

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT BOARD
OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 20, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held May 20, 2024, at the Meyer Center, Big Creek Park. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. Commissioners Howard Bates, Ray Guarino, Les LaGatta, Jolene Carnabuci and Frank Stein were present.

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

Park District Employees	GUESTS
John Oros, Executive Director	Todd Hicks
Dennis Sloan, Chief Ranger	
Lucas Beamer, IT Manager	
Jessica Alpers, Administrative Assistant	
Dawn Sweeney, Fiscal Officer	
Sandy Ward, Marketing Manager	
Dan McConnaughy, Planning Manager	

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.

- Ms. Carnabuci Yes
- Mr. LaGatta Yes
- 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 April 15, 2024, Ms. Carnabuci seconded the motion. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT – APRIL FINANCE

Ms. Sweeney stated that for the month of April the General Fund had a beginning balance was \$5,532,152 with an ending balance of \$5,305,848. The Land Improvement Fund had a beginning balance of \$1,711,135 with an ending balance of \$1,857,748. Ms. Sweeney shared that all funds combined had an ending balance of \$7,163,596 Mr. Oros asked if there were any questions about the financial statement. No questions were asked.

PRESENTATION OF PAYMENT REPORT – APRIL FINANCE

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

OLD BUSINESS

Planning Update

Mr. Oros shared that GPD construction crews are at Veterans Legacy Woods doing reworks on both the trails and boardwalks. Mr. Oros stated that the Claridon Woodlands Stream restoration is underway Mr. McConnaughy explained that the construction crews are working on eliminating some asphalt trails and reworking the trail networks. Mr. McConnaughy stated that the repair work on the Claridon Woodlands dam as well as landscaping in

the front plaza has been completed. Mr. McConnaughy estimated that the construction crew will be at Veterans Legacy Woods for about two to three weeks. Mr. Oros shared that the bids for the asphalt improvements for the Rookery have been bid on and awarded but need to be scheduled before winter. Mr. Oros asked if there were any questions. Mr. Guarino asked if the HVAC system at Veterans Legacy Woods was fixed. Mr. McConnaughy confirmed that the HVAC had been completed.

NEW BUSINESS

The West Woods Utility Easement

Mr. Oros presented to the board plans for a utility easement as part of the ODOT-led project to replace the bridge at the West Woods with the relocation of existing utility lines. Mr. Oros stated that The Illuminating Company (First Energy) requires an easement in the area where their line will be relocated, approximately 40’ to the west of the current location of the power line as it crosses the stream. The easement will be 10’ wide and will be over the area where the Illuminating Company will be boring the new line underground and connecting into the existing transformer. The easement size will be approximately 0.097 acres; enough to relocate utilities back to the Nature Center and two shelters.

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

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

Surplus Property

Mr. Oros presented surplus property item for auction: (1) 2017 Frontier PR1172 Power Rake; Antique Corn Shucker; (3) Spotting Scope Tripods (sold as 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.

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

COMMISSIONERS TIME

Mr. Oros shared the following staff and department updates from the month of March and April 2024:

- On April 13, Geauga Park District volunteers were honored, as they are annually, during a volunteer-celebration brunch held at Veterans Legacy Woods. This year’s Volunteer Lifetime Achievement Award went to Bill Zelazny, who has been a loyal volunteer since 2002.
- Crunching the numbers since the total solar eclipse April 8, a total \$10,070 worth of eclipse merchandise was sold at our gift shop and during our fairgrounds event. Because our Nature Store markup is 100%, sales of eclipse-related T-shirts, buttons, stickers, glasses and more generated about \$5,000 profit!
- Then, just over a month since that astronomical phenomenon, on May 10 the northern lights put on a dazzling show over Observatory Park for close to 2,000 viewers. I’m told the aurora was at its most intense and colorful from around 9:30 to 10:30 PM, then faded to a steady glow; most of these photos were taken during the 11 o’clock hour, and guests were still coming and going after midnight. Thanks to "Astro-Nat" Chris Mentrek for greeting and educating guests into the early morning hours, as well as rangers for helping park all those cars!

- And finally, in the month of April, The West Woods Nature Center welcomed 1,718 guests and Geauga Park District naturalists presented 133 programs with a total attendance of 6,220 thanks to that memorable eclipse.

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, May 20, 2024 at 8:30a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Oros asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Guarino made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Carnabuci 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	Yes
Mr. Bates	Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 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