

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT BOARD
OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 22, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held February 22, 2022 at the Meyer Center, Big Creek Park. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. Commissioners Howard Bates, Pat Preston, Mario Innocenzi, Ray Guarino and Linda Smallwood were present.

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

Park District Employees	GUESTS
John Oros, Executive Director	
Sheryl Hatridge, Administrative Service Manager	
Jennifer Pae, Treasurer and Fiscal Officer	
Christine Ward, HR Manager	
Dennis Sloan, Lt. Ranger	
Matt McCue, Director of Planning and Operations	
Sandy Ward, Marketing Coordinator	
Paul Pira, Natural Resources Manager	

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Oros requested a motion to approve the January 18, 2022, regular board meeting minutes.

Mr. Preston made a motion to approve the amended minutes, Mr. Innocenzi seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Guarino	Yes
Mrs. Smallwood	Abstained
Mr. Innocenzi	Yes
Mr. Bates	Yes
Mr. Preston	Yes

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Preston made a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Smallwood seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Innocenzi	Yes
Mr. Bates	Yes
Mrs. Smallwood	Yes
Mr. Preston	Yes
Mr. Guarino	Yes

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Ms. Pae stated she will go over the financial statement as part of the fiscal/finance work session.

PRESENTATION OF VOUCHERS

Mr. Preston made a motion to approve January vouchers except for Preston and ARMS, Mr. Innocenzi seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Bates	Yes
Mr. Preston	Yes
Mr. Guarino	Yes
Mrs. Smallwood	Yes
Mr. Innocenzi	Yes

Mr. Bates made a motion to approve vouchers for Preston, Mr. Innocenzi seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mrs. Smallwood	Yes
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Mr. Guarino	Yes
Mr. Innocenzi	Yes
Mr. Bates	Yes
Mr. Preston	Abstained

Mr. Preston made a motion to approve vouchers for ARMS Trucking, Mr. Innocenzi seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Innocenzi	Yes
Mr. Guarino	Yes
Mrs. Smallwood	Yes
Mr. Preston	Yes
Mr. Bates	Abstained

OLD BUSINESS

THOMPSON LIBRARY PROPERTY

Mr. McCue presented a possible plan and evaluation for the 1.3 acre Thompson Library property off 528 north of Thompson Road. He shared that the project would include a trailhead, small parking area, an open picnic shelter, and a boardwalk that could connect into the open space near Thompson Ledges. Mr. Pira explained his evaluation of the property, and mentioned although the score was low, due to the significance of ecological attributes of the ledges he said these items would warrant consideration as a possible ‘hot spot’ for rare birds, plants, and endangered plants in NE Ohio due to the ledges. Mr. McCue mentioned the park district could engage with the Thompson Township Park Board to possibly get a conservation easement leading to connectivity with the library and ledges. The preliminary plan cost opinion is \$792,995.41 to the park district. Mr. Pira said he supports going back to the library and Thompson Township Park Board to discuss access to the ledges. Mr. McCue clarified that property abutting the Thompson acre is owned by a Hemley Tool was not developed so an easement would have to be discussed. Mr. Bates and Mr. Preston both questioned the estimated costs as well as access to the park based on location. Mr. McCue stated the proposal presented was an estimate and he said a boardwalk would be the most feasible way to connect to the ledges due to the wetlands. More discussion with Thompson Township Park Board would need to be had and additional information from their board given before the next meeting.

Mr. Bates asked if there was an update on the Wadsworth property and Mr. Oros responded there is not at this time.

FISCAL/FINANCE WORK SESSION

Ms. Pae presented a calendar of Finance topics for the rest of the year to discuss at each board meeting. She presented the new monthly financial report and said it will be approximately 9 pages going forward. She explained there is a total of all the fund balances, of which there are 5 fund balances showing total revenues, expenditures, any transfers, beginning and ending balances. She shared that the columns include the actuals from past 2 years, 2022 approved budget amount, YTD total for the year, budget vs actual percentage, and what was spent in the current month. Ms. Pae stated the general fund is the largest fund, the retirement reserve fund was closed in 2021 and is now included in the general fund, the K9 donation fund, the land improvement fund, essentially the capital improvement fund, and lastly the specific capital reserve fund established in 2016 and will likely be spent this year on The West Woods improvements. She explained detailed account information found in the report for the board. Mr. Preston requested the pages be numbered going forward and said this was very good information. He asked if this report is from the program and Ms. Pae explained she pulls from UAN and places in Excel. Ms. Pae shared that accounting firm James G. Zupka helped to create the required 2021 financial statement document and notes in the format that will be audited. Mr. Preston mentioned that compared to 2019 and 2020, the park district is doing well with their finances.

NEW BUSINESS

COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM

Mr. Oros presented information regarding cooperative purchasing programs the park district uses. These purchasing programs allow the park district to avoid the bid process for purchases over \$50,000.00 since the organizations have done the process on behalf of their members.

AGGREGATE STONE MATERIALS BID AWARD

Mr. Oros presented bids for 2022 park aggregate stone materials and based on the bid results he recommended the lowest and best bid from ARMS Trucking.

Mr. Preston made a motion to approve the bid from ARMS Trucking, Mrs. Smallwood seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Preston	Yes
Mr. Innocenzi	Yes
Mrs. Smallwood	Yes
Mr. Bates	Abstained
Mr. Guarino	Yes

EQUIPMENT CONTRACT AWARD

Mr. Oros presented an equipment contract request for a new excavator purchase for the construction department for \$77,008.94. Mr. Bates made a motion to approve the request for the equipment purchase, Mr. Preston seconded the motion.

Mrs. Smallwood	Yes
Mr. Preston	Yes
Mr. Innocenzi	Yes
Mr. Bates	Yes
Mr. Guarino	Yes

SURPLUS PROPERTY

Mr. Oros presented several items to be declared as surplus property that will be scrapped, traded in and sent to auction. Mr. Preston made a motion to approve the surplus property, Mrs. Smallwood seconded the motion, after roll-call voice vote, all approved.

Mr. Innocenzi	Yes
Mr. Bates	Yes
Mrs. Smallwood	Yes
Mr. Preston	Yes
Mr. Guarino	Yes

COMMISSIONERS TIME

Mr. Oros shared park highlights and staff accomplishments from January including Dawn Sweeney securing a \$1000 grant for 1st aid supplies and safety. He recognized grounds and facilities staff for their plowing and snow removal with the recent storms. Free snowshoe rental at The West Woods has been the highest in years with 105 people renting in January. The Geauga Gems hiking program is sold out with nearly 500 participants registered. He added there were nearly 100 guests at the opening night of the MapleArt sap bucket upcycling show.

Mr. Oros offered congratulations to Paul Pira, Matt McCue and Chagrin River Watershed partners for being awarded a \$1.1 million EPA grant and ranking number 1 in the state for a potential and very unique use at Veterans Legacy.

Mr. Bates suggested a proclamation to thank Teresa Runion for her 32 years of service to the park district.

Mr. Preston requested that Mr. McCue coordinate with local curators and VFW's and Veteran's groups for pictures/photos to redo the interior at Veterans Legacy Woods to create enthusiasm, engage and promote the use of the Veterans Legacy Woods facility.

Mr. Preston asked if the Deputy Director job description has been completed and Mr. Oros said he would email the board the description for review.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Oros requested a motion to go into executive session for collective bargaining matters and pending court action. Mr. Bates made a motion to go into executive session, Mr. Preston seconded the motion, after voice roll-call and vote, motion approved.

Mr. Guarino	Yes
Mrs. Smallwood	Yes
Mr. Innocenzi	Yes
Mr. Bates	Yes
Mr. Preston	Yes

Mr. Oros invited the following staff to stay for executive session; Ms. Pae, Ms. Ward, Mr. McCue and Lt. Sloan

The following item was brought forward:

Mr. Bates made a motion to open the union bargaining agreement negotiations with the Fraternal Order of Police, Mr. Preston seconded the motion, after voice roll-call and vote, motion approved.

Mr. Bates	Yes
Mr. Innocenzi	Yes
Mrs. Smallwood	Yes
Mr. Preston	Yes
Mr. Guarino	Yes

Mr. Oros introduced several Ranger staff in attendance to the board of park commissioners.

The next board meeting will be held Monday, March 21, 2022 at 8:30am at the Meyer Center, Big Creek Park.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bates made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Preston seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved:

Mr. Guarino	Yes
Mrs. Smallwood	Yes
Mr. Innocenzi	Yes
Mr. Bates	Yes
Mr. Preston	Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 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

Howard Bates, President