

**Minutes of the February 4, 2017 meeting of the Development Committee, a Mill Creek MetroParks Board Advisory Committee.** (held Saturday at 9 a.m. at Bears Den Cabin)

In attendance: Murray Davis, Paul Hagman, Richard Scarsella, Robert Toman, Janet Yaniglos, and interim staff support from Aaron Young. One community observer. Absent: Andy Detesco, Angelo Martino Sr.

This being the first official meeting of the Committee, members introduced themselves and explained their knowledge and interest in Mill Creek MetroParks. It was agreed that an overview of both the MetroParks funding and of the Friends organization would be a useful orientation, with an overview of the MCMP Foundation to be provided at the next meeting.

Aaron Young described MCMP funding as 72% from the county levy, 25-26% from a variety of utilization fees, and the balance from endowments of the Foundation or Friends and from state and federal funds. He briefly discussed the Eastgate Regional Council of Governments, an important link to federal and state funding (examples of Eastgate-funded projects are bikeway funding and rehabilitation of two stone-arch bridges); plans are being developed by park staff for submission for the 2020-2021 funding cycle. Eastgate, the Clean Ohio Fund, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources are the primary sources of public monies for MCMP.

Paul Hagman, Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens president, briefly described the organization's mission of fundraising and advocacy for the Gardens and credited its success to its membership, volunteers and fundraising since 1988. It is governed by a 25-member volunteer board. He explained that the discussions underway between the MCMP Foundation and Friends are exploring how the Friends' active engagement of members and volunteers in advocacy and fundraising might be taken to a metroparks-wide level, without diminishing the benefit to the Gardens that Friends now represents. These discussions and potential changes will be brought to the public's attention over the next months.

Richard Scarsella asked about the status of hiring a park development director, and also about the extent of donations to the MetroParks. Aaron Young stated that recruitment was underway currently, with both Paul Hagman and Andy Detesco on the interview committee, and that, once hired, the new director would become the staff to this advisory committee. He explained that donations to MCMP came from the Friends, the Foundation and from contributions directly made to the MetroParks itself, with this latter amount at under \$10,000 in any fiscal year. Aaron Young also explained that he is currently compiling information on recent years' donations of land, money and equipment for Judge Rusu's review.

The committee selected a chairperson and secretary, with Murray Davis unanimously approved as Chair (Scarsella moved/Toman seconded) and Janet Yaniglos as Secretary (Scarsella/Toman). In determining a calendar for future meeting dates, it was agreed that the next meeting date be delayed in order to possibly include the new development director; April 3 was selected. The next meeting will include an introduction of the new director or update on the recruitment; Aaron Young will provide information on Development Committees and processes in other parks. An update on the Foundation and on the Foundation-Friends efforts will also be provided. Other items for the Agenda can be emailed to the Chair. The meeting was adjourned at 11am. Respectfully submitted, Janet Yaniglos, Secretary