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3 October 2018

Ms. Danielle Gosselin
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Docket No. A B 290
(Sub - No. 394 X)
Norfolk Southern Railway Company
Abandonment Exemption in Aurora, Portage
County, Ohio

Ms. Gosselin:

Please be advised that I am the President of The Geauga Lake Improvement Association; I also enjoy the position of being a Trustee. The GLIA (as it is affectionately known) is a park that occupies approximately Two (2) Acres at Geauga Lake. Our Park is associated with many homes in what is known as the Geauga Lake Sub Division located on the other side of Ohio State Route 43. GLIA was created by the owners of the Sub Division in 1925 that allowed owners of property in the Geauga Lake Sub Division to access the Park for fishing, swimming, boating, etc. I enclose a brief description of our Facilities for your review.

During my tenure on the Board, and as I met with members, I learned that our little park has held an important place in Geauga Lake, Aurora, and National history. Families spent summers residing at Cottages. Folks from Cleveland and the vicinity took the Interurban to Geauga Lake to harvest ice from its crystal clear waters (the water is clear and the fishing is GREAT). The Interurban continued on into Aurora.

I also was told by the child of a long time resident that there was a relationship of the area in and around Geauga Lake and The Historical Underground Railroad (There appears to be articles that substantiate a relationship - I have to conduct more research).

It is my opinion that there are enough Power Rights of Way throughout this area. There are a plethora of Power Lines following Public highways throughout the area. These Rights of Way are more than adequate to accommodate Public (and private) needs; by private, I mean Cable Companies). Just the other day, I was on a public road and it was necessary to stop – a Person was holding up a “Stop Sign” because a Cable Company was stringing cable on a Public Transmission Line – my opinion).

The land in question can be used to connect various areas for recreational use/appreciation and, to re-connect us with our history.

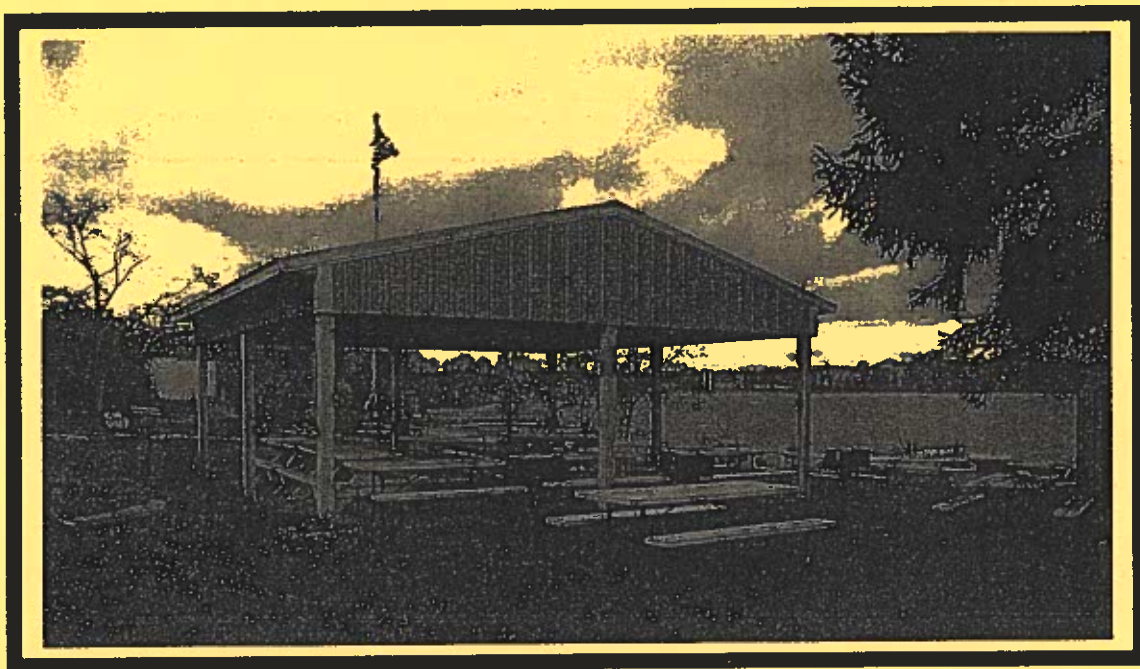
I would like the opportunity to supplement this letter with photographs and additional thoughts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael L. Thal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Thal".

Michael L. Thal

President, Geauga Lake Improvement Association



Attention: Geauga Lake Home Owners

GLIA

May Membership Meeting

Thursday – May 22

6:30 pm

Meeting will be held in Pavilion at the Lake

Pay your membership fee and receive 2014 key to locked gate
Locks will be changed this day –so your 2013 key will no longer work.

For over 100 years, homeowners in the Geauga Lake Neighborhood, which includes those living on East Blvd., Georgia, Moneta, Florida, Lake, Maryland, Orchard, Bryce, California, Lloyd, Illinois, Dora Lane, Bank St., Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania in addition to "The Crossings" have owned approximately 2.0 acres of land on the Southwest end of Geauga Lake, across from the VFW, which is enclosed by a fence with a gated entrance to insure exclusive membership. This property is deeded and part of the neighborhood, but in order to use the facilities, a membership fee must be paid yearly. Membership dues are used for property taxes, insurance, electric bill, trash removal, cost of port o potty and property maintenance. The care of the property has been overseen by a group of Trustees who volunteer their time. This membership provides opportunities for picnicking, volley ball, horse shoes, fire pits, barbeque grills, a covered pavilion, play ground equipment, beach/swimming, boating rights, some of best fishing in State of Ohio (fish species include, largemouth bass, crappie, perch, catfish and bluegill). Geauga Lake is one of only three glacier lakes in NE Ohio and is fed by numerous springs which provides for a clean and safe recreation environment. Homeowners, who become members, should view this park as an extension of their backyards, using it for an afternoon of relaxation, private playground for member's children and a place to have family events.

Membership fee is \$60.00 per household for 12 months
\$35.00 for senior households

If you cannot attend membership meeting or have additional questions contact: Mike – 330-995-4067

~~Don – 330-557-6057~~