

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT BOARD  
OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 20, 2024  
(Revised 2/20/25)**

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held February 20, 2024, at the Meyer Center, Big Creek Park. The meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m. Commissioners Ray Guarino, Howard Bates, Les LaGatta, Frank Stein and Jolene Carnabuci were present.

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

<b>Park District Employees</b>	<b>GUESTS</b>
John Oros, Executive Director	Bridey Matheney
Matthew McCue, Deputy Director	
Chief Dennis Sloan, Ranger	
Sandy Ward, Communications Specialist	
Jessica Alpers, Administrative Assistant	
Christine Ward, Human Resources	
Dawn Sweeney, Fiscal Officer	

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

**APPROVE OR AMEND MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Oros pointed out an error on the draft copy of the previous meeting minutes which should have read January 16, 2024 and requested a correction. Mr. Oros then asked for a motion to approve last month's meeting minutes. Mr. LaGatta made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 16, 2024, Mr. Guarino seconded the motion. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

**PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT – DECEMBER FINANCE**

Ms. Sweeney stated that for the month of January the General Fund had a beginning balance was \$3,725,729 with an ending balance of \$3,504,180. The Land Improvement Fund had a beginning balance of \$1,858,239 with an ending balance of \$1,836,387 Ms. Sweeney shared that all funds combined had an ending balance of \$5,340,567. Mr. Oros asked if there were any questions about the financial statement. No questions were asked.

**PRESENTATION OF PAYMENT REPORT – DECEMBER FINANCE**

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Planning Update – 2024 Capital Project Cost Summaries**

Mr. McCue shared the 2024 Capital Improvement Project Summary. Mr. McCue stated that nothing new had to update with construction due to the time of year but there was a bid opening for The Rookery asphalt project this past Thursday with the results posted on our website. Mr. McCue said this information would be brought to the

March board meeting for contract award and discussion. Mr. Guarino asked if Park District construction would start early based on the weather. Mr. McCue answered that right now crews are in the midst of sugaring (maple syrup production at Swine Creek) and once that is complete, will begin some of the capital projects. Mr. Oros shared that crews are currently painting and other maintenance work with the warmer weather and no need to plow snow. Mr. Guarino said the Park District is probably saving money with little need to plow and no need to use much salt.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2024 Aggregate Stone Materials – Bid Award Recommendation**

Mr. Oros stated that on January 31, 2024 (2) two bids were received by park planner Dan McConnaughy for providing aggregate stone materials for the Geauga Park District throughout 2024. Mr. Oros stated that the low bidder on all materials is The Arms Trucking Company and recommended the Board of Park Commissioners accept the lowest and best bid submitted for Aggregate Stone Materials for 2024.

Mr. Oros asked for a motion to approve the bid award to The Arms Trucking Company. Mr. Stein made a motion to approve the award, Mr. Guarino seconded the motion. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

### **Surplus Property**

Mr. Oros presented surplus property items: (1) 4ft metal folding table with wood veneer top; (1) chair with metal legs and brown cushioned seat; (1) metal map filing cabinet; (1) 2016 Ford F450 Dump Truck; (1) 2005 Scag Sabre Tooth 72" mower all sent to auction.

Mr. Oros asked for a motion to approve items sent to auction. Mr. Guarino made a motion to approve, Mr. Stein 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

## **COMMISSIONERS TIME**

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

- The Geauga Park District was honored to be featured prominently in the latest issue of the Ohio Division of Wildlife's popular statewide wildlife magazine, *Wild Ohio*. The theme of this issue is the conservation of Ohio's endangered species, and none-other-than our famous native Ohio brook trout is highlighted as a critical conservation species. Mr. Oros congratulated Mr. Paul Pira on being recognized by his peers for his particularly at the state level and congratulations to the Natural Resource Management team.
- Park Biologist Paul Pira was asked to give a talk in Columbus next month during the Ohio Department of Natural Resource's Ohio Rivers Symposium (attended by many, many people from around the whole state). Geauga Park District is recognized as a critical leader in helping maintain and protect Ohio native brook trout, Mr. Pira will be speaking on brook trout and the conversation recovery plan he's co-authoring as well as the Park District's unique restoration projects including the recent Spring Brook project and Veterans Legacy Woods coldwater stream project currently underway.
- Staff were excited to open a new community art show this month at The West Woods Nature Center and invite you to stop by to "walk among the trees" sometime before the show closes on April 21. Inspired by a John Muir quote, the show is called "*The Forest Is Calling and I Must Create*" which features more than 300 original pieces created by 152 regional artists. Two hundred people attended the artist reception on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The show is open daily 10 AM to 4 PM to anyone who'd like to stop into The West Woods

Nature Center to enjoy. Mr. Oros congratulated Ms. Holly Sauder, events coordinator, who organized the event.

- In January the Naturalist Department hosted 81 programs with a total attendance of 1,392 patrons.
- The West Woods Nature Center welcomed 1,647 guests.

Mr. Guarino complemented the staff on their hard work.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Oros asked for a motion to move into Executive Session to consider the employment of a public employee – the contract of the executive director position. Mr. Guarino made a motion to approve; Mr. LaGatta seconded the motion. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

Executive Session began 8:41am

Executive Session concluded at 8:29am at which point attendees returned to the meeting.

Mr. Oros asked if there were any items coming out of executive session. Mr. Guarino stated there were items and said the Board would like to make a motion to extend the current contract for the executive director for another 3 years. Mr. Oros asked for a motion for this decision to be approved by the entire board. Mr. Guarino made a motion to approve; Ms. Carnabuci seconded the motion. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

No other items were brought out of executive session.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT BOARD MEETING:** Mr. Oros announced the next meeting is Monday, March 18, 2024, at 8:30am.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Oros asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bates made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ms. 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 8:49 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,

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John Oros, Executive Director

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Ray Guarino, President