

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

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held January 17, 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. Bates called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Park District Employees	GUESTS
John Oros, Executive Director	Ms. Bridey Matheney, Legal Counsel
Matthew McCue, Deputy Director	Mr. John Bednarski, CPA
Dawn Sweeney, Fiscal Manager	Ms. Meka Moore, Nestle USA
Christine Ward, HR Manager	
Dennis Sloan, Chief Ranger	
Sheryl Hatridge, Administrative Service Manager	
Paul Pira, Park Biologist	
Lucas Beamer, IT	
Sandy Ward, Marketing Manager	

Mr. Oros introduced Mr. LaGatta and Mr. Stein as new members of the Board of Commissions for the Parks. Mr. Oros thanked former commissioners Mr. Preston and Mr. Innocenzi for their service to the board and community.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM ITEMS

Mr. Oros proposed moving the Commissioners Time and Executive Sessions to just after the Election of the New Board Members. Mr. Guarino made a motion to approve this switch in the agenda, Mr. Bates seconded the motion and 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

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Oros requested a motion to approve a president for 2023. Mr. Guarino nominated Mr. Bates; Ms. Carnabuci seconded the motion. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved for Mr. Howard Bates to serve as president for 2023.

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

Mr. Oros requested a motion to approve a vice-president for 2023. Mr. Bates nominated Mr. Guarino. Ms. Carnabuci seconded the motion. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved for Mr. Ray Guarino to serve as vice-president for 2023.

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

COMMISSIONERS TIME

Mr. Oros shared the following staff and department updates from the month of December 2022:

- 57 programs serving 1,721 patrons, among these programs was Winter Solstice on 12/21 which had approximately 600 attendees.
- For 2022 we hosted 3,472 facility reservations and 1,203 camping reservations
- 120,000 park visitors attended either a gatherings or event hosted at one of our park facilities.
- From Keith Faber, Ohio Auditor of State, we received an outstanding achievement certificate for ‘open and transparent government’ a 3-star rating (the highest being 4-star). Thank you to our staff for working with the auditors and state to receive that star rating.
- We are proposing a new name for the Brede Property as the Troy Wetlands. If there are no objections, we’ll move forward with that name. No objections were made.

PRESENTATION OF A NEW FORESTATION PROJECT

Mr. Paul Pira presented the reforestation project at Veterans Legacy Woods in collaboration with Nestle USA. Mr. Pira introduced Ms. Mika Moore from Nestle who organized, along with the group ‘One Tree Planted’ to help with the reforestation. One Tree Planted donated significant funds to the project for purchasing trees and supplies while Ms. Moore organized about 50 volunteers from Nestle to assist with the planting at Veterans Legacy Woods in November 2022. Mr. Pira wanted to make sure Nestle was thanked and recognized for their hard work. Mr. Oros presented Ms. Moore with a certificate of appreciation to Nestle USA for planting 135 trees at the park. Ms. Moore stated that Nestle volunteers had a great experience and learned from Mr. Pira and were happy to support this initiative.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Oros requested a motion to go into executive session to discuss the purchase of property and to consider employee employment compensation for public employees.

Mr. Guarino made a motion to go into executive session, Mr. Bates seconded the motion, after a roll-call voice vote the motion was approved.

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

The Board entered Executive Session at 8:53 a.m. and came out of Executive Session at 9:20 a.m.

Mr. Bates stated that no items were brought forward from the Executive Session.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Oros requested a motion to approve the December 12, 2022, regular board meeting minutes. Mr. Bates made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Mr. Guarino seconded the motion and 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

Mr. Oros presented financial statements from the month ending December. Mr. Oros introduced the new board members to Ms. Dawn Sweeney, the Fiscal Officer, who has been with the parks for 10 years. At the end of December 31, 2022 we had \$10,166,320 expenditures across all funds. All funds revenue \$7,951,211 with an ending cash balance carried over to this year of \$5,509,165 with appropriations of \$12 million given the known tax revenue.

No questions, comments or discussions were added regarding financial statements.

PRESENTATION OF DECEMBER 2022 PAYMENT REPORT

For the benefit of the 2 new board members, Mr. Oros explained we present the bills paid from the previous month.

No questions, comments or discussions were added for the month of December 2022 bills paid.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 1-2023 – 2023 REVISED BUDGET RESOLUTION

Mr. Oros requested a motion to discuss the 2023 Revised Budget Resolution. Mr. Bates made a motion to table the discussion to next month. Mr. Guarino asked for the motion to be tabled. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was tabled for discussion in February.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2 – 2023 – 2023 TRANSFER REQUEST

Mr. Oros and Ms. Sweeney requested this resolution be tabled to next month to discuss the 2023 Transfer Request, moving general funds to the land improvement fund until we approve appropriations. Mr. Bates made a motion to table the discussion to next month. Mr. Guarino seconded the motion to be tabled. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was tabled for discussion in February.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 3-2023 – FRANKLIN STREET CONNECTION ODNR GRANT

Mr. Oros requested a motion to discuss the Franklin Street connection ODNR grant. Mr. Oros stated the \$375,000 grant would be used towards the costs of the Holbrook Hollows Park expansion. Mr. LaGatta made a motion to approve the discussion. Mr. Guarino 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

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE TO BID 2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS

Mr. Oros requested a motion to discuss the bids for 2023 Capital Improvements projects. In order to maintain the schedules for construction of these 2023 improvement project, we must advertise for bids within the budgeted amounts. The 3 projects are Swine Creek parking lot asphalt improvements with a probable cost of \$275,000 with Holbrook Hollows Park expansion project of \$840,000 and Big Creek Park Meyer Center roofing project at \$130,000. Any projects over \$50,000 would be reviewed by the board, but right now we are requesting to bid them. Mr. Guarino made a motion to approve the discussion. Mr. LaGatta seconded the motion. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE TO BID AGGREGATE STONE MATERIALS

Mr. Oros requested a motion to discuss advertising for a bit on aggregate stone materials for Phase II at Veterans Legacy Woods for the trails. This will exceed \$50,000 and must be presented to the board therefore requesting permission to send out for bid. Mr. Guarino made a motion to approve the discussion. Mr. LaGatta seconded the motion. After a roll-call voice vote, the motion was approved.

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

SURPLUS PROPERTY

Mr. Oros requested a motion to discuss surplus property. Mr. Guarino asked that discussion of the equipment from Veterans Legacy Woods be tabled for further discussion until next month. Other items on the list would be considered surplus. Mr. Guarino made a motion to approve the remaining surplus. Mr. Bates 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

Mr. Oros announced the next meeting is Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 8:30am.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bates made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Guarino 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 10:41 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