

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT BOARD
OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 18, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held September 18, 2023, at the Meyer Center, Big Creek Park. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. Commissioners Howard Bates, Ray Guarino, Jolene Carnabuci, Les LaGatta and Frank Stein were present.

Mr. Bates called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Park District Employees	GUESTS
John Oros, Executive Director	Todd Hicks
Matthew McCue, Deputy Director	
Dawn Sweeney, Fiscal Manager	
Christine Ward, HR Manager	
Chief Dennis Sloan, Ranger	
Sandy Ward, Marketing Manager	
Lucas Beamer, Interim IT Manager	
Jessica Alpers, Administrative Assistant	

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM ITEMS

Mr. Oros asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Guarino made a motion to approve the agenda; Ms. Carnabuci seconded the motion. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Guarino	Yes
Ms. Carnabuci	Yes
Mr. LaGatta	Yes
Mr. Stein	Yes
Mr. Bates	Yes

APPROVE OR AMEND MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Oros asked for a motion to approve last month’s meeting minutes. Mr. Guarino made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from August 21, 2023, Mr. LaGatta seconded the motion. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

Ms. Carnabuci	Yes
Mr. LaGatta	Yes
Mr. Stein	Yes
Mr. Bates	Yes
Mr. Guarino	Yes

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT – AUGUST FINANCE

Ms. Sweeney stated that for the month of August the General Fund had a beginning balance was \$5,647,696 with an ending balance of \$5,122,705. The Land Improvement Fund had a beginning balance of \$2,278,213 with an ending balance of \$2,549,255. Ms. Sweeney shared that all funds combined had a beginning balance of \$8,375,909 with an ending balance of \$7,671,961. Mr. Oros asked if there were any questions about the financial statement. No questions were asked.

PRESENTATION OF PAYMENT REPORT – AUGUST FINANCE

Mr. Oros asked if there were any questions about the payments made in August. No questions were asked.

OLD BUSINESS

Planning Update

Mr. McCue shared updates regarding the repaving and repair at Swine Creek Reservation which has been completed; the repairs at Observatory Park are complete; Holbrook Hollows the South Franklin Street project is ongoing into fall with work on the parking area and picnic shelter continuing until the weather changes; the Troy Wetlands/Brede Property boardwalks are being worked on. Mr. McCue said the crews are trying to finish projects

before the weather turns for fall. Mr. Oros recommended a visit to Troy Wetlands to see the area, the boardwalks and the observatory decks the talented park district crews have constructed. Mr. Oros asked if the board had any questions. No questions were asked.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 14-2023 – 2023 Tax Amount & Rates Certification

Mr. Oros shared the 2023 tax amount and rates as determined by the Budget Commission. The County Auditors estimated tax rate of 2.6-Mills to be collected and distributed to the General Fund will generate \$6,662,575. Mr. Oros reference levy amounts from previous years.

Mr. Oros asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Guarino made a motion to approve, Mr. Stein seconded the motion. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Guarino	Yes
Ms. Carnabuci	Yes
Mr. LaGatta	Yes
Mr. Stein	Yes
Mr. Bates	Yes

Surplus Property

Mr. Oros asked for a motion to the surplus of an L-shaped wooden executive desk, swivel chair and wood bookcase at the Big Creek Meyer Center. Mr. Guarino made a motion to approve the surplus, Ms. Carnabuci seconded the motion. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Stein	Yes
Mr. Bates	Yes
Mr. Guarino	Yes
Ms. Carnabuci	Yes
Mr. LaGatta	Yes

COMMISSIONERS TIME

Mr. Oros shared the following staff and department updates from the month of August 2023:

Today we have two videos to share.

- First, a segment on our “Archery for Everyone” initiative that was featured Sept. 6 on Fox 8’s New Day Cleveland program the morning.
- Second, to stir up some excitement around our October tree-planting toward 1,000 trees at Veterans Legacy Woods, a new video featuring the work we did for Earth Day this past spring – viewable on YouTube.
- The Rangers Department assisted with 80 hunter qualifications in recent weeks during five separate qualification dates at Chickagami Park. The final qualifications are September 30 when our archery season officially begins. Parks that will be affected by hunting this season can easily be found by clicking the yellow Alerts tab along the top of our website.
- The Naturalist Department: Our annual Homeschool Learning Fair at The West Woods was again a success, featuring numerous vendors and 223 happy patrons coming out to enjoy two different sessions.
- In their final month, boat borrowing served 683 people (including 200 minors) and high ropes served 227 (split between adults and minors almost 50/50).
- In August, the naturalists held a total of 86 programs (including one day of the fair on August 31) for 5,496 people.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Oros stated there were no items to be brought forward to executive session.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT BOARD MEETING: Mr. Oros announced the next meeting is Monday, October 16, 2023, at 8:30am.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mr. Bates	Yes
Mr. Guarino	Yes
Ms. Carnabuci	Yes
Mr. LaGatta	Yes
Mr. Stein	Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 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