

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT BOARD
OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 19, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held August 19, 2024, at the Meyer Center, Big Creek Park. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. Commissioners Howard Bates, Ray Guarino, Frank Stein and Jolene Carnabuci were present. Mr. Les LaGatta was absent.

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

Park District Employees	GUESTS
John Oros, Executive Director	
Matthew McCue, Deputy Director	
Dennis Sloan, Chief Ranger	
Robert York, Park Ranger	
Lucas Beamer, IT Manager	
Sandy Ward, Marketing Manager	
Dawn Sweeney, Fiscal Officer	
Christine Ward, HR 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.

Ms. Carnabuci	Yes
Mr. LaGatta	Absent
Mr. Stein	Yes
Mr. Bates	Yes
Mr. Guarino	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 July 15, 2024, Mr. Stein seconded the motion. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT – JULY FINANCE

Ms. Sweeney stated that for the month of July the General Fund had a beginning balance was \$4,173,258 with an ending balance of \$5,515,423. The Land Improvement Fund had a beginning balance of \$1,859,605 with an ending balance of \$1,698,651. Ms. Sweeney shared that all funds combined had an ending balance of \$7,214,074 Mr. Oros asked if there were any questions about the financial statement. No questions were asked.

PRESENTATION OF PAYMENT REPORT – JULY FINANCE

Mr. Oros asked if there were any questions about the payments made in June. Mr. Bates asked about the entry for Winters Leasing & Equipment Sales for a large track rental at Veterans Legacy Woods. Mr. McCue explained it was for an excavator used at the park to remove asphalt trails. Ms. Carnabuci asked about MNJ Technologies for the Meraki MX68 Network Security & Firewall Appliance fees under the IT section. Mr. Beamer explained there are 5 new firewalls as part of a new project that is starting as the network is being reconfigured. Mr. Beamer stated there are no current firewalls at the other park locations with all traffic filtering through the Meyer Center computers. Mr. Beamer said that with the new system, each location would need security as each location would

have internet.

Mr. Oros asked if there were any additional questions about the payment report; no questions were asked.

OLD BUSINESS

Planning Update

Mr. McCue shared that the current contracted projects are being worked on; Veterans Legacy Woods reforestation which will be supported with a grant will be going out as an RFQ in the next month Mr. McCue also stated that the construction crew would start on the new trails at The West Woods on the former Gallo property. Mr. Oros shared that he viewed the work at Swine Creek by Isaiah Shipman and park construction crew have done a great job refreshing trails and structures at the park and encouraged the park board to visit the Swine Creek.

NEW BUSINESS

Surplus Property

Mr. Oros presented surplus property items for sale; (16) picnic tables (listed in 4 lots) starting at \$20 per lot.

Mr. Oros asked for a motion to approve items sent to auction. Mr. Bates made a motion to approve; Mr. Guarino seconded the motion. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

COMMISSIONERS TIME

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

In honor of World Ranger Day, Geauga Park District Ranger Neil Nemetz participated in a free public event on July 19 at Reithoffer's in Auburn Township. It was hosted by Ranger's Legacy, a US-based 501(c)3 grant-issuing organization that strives to support park ranger-centric initiatives and featured a silent auction and live music to honor the work and legacy of park rangers around the world. Ranger Nemetz was the featured speaker, sharing his experiences and insights, as well as the challenges facing local rangers. Organization secretary Dennis Lyamkin wrote: "We would not have been able to do what we did without your department's support. Neil connected our supporters and community members to the day-to-day life of a Geauga Park District Ranger. I think it really did make an impact." Mr. Oros thanked the Ranger Department, especially Ranger Nemetz, for being great spokesmen for Geauga County parks.

Chief Dennis Sloan introduced the newest member of the Park Ranger Department, Robert York. Chief Sloan stated Ranger York has joined the Park District after recently graduating from the police academy at Kent State and is a replacement for Evan Smythe who joined the Chesterland Police Department. Ranger York is a longtime Geauga County resident and lives in Parkman.

And from the Naturalist Department in July:

- 911 people rented boats at Headwaters Park.
- 279 people used the high ropes course at Claridon Woodlands.
- The Naturalists hosted 112 programs were held with a total attendance of 2,445.
- 1,271 patrons visited The West Woods Nature Center in July.

Mr. Oros thanked Ms. Ward for compiling the information and slides presented at the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Oros asked if there were any items for Executive Session. No items were brought forward.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT BOARD MEETING: Mr. Oros announced the next meeting is Monday, September 16, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Oros asked for a motion to adjourn. 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. Stein	Yes
Mr. Guarino	Yes
Ms. Carnabuci	Yes
Mr. LaGatta	Absent
Mr. Bates	Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 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

Ray Guarino, President