

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT BOARD  
OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
March 25, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held March 25, 2025, at the Meyer Center, Big Creek Park. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. Commissioners Howard Bates, Jolene Carnabuci, Frank Stein and Ray Guarino were present. Mr. Les LaGatta was absent.

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

<b>Park District Employees</b>	<b>GUESTS</b>
John Oros, Executive Director	Todd Hicks
Dennis Sloan, Chief Ranger	Seth Trance – Latus Studio
Lucas Beamer, IT Manager	Rooney Moy - LWVG
Sandy Ward, Marketing Manager	J Fidor
Dawn Sweeney, Finance Manager	Barb & Dave Partington
Dan McConnaughy, Park Planner	
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.

Ms. Carnabuci	Yes
Mr. LaGatta	Absent
Mr. Stein	Yes
Mr. Bates	Yes
Mr. Guarino	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 February 18, 2025, Ms. Carnabuci seconded the motion. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

**PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT – FEBRUARY FINANCE**

Ms. Dawn Sweeney stated that for the month of February the General Fund had a beginning balance of \$3,869,547 with an ending balance of \$5,011,083. The Land Improvement Fund had a beginning balance of \$1,323,934 with an ending balance of \$1,539,938. Ms. Sweeney shared that all funds combined had an ending balance of \$6,551,022. Mr. Oros asked if there were any questions about the financial statement. No questions were asked.

**PRESENTATION OF PAYMENT REPORT – FEBRUARY FINANCE**

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Planning Update**

Mr. Oros shared that all projects slated for construction are in the works; there was a successful bid for The West Woods bridge construction by Eclipse Company. Mr. Oros asked Mr. McConnaughy if he had anything to add, Mr. McConnaughy did not have anything to add.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2025 Aggregate Stone Materials Proposal Award**

Mr. Oros presented the bid award for the 2025 Aggregate Stone Materials. Mr. Oros recommended that the Board of Park Commissioners accept the lowest and best proposal as submitted by The Arms Trucking Company for all Aggregate Stone Materials for 2025.

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

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

### **Resolution 4-2025: Transfer Request**

Mr. Oros requested a transfer of funds; to move \$200,000.00 from the General Fund (1000) to the Land Improvement Fund (4301) as authorized by Ohio Revised Code Sections 5705.14 through 5705.16; General Fund Transfer Out (Appropriation) = (\$200,000.00) and into Land Improvement Fund Transfer In (Revenue) = \$200,000.00. Mr. Oros shared that this revenue will be used to acquire and improve park assets thus necessitating the need for the above transfer, and no injury will result from the transfer of such funds. Mr. Oros asked if there were any questions about this resolution; no questions were asked.

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

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

### **Resolution 5-2025: 2025 Revised Budget**

Mr. Oros presented a resolution for adoption of the revised 2025 Appropriations; This revised appropriation resolution reflects an appropriation amendment to revenue for both the General Fund (1000) and Land Improvement Fund (4301). Mr. Oros asked if there were any questions about this resolution; no questions were asked.

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

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

### **Surplus Property**

Mr. Oros presented two items to be sent to auction: a Baldor 1215W Pedestal Grinder and a 2015 Ford Explorer SUV.

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

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

**Presentation #1 '2026 Renovations to The West Woods with Seth Trance of Latus Studios and Dan**

**McConnaughy with Geauga Park District.'** Mr. Dan McConnaughy introduced Mr. Seth Trance of Latus Studios to share with the board the preliminary drawings for The West Woods 2026 renovations. Mr. McConnaughy shared that with the completion of the complex in 2002, no renovations have been implemented so refurbishing the current building is a priority. Mr. McConnaughy also explained that the goal of the project is to create a contemporary multi-use space to better serve the residents through natural displays, exhibits and educational components in an updated environment. Mr. Trance showed tentative pictures/slides showing the bright, airy and more user-friendly spaces and shared how the redesign allowed for a better flow through the building as well as better utilization of the spaces.

**Presentation #2 'Visitor Services Representatives: Lodges, Shelter, Camping, Fishing & "The Numbers" ' Ms.**

Jessica Alpers shared a quick presentation on the metrics the front desk staff has compiled since 2013 and the reasons why these numbers are important. Ms. Alpers gave a brief outline of park usage in regard to patron reservations/permits and how numbers reflected before and after COVID. Ms. Alpers also shared why the front desk team tracks numbers, trends and how the information is shared with the different departments within the Geauga Park District.

**COMMISSIONERS TIME**

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

- This month our Sgt. Ranger Mike Rose and Ranger Brian Kerr attended a five-day course at Kent State's Twinsburg campus to earn Field Training Officer certification through the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy. The course covered everything on training new police officers through the FTO program's Ohio model and ensured that an active trainer will now be working both Geauga Park District ranger shifts.
- As a result of this change, Chief Ranger Sloan and Sgt. Rose, our training program coordinators, also implemented a new field training manual specifically tailored to our Ranger Department. "Every law enforcement agency's field training program is different," said Sgt. Rose, "but I believe ours is especially different with all the unique hats we wear."
- From Natural Resource Management. Last week, NRM and Operations staff led by Park Biologist Paul Pira were able to conduct prescribed fire meadow management on more than 40 acres of Observatory Park and Frohring Meadows with the help of partners in Portage Park District, the Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, and Montville and Bainbridge Fire Departments.
- Three weekends of Sap's-a-Risin' Sundays at Swine Creek Reservation kicked off February 23, attracting a grand total of 1,050 guests. The first two weekends yielded no gathering, as conditions were too icy for sugaring, trail walking, and sap-sled horses. No sap was a-risin'. But the third Sunday drew 583 park patrons with the picture-perfect conditions shown in these slides. The sap was dripping and it was wall-to-wall sunshine!
- The astronomy-themed coursework in our Nature Scopes Binocular Program continued and concluded this month with all 817 Geauga County fifth graders having participated.
- In the month of February the naturalists held 103 programs with a total attendance of 2,512

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Oros asked for a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters, pending court actions and to discuss land purchases. 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. LaGatta	Absent
Mr. Stein	Yes

Executive Session began 9:12am

Executive Session concluded at 9:46am at which point attendees returned to the meeting.

Mr. Oros asked if there were any additional items to be brought out of Executive Session; no items were brought forward.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT BOARD MEETING:** Mr. Oros announced the next meeting is Monday, April 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; Ms. Carnabuci seconded the motion and after a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 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