

Meeting Minutes (Draft)

Natural Resources Citizen Advisory Committee

Thursday July 28th, 2022 | 4:00 PM

Outdoor Meeting at Chestnut Hill

Pavilion

Prepared by Nick Derico, *Natural Resources Manager*



Committee Members in Attendance

Nick Derico ☒ | Joshua Noble ☒ | Elizabeth Martin ☐ | Sean Baran ☒ | Peter Milliken ☒ | Sara Scudier ☒ | John Zimmerman ☐ | Ronald Kichton ☒ | Gary Davenport ☒ | Joshua Emanuelson ☐ |

Public Attendees:

Jeff Harvey, MCMP Park Commissioner	
Chris Cerenelli (WFMJ)	



I. Call to Order – 4:05 PM

Old Business

- * **Approval of Previous Meeting’s Minutes**
Nick Derico provided the meeting minutes from the previous meeting (5.19.22), members reviewed the minutes and offered no revisions or corrections. Gary Davenport motioned to approve the meeting minutes as presented, the motion was seconded by Sara Scudier.
- * **Roll Call**
Voting Aye – Scudier, Derico, Baran, Milliken, Davenport, Noble, Kichton
Voting Nay - None

II. **New Business**

Review of On-Going 2022 Natural Resources Projects

Springfield Forest Improvements Updates

1. Derico shared the current status of the on-going improvements at the newly acquired Springfield Forest including a new fishing

pier, parking area, improved access drive, and ~2.5 miles of new trails.

Goose Management

1. Derico shared the conclusion of the 2022 Goose Management Program throughout the MetroParks including goose harassment, nest monitoring, and egg addling and provided the group a copy of the final report of egg addling and nest monitoring activities by USDA Wildlife Services.

* Noble asked what the coyote population was throughout the MetroParks system and if they were having noticeable impacts on other species, Derico replied that yes coyotes are present at most (if not all) MCMP facilities, but no disproportional negative impacts have been documented.

Meso-Predator Management - MCWS

1. Derico shared the conclusion of the 2022 Meso-predator Management Program at the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary and provided the group with a copy of the final report from USDA Wildlife Services.

* Milliken questioned whether or not relocation was an option for Meso-predator management, Derico replied that no it is not considered an option due to raccoons being considered a rabies vector and that the relocation of raccoons would not be permitted by ODNR.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

1. Derico shared an update on hemlock woolly adelgid in the Park including increased treatment zones for 2022 (Bears Den and Cascade Run).

2022 Tree Plantings

1. Derico Shared the planting plan for the upcoming tree planting at Collier Preserve in partnership with YSU Legacy Forests Committee to include the planting of 1400 trees in the fall of 2022.

* Davenport asked about the species choice for the planting and if American Beech was considered, Derico replied that due to the unknown circumstances surrounding Beech Leaf Disease that American Beech was not included in this planting effort.

* Scudier asked about the status of the original elm trees planted at the Collier Preserve by the Men's Garden Club, Derico replied that they are doing well.

OuterSpatial App Development

1. Derico shared an update on the development of a new digital application for the MetroParks that will be based on the OuterSpatial platform which will provide park users with hand held navigation of the MetroParks including trails, facilities, parking areas, restrooms, etc.

* Milliken first questioned the closure of the West Gorge Trail and then the potential for the MetroParks to acquire the adjacent property to expand trail opportunities.

Open Discussion

- * Davenport conveyed some concern about the aeration system at Lily Pond and the possible need for maintenance, Derico shared that the system was due for maintenance and that it was completed just a few days prior.
- * Milliken introduced the topic of deer management and asked if the MetroParks knew the current population levels of white-tailed deer throughout the MetroParks, Derico shared that based upon historical data and current observations that the overall population appears to high, and there is an on-going effort to better understand the size and health of the deer herd throughout the MetroParks system. The group continued the discussion surrounding deer management, wildlife habituation, and wildlife education.
- * Baran questioned the status of law enforcement concerning the banned practice of balloon launches throughout the MetroParks, citing a recent incident at Bears Den Cabin where he discovered numerous balloons in the ravine below.
- * Baran also questioned the status of West Drive, stating it was difficult and unsafe to traverse for bicyclists, Derico replied that West Drive was scheduled for repaving and should be completed in 2022.
- * Noble refreshed the discussion surrounding renewable energy and suggested the Committee resume these discussions in future meetings.
- * Kichton introduced the idea of a 2022 committee project similar to the group clean-ups completed in years past.

Public Comments

III. None

Committee Questions/Comments.

IV.

None

Date of Next Meeting

V. TBD

VI. **Adjournment** – 5:28 PM

DRAFT