

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT BOARD  
OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
August 20, 2021**

The special meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held August 20, 2021 at the Meyer Center, Big Creek Park. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. Commissioners Mario Innocenzi, Howard Bates, Pat Preston, and Dennis Ibold 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	John Slagter, Attorney
Michael Frederick, Finance Manager	John Oebker, Attorney
Sheryl Hatridge, Administrative Service Manager	
Dennis Sloan, Lt. Ranger	

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. Bates made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Preston seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Innocenzi	Yes
Mr. Bates	Yes
Mr. Preston	Yes
Mr. Ibold	Yes

**OLD BUSINESS**

**2022 APPROPRIATION BUDGET**

Mr. Oros shared a memo presenting a corrected 2022 Appropriations (Temporary) Budget highlighting the corrected numbers; he explained there was a posting error which has been corrected and updated in the budget sheets. Mr. Oros said the Budget Commission meeting was held August 16, 2021, and they elected to approve the budget however, they made a motion to withhold \$1.9 million of taxpayer funds for 2022. Mr. Frederick shared a presentation with the Board of Commissioners addressing the oversight, and highlighting the corrected numbers for the 2022 budget. He said the error was a transposition error made by not moving the correct figure from the 2020 actual budget to the temporary budget for 2021. Subsequently, the error ran through without the \$1.9 million included in the 2022 budget. Mr. Frederick said the budget was not in compliance due to the transposition error which was revised and corrected; he explained the park has been doing their budget in Excel for years and the park district did not have UAN or the information needed to do it that way this year.

Mr. Oros mentioned that the auditor cited the absence of schedules A and B which are provided by the auditor's office, and they were handed to him at the budget meeting. He said at this time, the park district has been denied coming back on Friday, August 27. Mr. Oros said the park district has been blessed to receive approximately \$2.7 million dollars of unexpected revenue since 2019 from an anonymous trust donation, another family trust donation, support from the Foundation for Geauga Parks, and from wetlands mitigation.

Mr. Preston said there are so many questions that he thinks the park needs to get an accounting firm involved. He said while he respects what is being said, he does not have confidence that what he is agreeing to is the right stuff to agree to. Mr. Oros introduced attorneys John Slagter and John Oebker.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Oros requested a motion to enter executive session to meet privately with legal counsel for the purpose of seeking legal advice.

Mr. Ibold made a motion to enter into executive session. Mr. Innocenzi seconded the motion and after roll-call vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Innocenzi	Yes
Mr. Bates	Yes
Mr. Preston	Yes
Mr. Ibold	Yes

The Board entered Executive Session at 8:48 a.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:35 a.m.

Mr. Oros requested a motion to request and authorize John Slagter and John Oebker as special counsel and to give counsel authorization to engage consultants to evaluate the 2022 appropriations budget.

Mr. Bates made a motion to request and authorize John Slagter and John Oebker as special counsel and to give counsel authorization to engage consultants to evaluate the 2022 appropriations budget.

Mr. Preston seconded the motion and after roll-call vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Innocenzi	Yes
Mr. Bates	Yes
Mr. Preston	Yes
Mr. Ibold	Yes

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Innocenzi made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Preston seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved:

Mr. Innocenzi	Yes
Mr. Bates	Yes
Mr. Preston	Yes
Mr. Ibold	Yes

Mr. Oros mentioned the special meeting notice was sent via gmail.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 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

---

Howard Bates, President