

Canfield, Ohio  
August 18, 2008

The Board of Park Commissioners of Mill Creek MetroParks met in Regular Session on Monday, August 18, 2008, at 6:00 p.m., with members M. Virginia Dailey, Carl Nunziato, and Rick Shale present.

Dr. Shale moved the Minutes of the Meeting of July 21, 2008, be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nunziato and passed.

Dave Christy presented the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Nunziato moved, the funds having been certified as on hand and duly appropriated, that disbursements #44337 through #44657 be approved.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Shale, the vote taken resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Dailey, Nunziato, Shale  
Voting Nay: None

Tom Bresko presented a request from Hearts for a Safe Harbor for a 5K run on August 23, 2009. After discussion, Mr. Nunziato motioned that the event be approved.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Shale and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Dailey, Nunziato, Shale  
Voting Nay: None

Justin Rogers, Planning Manager, presented the Deibel Management Agreement and Deed of Conservation Easement. He explained that a 25-acre parcel of land in Beaver Twp., directly along Mill Creek, would be co-owned with Mahoning County Soil & Water Conservation District. Dr. Shale motioned that the Agreement and Easement be approved.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Nunziato and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Dailey, Nunziato, Shale  
Voting Nay: None

Dr. Shale thanked everyone who helped to organize the Community Day and Concert in Smith Township near Sebring. He had attended the event and heard many positive comments. It was his impression that the Smith Township Trustees who co sponsored the event were very happy with the outcome. Carl Nunziato reminded the group of the importance of outreach and involvement with the entire Mahoning County community with initiatives such as this event.

Ginny Dailey thanked everyone who worked on the Volunteer Picnic. She and the other Commissioners commented that the change in location and new format for the picnic was very nice and it seemed that the volunteers who attended agreed.

Staff Report - Executive Director, Dave Imbrogno

¥ Mr. Imbrogno welcome back Horticulture Director Keith Kaiser from several weeks of leave.

¥ He then summarized the Community Day and Concert held in Smith Township at the old Maple Ridge School site in collaboration with the Smith Township Trustees. The goal of the event was to begin to show a programmatic presence in those parts of the county where the MetroParks does not have a physical presence. Comments from those who attended indicated that great progress was made in acknowledging the citizen's concern that they are far from most MetroParks properties and communicating to them that we will come to them with events like these. Over 100 people attended the event. Mr. Imbrogno thanked the Recreation Department for coming out in full force with nature walks, a naturalist's table, and other activities. He also thanked the Operations Departments for set up, generator power and more. Judge Belinky, the Executive Director, and Commissioner Shale also attended the event. Dr. Shale suggested that the next event might be an alumni "reunion" of the thousands of former students of the school, which opened in 1912.

¥ Mr. Imbrogno reported that he had lunch with Mayor John Smith of Sebring. He told the Mayor about the Smith Township event and discussed other possible collaborations with Sebring and other nearby communities. Dr. Shale thanked Mr. Imbrogno for making these contacts and building bridges to better connect us with that part of the county.

¥ Mr. Nunziato asked if there was to be any follow up to our visit to Copeland Oaks to advise them on construction of their five mile Cross Country Trail. Mr. Imbrogno said that when the trail nears completion we will have our naturalists walk the site to advise on opportunities for interpretation and outdoor education. Also, the facility, with large open spaces, a gazebo, lake, electric etc, is a prime location for future outreach events. They are also very interested in working with us on such an event.

¥ Mr. Imbrogno reported that approximately 140 attended the employee picnic. The location was changed this year to the Wick Recreation Area with all recreational facilities available for staff use. Also, for the first time, the families of employees were included. The food was excellent. The activities were very popular. Justin Rogers, from the Employee Association Picnic Committee, thanked the Association members, officers and other staff who helped organize the event.

¥ Mr. Imbrogno reported that, per the Golf Course Land Management Plan recently reviewed by the staff and Commissioners, work has begun on tree management. Tree profiles are being lifted

where needed, hazard trees are being removed, and canopies are being thinned for better turf growth and better play. This work will be scheduled as time allows and will be ongoing. All tree work will be done with great sensitivity to the natural environment of the course. Areas will be naturalized, wildflower plantings added and more trees will be planted than removed.

¥ Ms. Dailey said that the golf course looked better than ever. However, all Commissioners noted that numbers seem to be down. In the absence of Golf Director, Dennis Miller, there was speculation about causes such as rainy weather, competition, and a possible decline at many area courses. It was also noted that the numbers were down compared to last year but up over the year prior to that. Mr. Imbrogno said that an analysis of golf course statistics and performance will be put on the agenda of the next Board meeting.

¥ Recreation Director Tom Bresko reported that preparations have begun for Halloween at the Judge Morley Pavilion and Christmas at the Mill, two of our largest events. He thanked the Ford Nature Center staff for their extraordinary efforts to maintain programming during this trying period after the loss of their colleague Mindy Henning.

¥ Horticulture Director, Keith Kaiser reported that the Garden Party was very successful. It once more was an excellent fundraiser for the Gardens. Artist Gary Bukovnik unveiled a painting he donated to the Gardens to celebrate their 50th anniversary. Note cards and posters of the painting are available. The grand finale of the night was a fireworks display around the Garden Gazebo. No plants were burned.

¥ An update on the Emerald Ash Borer brought up the question of whether to plan some of the new varieties of disease resistant American Elm. The Horticulture Director said we could do that. The Executive Director suggested that we look into being a site for reintroduction of the American Elm, and/or the emerging strains of blight resistant American Chestnut.

¥ Planning & Operations Director Steve Avery gave an update on the renovation of the Wick Recreation Area tennis courts. The surfacing material has been ordered, and should arrive in late September or early October. Also installation of the material using certified contractors has been arranged for October.

¥ Mr. Avery also reported that the road at Calvary Run had been closed to replace the culvert. The construction went quickly and without problems. Work has begun on restoring the stream and results should be evident soon. Also, Slippery Rock Bridge was closed today for about 30 days to do deck work. Stone work, slopes, and curbing were all accomplished and the project is on time.

Ms. Dailey announced that the next Regular Board Meeting has been scheduled for

Monday,  
September 15, 2008, 6 p.m. at the MetroParks Farm, Classroom A.

The Board received the following public comments:

¥ Dr. McConnell mentioned celiac disease, an allergy to wheat, is becoming very common and he suggested that we keep that in mind when we give out a gift Lantermen's Mill flour as we did at the Volunteer Picnic. Tom Bresko said that they had already been experimenting with grains that produced an alternative to wheat flour such as spelt flour.

¥ Dr. McConnell commented on the recent discussion about whether or not to expand the board to five members. He said that, at one time, he would have been in agreement with that idea. However, he has changed his mind. He said that the board is functioning beautifully and no change should be made.

At the end of the public comment session, the Board thanked the public for their comment.

Dr. Shale moved the Board meet in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate issues.

For Executive Session: Dailey, Nunziato, Shale  
Against Executive Session: None

The motion was seconded by Mr. Nunziato and passed, and the Board met in Executive Session at 6:44 p.m.

The Board returned from the Executive Session at 8:02 p.m. Upon completion of the Executive Session, the Board adjourned its meeting.