

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT BOARD
OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 16, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held June 16, 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 and Sally LaMarca 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	
Sandy Ward, Marketing Manager	
Dawn Sweeney, Finance 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. Bates	Yes
Mr. Guarino	Yes
Ms. LaMarca	Yes
Mr. Stein	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 May 16, 2025. Mr. Stein seconded the motion. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT – MAY FINANCE

Ms. Dawn Sweeney stated that for the month of May 2025 the General Fund had a beginning balance of \$5,765,114 with an ending balance of \$3,283,818. The Land Improvement Fund had a beginning balance of \$2,077,713 with an ending balance of \$3,672,704. Ms. Sweeney shared that all funds combined had an ending balance of \$6,956,522. Mr. Oros asked if there were any questions about the financial statement; no questions were asked.

PRESENTATION OF PAYMENT REPORT – MAY FINANCE

Mr. Oros asked if there were any questions about the payments made in May 2025; no questions were asked.

OLD BUSINESS

Planning Update

Mr. McCue shared that The West Woods bridge replacement project in conjunction with ODOT would begin today June 16; Sunnybrook Preserve's parking lot scheduled to be resurfaced in mid-July and trail maintenance beginning this week from storm damage last fall; Beartown Lakes Reservation playground improvements will begin late July; Veterans Legacy Woods Cuyahoga reforestation is nearly complete and was a grant funded project by Great Lakes Restoration Initiative through USDA Forest service; the Big Creek existing lean-to's have been updated and repaired with the second treehouse under construction, while the Tupelo Pond improvements scheduled to begin late summer. Mr. Oros asked if there were any questions; no questions were asked.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 12 – 2025 / 2026 Tax Budget

Mr. Oros presented the 2026 Tax Budget Resolution for the Park Commissioners to review; once approved the resolution and supporting documentation will be forwarded to the Geauga County Budget Commission along with supporting documents in preparation for the budget hearing scheduled for August 18 and 19, 2025. Ms. Sweeney gave a brief synopsis of the material, highlighting 2026 General Fund, Land Improvement Fund and General Fund amounts for 2026 as shown in the supporting documents.

Mr. Oros asked for a motion to approve this resolution for the 2025 - 2026 Tax Budget. Mr. Guarino made a motion to approve; Mr. Stein seconded the motion. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

Resolution 13 – 2025 / Honoring Park Commissioner Lester Rocco LaGatta

Mr. Oros read a resolution honoring the service of Park Commissioner Lester LaGatta who passed away June 6, 2025. Mr. Oros stated a copy of the resolution would be sent to the LaGatta Family.

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

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

Presentation: 'Social Media and Marketing Trends'

Marketing Coordinator Sandy Ward presented on website analytics and social media activity, featuring both content and trends from 2022 to 2025, as well as brief histories of these digital platforms. Year-to-date visitation to www.geaugaparkdistrict.org has reached 71,900 active users and 64,050 engaged sessions each; the most visited pages were regarding Observatory Park, Special Events & Art Shows, Headwaters Park, Big Creek Park and The West Woods. Most local visitors came from Chardon, Bainbridge, Chesterland, Middlefield and Novelty; Thompson users claim the most active engagement time; and of all visitors, 58% used mobile devices while 39% used desktop computers.

COMMISSIONERS TIME

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

- The Ranger Department conducted traffic control, security and public relations work during two fishing events hosted in our parks last month: Commissioner Jim Dvorak's Rotary fishing event for young people with special needs on May 8 at Walter C. Best Wildlife Preserve, as well the Hooked on Fishing event hosted by Euclid Police Department and the Ohio Division of Wildlife on May 5 through 7 and 20 through 22 at Beartown Lakes Reservation.
- The Naturalists and volunteers hosted field trips for more than 820 fifth graders from 11 schools at The Rookery as they explored the park, then officially graduated Geauga Park District's Nature Scopes Binocular Program.
- Summer camps, use of our high ropes course at Claridon Woodlands, and boat-borrowing at Headwaters Park are now underway for the season.
- In May, The West Woods had 1,321 people visit the Nature Center with the Naturalists hosting 117 programs with an attendance total of 2,416.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Oros asked for a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss a pending court action and purchase of property.

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

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

Executive Session began 9:06am

Executive Session concluded at 9:31am at which point attendees returned to the meeting. No items were brought forward from Executive Session.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT BOARD MEETING: Mr. Oros announced the next meeting is Monday, July 21, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. at the Big Creek Meyer Center.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 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