson	South Russell
FRANK JACOBSON	S. RUSSELL
May Lu Toek	Russell
Mittie Mlu	GPO
Lucy L. Baskuler	Munson
Betsy Feigle	Chardon
Mark V. Hoas	Chardon
KATHY FLOP	THOMPSON
John Agostino	Parkman Twp. Resident
William Schwing	Shaker Heights
Helen R. Green	Troy Township resident
Thomas Lohmeier	Auburn

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
 Board of Park Commissioners
 The Meyer Center – Big Creek Park
 November 5, 2014 – Regular

Name	Organization/Company
David Morgan	Chardon
Kathy Hubby	Chardon TWP
Ingeborg Lutea	Middlefield/Parkman
DOW TRETER	"
Kathy Schaefer	Claridon Twp
Rick Seyer	Middlefield WUSA
Jan Fletcher	Chardon
LANE VALVODA	MUNSON
Allison Titgemeyer	"
CATHERINE WHITRILLI	Munson
Eileen Whitte	"
Pat & John Koch	Yeelebeer
Karen Poubaker	Newberry
Gardyn Morrow	Chardon
Dorothy Lemmer	Chardon
Ken Schmidt	Chardon
Tom	Chardon
Hanna Keating	Munson
W. E. M. B.	Chester
Martha Carson	Bainbridge Resides
Kathleen Webb	MUNSON
Debbi Mayo	MUNSON

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
 Board of Park Commissioners
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Name	Organization/Company
Pat Steiner	Middlefield
Bill Steiner	Middlefield
Paul Iaphin	S. Russell
Sue Prior	S. Russell
John	Putnam
Michael Brown	Chardon Twp.
Steph. Alkew	Cargill Inc.
Pat News	Concord Twp
BRIAN Nopcross	CHARDON TWP
Kim Kingcett	Chardon
Samantha Jancik	Chardon
Jacqueline Necker	Chagrin Falls
Glen Palmer	Hambden
Michael J. Petrucci II	CHESTER
Rachel McKinney	Huntsburg
LISA KAYE PRICE	Chardon City
Pam Skindler	Hambden
Kathleen	Berkeley
Kendall Hervey	
Leslie L. Nering	Chardon
Tami Maswala	Chardon
Dawn Bastulli	Munro Twp

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
Board of Park Commissioners
The Meyer Center – Big Creek Park
November 5, 2014 – Regular

Name	Organization/Company
JOE BASTULLI	
<i>Dianna Boone</i>	
<i>John</i>	
<i>Linda Campbell</i>	
<i>David Huppel</i>	

EXHIBIT "B"

Louis Mucci
Burton Township
LouMucci@Roadrunner.com

November 5, 2014

Judge Timothy J. Grendell
Geauga County Probate/Juvenile Court
231 Main Street, STE. 200
Chardon, OH 44024

Sent via email.

Dear Judge Grendell,

Approximately 10 months ago I requested appointment to the Board of Commissioners of the Geauga County Park District in order to use my understanding of both public and private sector finance; my experience in managing organizations as part of a large public company, small private non-profit and small government entity; and my previous experience in public land use policy in order to serve the taxpayers of Geauga County.

During that 10 months I have accomplished the following:

- Uncovered a wasteful deficit spending plan of \$1.9 million. This plan included 10%-20% pay increases; the purchase of vehicles for staff to drive home for personal use; the purchase of 3 ATV's & associated equipment for the Ranger Department when they were not using the one they currently had; a \$5,000 spring fling to Chicago to train a *temporary* employee, (training that could be found locally for less than \$1,000), and assorted other types of disgraceful waste. In less than two months I re-worked the 2014 budget with the GPD CFO to eliminate the deficit without cutting any programs.
- With the current Board President, I conducted an all-day public work session with previous department heads in which the following issues were discussed:
 - The hostile work environment fostered by the previous Executive Director as reported and confirmed by all department heads. In private, two employees broke down into tears telling me how they were publically berated and humiliated by the previous Executive Director.
 - I immediately worked with the new Interim Director and HR Department to set up an ongoing Civil Discourse and Individual Treatment of Employees training regime with ongoing monitoring and reporting. This active response eliminated the hostile work environment as confirmed by the current employees.
 - The previous department heads unanimously agreed that the former organizational chart was unworkable and inefficient. This resulted in an organization in which none of the departments worked or collaborated together on projects and programs. Everyone agreed that the collaborative work session was new and very productive.
 - In cooperation with the Interim Director I put together a series of individual meetings with all the previous department heads where I solicited the following information:
 1. Their design of an optimal organizational structure and why.
 2. Identification of any areas of waste, over allocation or under allocation of resources.
 3. Suggestions for implementation of their plan.
 4. What did each of the department heads interviewed want for themselves, i.e. how did they see themselves fitting into the new organization.

- As a result of these and other staff meetings a case statement was developed by the Interim Director which outlined the new organizational structure and why it was beneficial to Geauga Park District. This resulted in a streamlined accountability structure. It also provided for a re-allocation of resources from marketing and administrative functions to the Natural Resource Management and Naturalists Departments.
- Worked with the Board President to make the GPD Board and meetings more accessible to the public. This was accomplished by changing the meeting times and locations to accommodate diverse work and family schedules. The abrupt cancellation of meetings was not part of my plan. In addition, we changed the GPD bylaws to open up the rigid agenda of the Board meetings and to build in “ample time” for public comment. We also eliminated the bylaw requirement that all public access to the Board be at the discretion of, and filtered by, the Executive Director.
- Increased the financial oversight and accountability of the organization to the Board. This was accomplished in the following manner:
 - Changed internal policy so all future land purchases were reviewed by the Planning and Natural Resource Departments *prior* to purchase.
 - An independent appraisal must be obtained *prior* to any land purchase.
 - Prior Board policy was to review and approve monthly spending vouchers only *after* the services were rendered and the vendors paid. This effectively eliminated any Board oversight of current spending. We instituted a pre-approval process of all expenses over \$500. Implementation procedures were developed to assure uninterrupted and efficient flow of organizational activities.
- Worked with the Board President, Interim Director and the Planning and Natural Resource Management Departments to expand access of outdoor recreational activities to the citizens of Geauga County of all ages and all abilities in all types of weather. These activities are to be provided in non-environmentally sensitive areas in a mutually compatible way so all citizens of Geauga County can enjoy our Parks.

All of these changes are fiscally responsible and sound business practices. The taxpayers of Geauga County will benefit from the fiscal discipline and organizational efficiencies created by these changes. If allowed to remain in place they will prevent the gross waste of hard earned taxpayer resources. The residents of Geauga County will benefit from greater opportunities to experience outdoor activities with friends and family. The natural resources of Geauga County, protected by the Geauga Park District, will be increased through the elimination of wasteful spending and the implementation of strategically evaluated, responsible land purchase procedures.

I have no doubt that if the highly professional and competent staff of the Geauga Park District is able to continue the good work they perform, the citizens of Geauga County will be well served. However, given the highly toxic environment created by your critics with their constant barrage of lies, innuendo and personal attacks, and, given that the reflexive, whack-a-mole tactics employed to deal with them has only served to inflame the situation, I have no desire to continue to serve and be collateral damage. Therefore, effective immediately, I hereby resign my position as Commissioner of the Geauga Park District.

Respectfully,

Louis A. Mucci