

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT BOARD
OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 17, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held April 17, 2023, 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 Ray Guarino and Les LaGatta 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
Matthew McCue, Deputy Director	
Dawn Sweeney, Fiscal Manager	
Christine Ward, HR Manager	
Chief Dennis Sloan	
Paul Pira, Park Biologist	
Sandy Ward, Marketing Manager	
Lucas Beamer, Interim IT 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. LaGatta	Yes
Ms. Carnabuci	Yes
Mr. Guarino	Yes

APPROVE OR AMEND MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Oros asked for a motion to approve last month's meeting minutes. Mr. Guarino made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 20, 2023, Ms. Carnabuci seconded the motion. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT – MARCH FINANCE

Mr. Oros asked if there were any questions regarding March's statement. Ms. Sweeney stated the ending balance of the General Fund as of March 31, 2023 was \$4,049,536 The K9 Fund was at 0 balance. The Capital Land Improvement Fund balance ended at \$2,875,010 with the Capital Reserve Fund ending balance of \$89,190 No questions were asked.

PRESENTATION OF PAYMENT REPORT – MARCH FINANCE

Mr. Oros asked if there were any questions regarding March's paid bills. Mr. Bates asked about the Brown & Ferris Industries entry which is also known as Republic Trash handling trash removal at various parks. Mr. Bates also asked about Axon Enterprises. Chief Sloan stated it was a one-time purchase which included tasers, charging station, batteries used by the Ranger Department for about 10 - 15 years.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. 4-2023 – Park Ranger Denise Weisbarth: Chief Dennis Sloan read the resolution sharing the long and distinguished career Ranger Weisbarth, and her partner K9 Sniper, had with the Geauga Park District serving more than 20 years. Mr. Oros stated Ranger Weisbarth had a long history with the organization and wished her the best in the future. Ranger Weisbarth and her K9 partner were not able to attend.

Mr. Bates made a motion to approve the resolution recognizing Ranger Weisbarth’s service, Mr. Guarino seconded the motion. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

Resolution No. 5-2023 – Close K9 Fund: Mr. Oros asked for Resolution No. 5-2023 to be approved. This Resolution closes the K9 Fund (2902) originally formed as Resolution No. 10-16 on April 12, 2016 to care for and equip the Ranger K9 unit. This fund is being closed as the Ranger and K9 have retired from the Geauga Park District. Mr. Bates asked if there were any other arrangements to have another K9. Chief Sloan said nothing had been discussed, but it didn’t appear there was much interest at this time.

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

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

Appointment of Fiscal Officer & Treasurer: Mr. Oros asked for the appointment of Ms. Dawn Sweeney to Fiscal Officer & Treasurer of the Geauga Park District. Ms. Sweeney has been a member of the Finance Department since 2013 and appointed Interim Fiscal Officer & Treasurer on October 17, 2022, and has already been handling the day-to-day finances within the District. Ms. Sweeney has completed the Certified Public Investment Management (CPIM) training provided by Ohio Treasurer Robert Sprague and is working on training requirements of the Auditor of the State Fiscal Integrity Act (FIA). Ms. Sweeney is also a member of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).

Mr. Oros asked to appoint Ms. Sweeney as the Fiscal Officer & Treasurer to the Park District. Mr. Bates made a motion to approve Ms. Sweeney’s appointment; Mr. Guarino seconded the motion. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

SURPLUS PROPERTY

Mr. Oros requested a motion to approve scrap and surplus property. The Park District is sending to auction (3) 2014 Ford Explorers used by the Rangers and scrapping old computer equipment. Mr. Bates made a motion to approve the remaining surplus. Mr. Guarino 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	Yes

COMMISSIONERS TIME

Mr. Oros shared the following staff and department updates from the month of March 2023:

- Lucas Beamer and Board Commissioner Jolene Carnabuci presented a video of the ‘Amphibians Awakening’ program hosted in March at The West Woods vernal pools. This video was also posted on the Geauga Park District social media online. Ms. Carnabuci encouraged everyone to attend and highly recommend participating.
- Total Solar eclipse April 8, 2024 – Naturalist Chris Mentrak hosted a 2-minute video about the eclipse which is posted online. The last eclipse was in 1805 with the next one in 420 years. Around 2pm there will be a partial eclipse but at 3:15pm there will be 3 ½ minutes with total darkness. Not everyone in the U.S. can see the full eclipse but Geauga County is one of a few areas for prime viewing. Geauga Park District is working with the Geauga Fairgrounds to view it as well at their location.
- Tree planting prep Land Management Steward Jen Safik stated North, South & West Operations teams assisted with planting T posts for the upcoming Earth Day at Veterans Legacy Woods. The Operations Teams also helped set up fencing as protection. Mr. Oros thanked everyone for their hard work in getting everything ready and working as a team to make this happen.
- Veterans Legacy Tribute Lodge is now open for public reservations.
- Observatory Park hosted 16 programs with a total of 387 patrons attending
- The Naturalists hosted 102 programs serving 2,751 patrons
- Saps a Risin’ in March had 3 programs (1 with a snowstorm) with 1,030 attendees
- Maple Sugaring School Programs hosted 9 classes with 133 attending
- In March, the Naturalists attended a training program at Metzenbaum Center to learn more about programing for people with developmental disabilities.

Mr. LaGatta shared that as a new Board Commissioner, he thinks the work mentioned above is fabulous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Oros stated there were no items to be brought forward to executive session.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT BOARD MEETING: Mr. Oros announced the next meeting is Monday, May 15, 2023 at 8:30am.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 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