

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT BOARD
OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 15, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held July 15, 2024, at the Meyer Center, Big Creek Park. The meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m. Commissioners Howard Bates, Ray Guarino, Frank Stein and Les LaGatta were present. Ms. Jolene Carnabuci was absent.

Mr. Oros 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	
Dennis Sloan, Chief Ranger	
Lucas Beamer, IT Manager	
Jessica Alpers, Administrative Assistant	
Christine Ward, Human Resources Manager	
Dawn Sweeney, Fiscal Officer	

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM ITEMS

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

Mr. Guarino	Yes
Ms. Carnabuci	Absent
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. LaGatta made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 17, 2024, Mr. Stein seconded the motion. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT – JUNE FINANCE

Ms. Sweeney stated that for the month of June the General Fund had a beginning balance was \$4,657,459 with an ending balance of \$4,173,258. The Land Improvement Fund had a beginning balance of \$1,912,802 with an ending balance of \$1,859,605. Ms. Sweeney shared that all funds combined had an ending balance of \$6,032,863 Mr. Oros asked if there were any questions about the financial statement. No questions were asked.

PRESENTATION OF PAYMENT REPORT – JUNE FINANCE

Mr. Oros asked if there were any questions about the payments made in June; no questions were asked.

OLD BUSINESS

Planning Update

Mr. McCue shared that the asphalt resurfacing project at The Rookery and Orchard Hills Park had been completed. Mr. McCue stated that the Planning Department will soon be having a stream construction meeting for Veterans Legacy Woods. Mr. Bates asked about the West Woods bridge project. Mr. McCue shared that First Energy has just relocated their power line and Windstream needs to relocate lines as well since stream work cannot be done until the lines are moved, which will push the project into Spring 2025.

Resolution 3-2024: Enterprise Fleet Management Agreement

Mr. Oros shared that the resolution to establish a fleet management program with Enterprise Fleet Management, Inc. was presented and tabled at the June board meeting. Mr. Oros requested the Commissioner’s cast a No Vote on the resolution in order to remove it from the agenda. Mr. Oros explained that staff will continue to investigate viable options for vehicle fleet management.

Mr. Oros asked for a motion to reject Resolution 3-2024: Enterprise Fleet Management Agreement. Mr. Bates made a motion to not approve; Mr. Guarino seconded the motion. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was not approved.

Mr. LaGatta	No
Mr. Stein	No
Mr. Bates	No
Ms. Carnabuci	Absent
Mr. Guarino	No

NEW BUSINESS

Surplus Property

Mr. Oros presented surplus property item for scrap (1) Defective Osprey Interpretive Sign; (2) Old Town Heron Junior Kayaks; (1) 2015 JMC Sierra K2500 which will be traded in.

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

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

COMMISSIONERS TIME

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

- Commission viewed a presentation including three slides featuring pictures taken by Camp Naturalist Oliva Hoffman showcasing the Nature Adventure Day Camps (assisted by seasonal staff) which has been a huge success this summer, with virtually all sessions for the entire summer at full capacity.
- Six slides presented from the Nature Writing Contest Winner Celebration. Mr. Oros shared that last Tuesday, July 9th Geauga Park District celebrated the successes of 14 Nature writers with 42 of their guests during the 29th Annual Nature Writing Contest Winner Celebration held at Claridon Woodlands. The winners read parts of their work, accepted remarks from judges and accepted their prizes. Monetary prizes doubled in the last year thanks to the support of the Foundation for Geauga Parks. Also, for a second consecutive year, a correlation can be drawn between these enhanced prizes and two years of record-breaking entry totals: last year 222 entries, and this year 351. The 2024 contest inspired 105 adults, 83 adolescents and 163 children to write about Nature. Congratulations again to all the winners, whose winning poetry and prose is still published on the Park District website's *News & Updates* page.

And from the Naturalist Department from May 25 through the month of June:

- 754 people reserved boats at Headwaters Park.
- 273 people used the high ropes course at Claridon Woodlands.
- The Naturalists hosted 97 programs were held with a total attendance of 1,696.
- 1,277 patrons visited The West Woods Nature Center.

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, August 19, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. Mr. Oros stated that a Records Retention Meeting will also be held on Monday August 19th at 8:15 a.m. at the same location with the attendance of Mr. Guarino and Mr. Hicks being required.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 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