

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT BOARD
OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 15, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held November 15, 2021 at the Meyer Center, Big Creek Park. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. Commissioners Mario Innocenzi, Howard Bates, Pat Preston and Dennis Ibold and 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	

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

Mr. Innocenzi	Yes
Mr. Bates	Yes
Mr. Preston	Yes
Mr. Ibold	Yes

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Oros requested a motion to approve the October 12, 2021 regular board meeting minutes.

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

Mr. Bates	Yes
Mr. Preston	Yes
Mr. Ibold	Yes
Mr. Innocenzi	Yes

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Mr. Oros presented the October financial statement and it was entered into the record. Mr. Oros introduced Jennifer Pae, Director of Finance and upon approval by resolution the Treasurer and Fiscal Officer. She shared her education and past work history which includes a Master’s degree in Public Administration, and experience working in the state auditor’s office, Key Bank, the city of Lakewood, OH and Hunting Valley.

PRESENTATION OF VOUCHERS

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

Mr. Preston	Yes
Mr. Ibold	Yes
Mr. Innocenzi	Yes
Mr. Bates	Yes

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

Mr. Bates	Yes
Mr. Ibold	Yes

Mr. Innocenzi	Yes
Mr. Preston	Abstained

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

Mr. Ibold	Yes
Mr. Innocenzi	Yes
Mr. Preston	Yes
Mr. Bates	Abstained

NEW BUSINESS

PLANNING AND OPERATIONS UPDATE

Mr. Oros shared most of the current construction projects are at or very near substantial completion. He added Veterans Legacy Woods paving of the parking lot and entrance drive will be this week, and Eldon Russell canoe/kayak launch is substantially complete. Mr. Oros mentioned a nice article on Veterans Legacy Woods in the Geauga Maple Leaf attended by U.S. Army veterans Mr. Mario Innocenzi, Judge Grendell and Mr. John Ralph. Mr. Innocenzi stated he was particularly impressed by the playground built by park staff.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PRESENTATION

Paul Pira, park biologist, delivered a presentation on wildlife management within the park district. He shared information about ecological balance and protecting and managing the integrity of the parks. He discussed controlled hunting, trapping and grants. Mr. Preston asked PP to explain the work that goes into applying for and receiving grants. Mr. Pira shared the process of applying for and being awarded grants. Mr. Preston asked about communicating hunting and trapping information to the public and Lt. Sloan responded that information is communicated through social media, newspaper, and on the park website. He also mentioned the park is closed and a Ranger is posted at the park entrance if hunting is taking place.

THOMPSON PROPERTY

Mr. Erwin Leffel presented a plan to establish a park with a building for an outdoor educational and cultural space to be built in Thompson, OH. He said the building would need to be on the lower elevation of the small piece of property that was part of property Thompson Township transferred to the library. He said there was a demolition of an old school, and the basement of the building was filled with the demolished building so a portion of the property was not buildable. Mr. Leffel stated he would like this to be a collaborative effort between the Geauga County Public Library, the Geauga County library foundation, Geauga Park District, the Foundation for Geauga Parks, Berkshire schools, Thompson Ledge Park Commission and Township Trustees. Mr. Preston asked Mr. McCue to prepare a possible plan for this.

BERMAN PROPERTY

Mr. Oros presented a proposal from Tom Wadsworth of Claridon Township to donate a 6.7-acre parcel of property adjacent to Mountain Run Station in exchange for Geauga Park District paying for a survey and closing costs to transfer the property. Mr. Pira provided a NQEI with a score of 42.5. Mr. Innocenzi asked what the costs would be to accept the property and Mr. Oros said he will get estimated probable costs. Mr. Bates asked if the probable costs will be available for the next meeting.

RESOLUTION 25-21

Mr. Oros requested a motion to appoint Jennifer Pae as Treasurer and Fiscal Officer of Geauga Park District and to approve her compensation at \$108,000. Mr. Preston made a motion to approve the appointment and approve the compensation, Mr. Innocenzi seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Ibold	Yes
Mr. Innocenzi	Yes
Mr. Bates	Yes

Mr. Preston Yes

RESOLUTION 26-21

Mr. Oros requested a motion to approve a budget amendment to intra-fund transfers from IT contract services to Finance contract services and from Planning contract services to Finance contract services for costs associated with hiring the Treasurer and Fiscal Officer. Mr. Preston made a motion to approve the transfers, Mr. Ibold seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Innocenzi Yes
Mr. Bates Yes
Mr. Ibold Yes
Mr. Preston Yes

SURPLUS PROPERTY

Mr. Oros requested a motion to declare a 2010 phone system scrap, including phones, software and hardware. Mr. Preston made a motion to approve the items as scrap, Mr. Innocenzi seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Bates Yes
Mr. Preston Yes
Mr. Ibold Yes
Mr. Innocenzi Yes

COMMISSIONER'S TIME

Mr. Oros previously discussed mineral rights pertaining to the Ohio EPA grant for Veterans Legacy Woods. Mr. Preston stated he likes the quarterly presentations by Paul Pira and he asks that Ms. Pae present financials going forward as well as share with the board her plans to modernize the accounting system and reporting for the park district.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Oros requested a motion to go into executive session for matters related to compensation of public employees with Christine Ward and Jennifer Pae.

Mr. Preston made a motion to enter into executive session. Mr. Innocenzi seconded the motion and after roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved:

Mr. Preston Yes
Mr. Ibold Yes
Mr. Innocenzi Yes
Mr. Bates Yes

The Board entered Executive Session at 9:31 a.m. The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:55 a.m.

No items were brought forward.

The next board meeting will be Monday, December 20, 2021 at 8:30am at the Meyer Center, Big Creek Park. Mr. Oros proposed future board meetings will be scheduled for the third Monday of the month.

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. Preston Yes
Mr. Ibold Yes
Mr. Innocenzi Yes
Mr. Bates Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 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