

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

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held July 17, 2023, at the Meyer Center, Big Creek Park. The meeting was called to order at 8:32 a.m. Commissioners Howard Bates, Frank Stein Ray Guarino and Les LaGatta were present. Jolene Carnabuci was absent.

Mr. Bates 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, Ranger	
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. Bates	Yes
Mr. Guarino	Yes
Mr. Stein	Yes
Ms. Carnabuci	Absent
Mr. LaGatta	Yes

APPROVE OR AMEND MEETING MINUTES

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

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

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT – JUNE FINANCE

Ms. Sweeney stated that the ending fund balance of the General Fund was \$3,061,464. The Land Improvement Fund had an ending fund balance of \$2,758,379. Ms. Sweeney shared that all funds combined had an ending balance of \$5,819,843. Mr. Oros asked if there were any questions about the financial statement. No questions were asked.

PRESENTATION OF PAYMENT REPORT – JUNE FINANCE

Mr. Oros asked if there were any questions about the payments made in June. Mr. Guarino asked what the various charges from the Illuminating Company were. Ms. Sweeney stated that those were the electricity expenses for the lodges. No further questions were asked.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Planning Update

Mr. McCue shared updates regarding current ongoing capital projects. Mr. McCue stated that everything has been awarded, under contract and has been started or scheduled to start except for the Veteran’s Legacy Woods project. Mr. McCue said that the asphalt repairs were finished on Friday at Observatory Park. Mr. McCue detailed that the Park District Construction Crew was working on getting an access drive and parking area started at Troy Wetlands. Mr. McCue said that the Park District crew also finished the mountain bike trailhead. Mr. McCue shared that Operations Manager, Mr. Joe Slepko finished seasonal water well testing. The Operations team has been focused on mowing and maintaining the reservations, grounds, and trails, with brush-hogging beginning on the Maple Highlands Trail. Mr. McCue shared that the Planning Department completed three Open- House Meetings in accordance with the 2025 Strategic Plan. Mr. McCue stated that there will be an online survey available from the 24th of July till the 4th of August via QR code. Mr. McCue detailed that ODNR inspected Walter C. Best and Beartown Lakes dams, with reports available later this year. Mr. Oros asked if there were any questions. No questions were asked.

COMMISSIONERS TIME

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

- The Marketing Department is currently running a dual-digital advertising campaigns to reach Geauga County residents featuring static ads by the in-house graphic designer, Vicky Liptak as well as 15-second video spots filmed within our parks. Fox 8 is managing the campaign to reach residents above 18, and Company 119 is handling residents under 18 and families. Ms. Sandy Ward presented the three newest youth-centric videos and accompanying static ads followed by their analytics from June 13 – July 13.
- Between Memorial Day weekend and the end of June, Ropes served 358 climbers and Boats served 742 floaters.
- Summer camps are well underway and are almost filled through summer’s end.
- Our first-ever Summer Solstice Day drew folks to six programs staggered from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm.
- Movie Night showing The Force Awakens drew 150.
- The Amphitheater program showcasing music by the Swamp Rattlers drew 145.
- The Naturalist Department held a total of 98 programs serving 1,839 patrons.

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, August 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.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 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