

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT BOARD
OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 21, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held February 21, 2023, at the Meyer Center, Big Creek Park. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. Commissioners Howard Bates, Ray Guarino, Jolene Carnabuci, Frank Stein 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	
Dawn Sweeney, Fiscal Manager	
Christine Ward, HR Manager	
Dennis Sloan, Chief Ranger	
Sheryl Hatridge, Administrative Service Manager	
Matthew McCue, Deputy Director	
Paul Pira, Park Biologist	
Sandy Ward, Marketing Manager	

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM ITEMS

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

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

APPROVE OR AMEND MEETING MINUTES

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

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

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT – FINANCE

Mr. Oros asked if there were any questions regarding January’s statement. No questions were asked.

PRESENTATION OF PAYMENT REPORT – FINANCE

Mr. Oros asked there were any questions regarding January’s paid bills. No questions were asked.

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 1-2023 – 2023 REVISED BUDGET RESOLUTION

Mr. Oros asked Ms. Dawn Sweeney to give a summary of changes to appropriations. Ms. Sweeney stated the budget was reduced in land improvement by \$1,405,000 by removing The West Woods bridge project and reduced the budget for Veterans Legacy Woods Phase II and reduced the land acquisition fund. Ms. Sweeney stated the budget had also been reduced regarding engineering, architectural services and by reducing all-district legal expenses and by removing a \$5,000 unpaid claim for reserves. The K9 unit budget was reduced by \$206. Ms. Sweeney shared that the all over reduction in land improvement was \$1,405,000 with all districts reduced \$60,010 Ms. Sweeney also shared the Park District is requesting \$1,070,802.45 to be transferred from general fund to land improvement fund for projects. Mr. Oros complimented Ms. Sweeney for her work with the county

auditors and her dedication working to keep the park finances organized. No questions asked by the commissioners.

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2 – 2023 – 2023 TRANSFER REQUEST

Mr. Oros requested a motion to transfer \$1,070,802.45 funds from the General Fund to the Land Improvement Fund. Mr. LaGatta made a motion to approve the transfer request, Mr. Guarino seconded the motion. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Planning & Operations Update: Mr. Oros moved straight to 2023 Statement of Qualifications

2023 Statement of Qualifications – Prequalified List: Mr. Oros and Mr. McCue stated this list of pre-qualified architects, design firms, civil, mechanical or electrical engineering survey and geo-technical investigation for 2023 was advertised to the public in 2022. These companies submitted their information to the Park District should their services be needed in the future. Mr. Guarino asked if all vendors on the list were qualified. Mr. McCue stated these are the companies that submitted should we need people/companies with these skills.

Strategic Planning Overview: Mr. Oros stated the strategic plan for the Park District covers the next 5 years focusing on 2025 and beyond and will help guide the development of goals and objectives to meet the Park District mission. Mr. Oros asked if any of the commissioners had any questions. None were asked at this time.

2023 Aggregate Stone Materials Bid Award

Mr. Oros requested a motion to award the bid to ARMS Trucking after receiving 2 bids. Mr. Guarino made a motion, Mr. Stein seconded the motion. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

2023 Swine Creek Asphalt Improvements Bid Award

Mr. Oros asked for a motion to award the Swine Creek Asphalt Improvement bid. Mr. Bates asked for the award to be postponed and new specifications sent out. Mr. Guarino asked for clarification with Mr. Bates stating new specifications could save the park money so a new bid process should be started with new specifications.

Mr. Bates made a motion to not award the bid, revise bid specifications and a new process started, Mr. Guarino seconded the motion. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved to begin a new bid process for this project.

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

SURPLUS PROPERTY

Mr. Oros requested a motion to surplus equipment from Veterans Legacy Woods former kitchen. Mr. Guarino made a motion to approve the remaining surplus. Mr. LaGatta seconded the motion. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

COMMISSIONERS TIME

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

- Mr. Oros accepted a 3rd place award from OPRA Annual Convention for Veterans Legacy Woods Phase 1 (in the category \$1-\$2.5 million capitol improvements), 200 comparable organizations attended event.
- American Fishery Society Ohio Chapter – Mr. Paul Pira presented ‘Protecting Ohio’s native Ohio Brook Trout through stream restoration’ at the annual meeting in Columbus.
- Ohio EPA has officially approved Veterans Legacy Woods WRRSP Project management plan with our sponsor the City of Sandusky. This is a \$1.1 Million project funded by Ohio EPA for Brook Trout Stream Restoration with Mr. Pira. Congratulations to Mr. Pira for this award.
- Kent State Geauga greenhouse is growing trees, plants and wildflowers for GPD for Earth Day plant giveaway and the 1,000 Trees program with 3 days of tree planting at Veterans Legacy Woods. We’re grateful to Kent State for their hard work. Mr. Oros encourages people to check the Park District website for volunteer, video/photo opportunities and sponsorships. Mr. Andy Avram oversees volunteers.
- Mr. Oros stated the June 19 meeting will be moved to June 20 so please mark your calendars.

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, March 20, 2023 at 8:30am.

Mr. Guarino asked if the disaster at New Palestine, Ohio could impact Geauga County water. Mr. Oros shared that in the Ohio river watershed, Geauga is on the Lake Erie watershed and that Geauga water will not be impacted.

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.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 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