

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT BOARD
OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 21, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held July 21, 2025, at the Meyer Center, Big Creek Park. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. Commissioners Ray Guarino, Howard Bates, Frank Stein, Sally LaMarca and John Ralph were present.

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

Park District Employees	GUESTS
John Oros, Executive Director	Bridey Matheney
Dennis Sloan, Chief Ranger	
Lucas Beamer, IT Manager	
Christine Cycyk, HR Manager	
Dawn Sweeney, Finance Manager	
Daniel McConnaughy, Sr. Planning Manager	
Jessica Alpers, Administrative Assistant	

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. Stein	Yes
Mr. Bates	Yes
Mr. Guarino	Yes
Mr. Ralph	Yes
Ms. LaMarca	Yes

APPROVE OR AMEND MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Oros again asked for a motion to approve last month's meeting minutes. Mr. Guarino made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 16, 2025. Mr. Stein seconded the motion. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Guarino	Yes
Mr. Ralph	Yes
Ms. LaMarca	Yes
Mr. Stein	Yes
Mr. Bates	Yes

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT – JUNE FINANCE

Ms. Dawn Sweeney stated that for the month of June 2025 the General Fund had a beginning balance of \$3,283,818 with an ending balance of \$3,272,707. The Land Improvement Fund had a beginning balance of \$3,672,704 with an ending balance of \$3,543,713. Ms. Sweeney shared that all funds combined had an ending balance of \$6,816,419. 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 2025; no questions were asked.

OLD BUSINESS

Planning Update

With Mr. McCue not in attendance, Mr. Oros shared that the current projects within the parks are progressing nicely since the weather has improved. Mr. Oros asked Mr. McConnaughy if he had anything to add but he did not.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 14 – 2025 / Geauga County Engineer Resource Rental Program

Mr. Oros presented this resolution in which the Park District would like to participate in this program to utilize county owned heavy highway equipment and manpower as needed to efficiently, effectively and economically complete road maintenance work within the parks. Mr. Oros and Mr. McCue would be the representatives to request resources with a rolling line of credit up to \$40,000 to be paid off within 30 days from date of invoice. Mr. Oros shared that the Park District would primarily use equipment for asphalt crack repairs utilizing equipment the Park District does not own. Mr. Oros stated there had been a previous resolution under the former County Engineer Joe Cattell but this new resolution was generated since there is a new engineer, Andy Haupt.

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

Mr. Ralph	Yes
Mr. Bates	Yes
Mr. Stein	Yes
Ms. LaMarca	Yes
Mr. Guarino	Yes

Hambden Hills Dam Professional Engineering Services Contract Award

Mr. Oros shared the contract awarded to GPD Group who has been hired to prepare engineering plans for improvements to Hamden Hills Dam (Kittredge Arboretum Lake Dam) to improve the dam from the current condition when the Park District acquired the property in 2023. With heavy rains this spring additional issues have been identified at the primary inlet to the dam that will require replacement of the inlet structure and modification to the dam embankment that require additional engineering services. Mr. Oros stated Senior Park Planner Daniel McConnaughy will assist GPD group in providing the information they need to complete a set of plans and bid documents which include needed repairs and improvements made to the dam to maintain it as a Class II dam under ODNR.

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

Mr. Stein	Yes
Mr. Guarino	Yes
Ms. LaMarca	Yes
Mr. Bates	Yes
Mr. Ralph	Yes

Surplus Property

Mr. Oros presented one item to be sent to auction: 2019 DelMorino Funny Super 132C Offset Flail Mower. Mr. Oros asked for a motion to approve this item sent to auction. Mr. Guarino made a motion to approve the surplus, Mr. Stein seconded the motion. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Guarino	Yes
Mr. Stein	Yes
Mr. Ralph	Yes
Mr. Bates	Yes
Ms. LaMarca	Yes

COMMISSIONERS TIME

Mr. Oros shared the following information with the board from June:

- Construction projects underway and completed in three of our parks; New lean-to and treehouse underway at Big Creek Park that the in-house construction team has been working on are almost complete; the Pergola roof was replaced at Burton Wetlands; ODOT bridge construction at The West

Woods has moved to the concrete base stage with piling and footings poured and partial abutments poured.

- The Finance Department applied for and successfully received a \$1,000 check from Public Entities of Ohio. The PEP+ safety grant is given to aid in risk control efforts. Thank you to Ms. Dawn Sweeney for obtaining that grant.
- With the summer season upon us, traditional summer programming and special events have been underway and well attended: among them, Nature Adventure and Junior Naturalist Day Camps for grades 3 through 12, Movie Night at Observatory Park with 'Finding Nemo', and outdoor amphitheater concerts here at Big Creek Park. Nearly all reservation programs have been full.
- We also debuted a brand-new special event on June 21 called 'Paddle Fest' - a kayak skills challenge event that went very well with a turnout of 39 registrants, great for a first-time event of this scale. Participants enjoyed three fun activities to test their endurance, navigation and maneuverability on East Branch Reservoir at Headwaters Park, including the fan favorite, Mini Golf (in boats). Thanks to Outdoor Recreation Specialist/Naturalist Trevor Wearstler and Special Events Coordinator Holly Sauder for all their creativity and coordination on Paddle Fest.
- And finally, for the month of June the Naturalists hosted a total of 91 programs for 1,866 people; 540 people borrowed boats at Headwaters Park; 261 people climbed the high ropes course at Claridon Woodlands.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Oros asked for a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss the purchase of property.

Mr. Guarino made a motion to approve; Mr. Ralph seconded the motion. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Bates	Yes
Mr. Stein	Yes
Ms. LaMarca	Yes
Mr. Ralph	Yes
Mr. Guarino	Yes

Executive Session began 8:44am

Executive Session concluded at 9:10am at which point attendees returned to the meeting. Mr. Oros asked if there were any motions to be brought out of Executive Session.

Mr. Guarino made a motion for the Executive Director to go into negotiations for acquisition of a property located in Chardon and Concord Townships. Mr. Stein seconded the motion; after a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Bates	Yes
Ms. LaMarca	Yes
Mr. Guarino	Yes
Mr. Ralph	Yes
Mr. Stein	Yes

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT BOARD MEETING: Mr. Oros announced the next meeting is Monday, August 18, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. at the Big Creek Meyer Center.

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.

Ms. LaMarca	Yes
Mr. Ralph	Yes
Mr. Guarino	Yes
Mr. Bates	Yes
Mr. Stein	Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 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