

# Meeting Minutes

Mill Creek MetroParks Standing Committee on Development

Date: December 7, 2018 3PM

Prepared by: Maureen Rothrauff, *Secretary*

## I. Call to Order (Murray Davis, Chairman)

- a. Welcome, introductions, call to order and Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Members Present
  - Murray Davis, Chairman
  - Robert Toman, Committee Member
  - Maureen Rothrauff, Committee Member
  - James (Ron) Della Penna, Committee Member
  - Susan Nieves, Committee Member
  - Chris Litton, Director of Development, Mill Creek MetroParks Representative

## II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. June 22, 2018, unanimously approved

## III. Discussion of Development Committee Goals for 2019

- a. The three proposed goals are...

1. Continue to meet quarterly.
2. Support the Development Director in his pursuit to reach the MetroParks' annual goal.
3. Suggest events that would foster stewardship between the MetroParks and the community in order to cultivate future gifts.

Susan reads the goals aloud to the committee and they are unanimously approved.

## IV. Election of Committee Chairperson

- a. Election of Susan Nieves as Chairperson  
Susan Nieves was nominated and unanimously elected as Chairperson for the Mill Creek MetroParks Standing Committee on Development for 2019.

## V. MetroParks Development Director Report (Chris Litton)

- a. Development Plan  
In July, the MetroParks Board of Commissioners authorized the Development Director and the Executive Director to produce a development plan of action for 2018. Director Litton offered insight into the preliminary draft of the 2018 Development Plan as well as plans for 2019.

### Endowment Drive:

Currently, the MetroParks has collected \$828,000 in endowment funds towards the perpetual care of the park.

### Capital Campaign:

Development Director Litton announces that "Giving Tuesday," was fantastic. Private donations totaled \$14,000 in a 24-hour period to benefit the Ford Nature Center. One of the donations was \$5,000. To date, the MetroParks have raised \$970,000 of the \$3 million needed to completely renovate the Ford Nature Center.

In addition, the Beeghly Family has made a generous donation to Fellows Riverside Gardens. The Bikeway has received a private \$100,000 donation for improvements. The Donald Ross Foundation has made a donation of \$7,000 to the golf course. And the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation and Home Savings have contributed to the MetroParks Dek Hockey project, which is now completed and has recently received an award.

At the end of Development Director Litton's report, Bob Toman commends him, "I just want to congratulate you for your help with the development of the MetroParks and your stewardship."

## **VI. New Business**

### **a. Murray Davis gives a brief presentation about ecotourism**

Murray Davis proposes that the MetroParks install LED fountains at Lake Glacier. The fountains would be beneficial to the lake because they would promote aeration. They would also draw people to the MetroParks because they are also a lights and sounds attraction. He has already spoken to a representative from PondScape, who says the project is possible. Murray estimates that each fountain would cost \$10,000 and there should be 77 fountains. Everyone on the committee liked the idea. Development Director Litton plans to speak to the MetroParks' Marketing Committee about the proposal.

### **b. Next Meeting**

This committee plans to meet on March 8, 2019 at 2PM at the Ford Nature Center, if construction allows.

## **VII. Old Business**

a. Murray Davis says that he had reached out the Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens' leadership to invite them to this committee meeting but they did not attend.

b. Murray Davis recommends that we remove committee members who have poor attendance of these meetings and seek to replace them with reliable members.

## **VIII. Adjournment**



