

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF MILL CREEK
METROPARKS HELD MONDAY, JULY 10, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of Mill Creek MetroParks was held on Monday, July 10, 2023.

Lee read the following statement:

Before we stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, I am asking for a moment of reflection and respect. As the Park staff, we are deeply saddened by the recent deaths of four individuals. We mourn these tragic losses. Our deepest sympathies go out to the victims, their families, and friends. We commend the actions and courage of the rescue workers, volunteers, and police. As we stand, I would like to thank you for your consideration in this matter.

The meeting opened at 6:00 p.m., with recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance.

Lee Frey, Board President welcomed staff and guests.

Roll Call was as follows:

Germaine Bennett;	Present
Lee Frey;	Present
Tom Frost,	Present
Jeff Harvey;	Present
Paul Olivier;	Present

The Board was presented with the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 12, 2023. Lee Frey accepted the minutes into the record as written.

Kevin Smith, Finance Director/Treasurer presented the Department Report for Finance and requested that disbursements #89974 - #90264 for a total of \$1,476,767.55 be approved. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Finance Director, the funds having been certified as on hand and duly appropriated, that disbursements #89974 - #90264 for a total of \$1,476,767.55. The motion was seconded by Tom Frost after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye:	Bennett, Frey, Frost, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay:	None

Kevin Smith, Finance Director/Treasurer requested to increase appropriations to account 100-1100-5007 Golf Operations by \$5,500.00. This was the amount received from our insurance provider for the replacement of a golf cart. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Finance Director, to increase appropriations to account 100-1100-5007 Golf Operations by \$5,500.00. The motion was seconded by Germaine Bennett after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye:	Bennett, Frey, Frost, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay:	None

Nick Morchak, Staff Accountant presented the quarterly credit card report for the second quarter of 2023. No Board action was needed.

Aaron Young shared that The Ford Nature Center (FNC) has won the Community Revitalization Award from the Mahoning Valley Historical Society. The plaque and a commendation by Representative Lauren McNally was available for all to see.

Randy Campana, Chief of Police presented MetroParks Police Policy updates for approval. The updates are required to maintain Ohio Standards for Law Enforcement Accreditation. Updates are required for approval even if it is a minor grammatical change. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Chief of Police,

to approve the MetroParks Police Policies as presented. The motion was seconded by Tom Frost after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Frey, Frost, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay: None

Chris Litton, Development Director presented Resolution R-23-07 Acknowledgment of Grants, Donations or Trusts for the period of April 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023, at a total of \$268,697.84 for approval. Lee Frey moved at the request of the Director of Development that Resolution R-23-07 Acknowledgment of Grants, Donations or Trusts for the period of April 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023, at a total of \$268,697.84 be approved. The motion was seconded by Jeff Harvey, after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Frey, Frost, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay: None

Resolution R-23-07

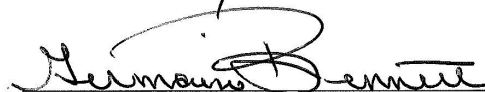
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GRANTS, DONATIONS, OR TRUSTS

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Park Commissioners of Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District that we deem it necessary and in the best public interest to acknowledge the grants, donations or trusts submitted to the Park District for the period of April 1, 2023, through June 30, 2023 as detailed on the summary marked Exhibit A, and authorize legal counsel to make application to the Probate Court pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 1545.11 for approval and to secure Journal Entry of the Probate Court.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, We, the Board of Park Commissioners hereunto set our hand this 10th day of July, 2023.



Lee Frey, President



Germaine Bennett, Vice President



Tom Frost, Commissioner



Jeff Harvey, Commissioner



Paul Olivier, Commissioner

Date	Donor	Amount	Purpose
4/1/2023	Tom Shipka	\$ 50.00	General Endowment
3/28/2023	Mahoning Valley Hospital FDN.	\$ 60,000.00	Golf Endowment
4/21/2023	Aura Ragozine	\$ 500.00	Fellows Riverside Gardens End.
4/7/2023	Dr. Brittany Seaman	\$ 50.00	Children's Garden Campaign
4/6/2023	Richard Mangano	\$ 100.00	Children's Garden Campaign
1/8/2023	Mildred Campean	\$ 50.00	Children's Garden Campaign
3/23/2023	Betty Sue Rich	\$ 500.00	Children's Garden Campaign
4/21/2023	Robert & Cheyl Russell	\$ 100.00	Children's Garden Campaign
4/14/2023	Bruce Willner DO., LLC.	\$ 200.00	Children's Garden Campaign
1/27/2023	Give Lively Foundation	\$ 487.84	Children's Garden Campaign
5/17/2023	David Bowen	\$ 50.00	Lantermans Mill End.
5/20/2023	Donna Sublett	\$ 150.00	Lantermans Mill End.
5/23/2023	Cynthia Huffsteler	\$ 372.00	General Endowment
5/23/2023	Robin Taylor	\$ 100.00	Lantermans Mill End.
5/26/2023	Susan & Dennis Donner	\$ 25.00	Lantermans Mill End.
5/30/2023	Board of MetroParks Commissioners	\$ 125.00	Lantermans Mill End.
5/30/2023	Lance & Amy Barret	\$ 400.00	General Endowment
5/1/2023	Tom Shipka	\$ 50.00	General Endowment
5/8/2023	Tom Shipka	\$ 350.00	General Endowment
4/27/2023	Adam Stansbury	\$ 800.00	General Endowment
9/26/2022	Colleen & Robert Rivera	\$ 50.00	General Endowment
5/11/2023	Daniel Rogalny	\$ 500.00	Fellows Riverside Gardens End.
5/16/2023	William & Helen Simcox	\$ 50.00	General Endowment
5/18/2023	Diane Berkowitz	\$ 36.00	General Endowment
5/26/2023	Christina Anania	\$ 300.00	Tree Fund
5/30/2023	Boardman Subaru	\$ 5,000.00	Tree Fund
6/5/2023	Martha Helle	\$ 100.00	General Endowment
6/2/2023	Zonda Haase Pod	\$ 250.00	General Endowment
6/6/2023	Sandra McDevitt	\$ 500.00	General Endowment
6/2/2023	Craig & Robin Barron	\$ 100.00	General Endowment
6/9/2023	Peggy Jones	\$ 50.00	General Endowment
6/7/2023	Kelly Gallmeyer	\$ 800.00	General Endowment
6/15/2023	Donald Necastro	\$ 50.00	Fellows Riverside Gardens End.
6/15/2023	Nischwitz Revocable Trust	\$ 50.00	Fellows Riverside Gardens End.
5/27/2023	Chryann Mitzel	\$ 35.00	Fellows Riverside Gardens End.
6/12/2023	Marilyn Louise Williams	\$ 50.00	Lantermans Mill End.
5/12/2023	Cheryl Case	\$ 100.00	Lantermans Mill End.
6/1/2023	Nancy Smith	\$ 100.00	Lantermans Mill End.
6/1/2023	Susan Latess	\$ 30.00	Lantermans Mill End.
6/13/2023	Youngstown Clothing Co.	\$ 200.00	Golf Endowment
6/16/2023	Marianne Klein	\$ 150.00	Ford Nature Center
6/8/2023	PNC Foundation	\$ 750.00	Children's Garden Campaign
6/29/2023	Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens	\$ 194,987.00	Children's Garden Campaign
		\$ 268,697.84	

Aaron Young, Executive Director on behalf of Brian Tolnar, PGA Director of Golf and Recreation presented the following Special Events for approval.

- Youngstown Peace Race on 10-08-23 in Mill Creek Park

Lee Frey moved at the request of the PGA Director of Golf and Recreation that the presented Special Events be approved. The motion was seconded by Tom Frost, after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Frey, Frost, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay: None

Chris Litton, Development Director presented the MetroParks Foundation deposit report for the period of June 1-30, 2023, at a total of \$198,302.00. Lee Frey moved at the request of the Director of Development to accept the deposit report for the period of June 1-3, 2023, at a total of \$198,302.00. The motion was seconded by Germaine Bennett, after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Frey, Frost, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay: None

Chris also announced two significant contributions for the Children's Garden Capital Campaign. Both Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens and the Youngstown Foundation each contributed \$250,000 towards the project. Chris also shared that the Cushwa Family recently visited the new Outdoor Education Building at Fellows Riverside Gardens that is named in their honor.

Public Comments to the Board: (see sign-in sheet)

- Michael Johnson had a question with regards to how many deer would be killed as part of the program and how will the community be notified.
- Bo Marchionte provided the Board and Executive Director with a picture of East Cohasset Trail in its condition prior to the improvement project. He hopes the photographs resonate with the Board.
- Bettyann Nagy, a member of Audubon Society provided the Board with a summary of their goose count. 183 nests were found in total. 138 nests were treated. Audubon counted 50 at Newport, 14 at the Lake Cohasset Area and 77 at Lake Glacier Area, the Sanctuary had 70. Audubon recommends status quo with goose management.
- Sara Scudier commended Justin, Aaron and the Board for the award that they won for the Ford Nature Center.
- Lisa Mook read a letter that she sent to ODNR Director Mertz. A copy of the letter was not provided to the Board.
- Lana Van Auker stood up and commented for the support for not hunting the deer. No hunting should be done on Preserves or Sanctuaries. The MetroParks has destroyed the Park. She quoted Jane Goodall, David Attenborough, and others. She lives near Sawmill Creek Ana's does not support the hunting.
- Robert Cracium A resident of Old Furnace Neighborhood. States that Parks in Ohio have larger areas that they hunt that have buffer zones. He doesn't agree with the estimates of deer and is against the hunt and for safety of the area.
- Ray Thomas Has a safety concern regarding trees falling within the area. He noted a tree in the lower bears den area going into the picnic area that is partially cute and needs addressed.
- Kathy Main observed that Aaron hasn't picked up his head to address those speakers. She wishes that the Board would change their mind on the deer. She says the deer are tame. People watch Mickey and his videos of the deer. She doesn't think that advertising is needed with the popularity of the videos.
- Mickey Drabison outlined the last month in the MetroParks that he saw a deer in the Park with an arrow in it. Mickey states that the Police Department needs more help. The deer in the Park are gone.

- Brandy Colbet is an advocate for the deer. She believes that what is going on is terrible. She does not see as many deer in the Park as the survey numbers show. The deer have a place in the MetroParks, as it is their home.
- Heidi Van Auker commented to the Board asking if there is any other way to do a deer count. She doesn't see any unhealthy deer in the MetroParks. She thinks this issue is a terrible public relation for the MetroParks. She asked where all of the music is in the MetroParks. She believes that the deer belong on the MetroParks.
- Elaine Hoskins asked that the Board change their mind. Aaron would not like someone paving the Golf Course. Jeff would not like anything done to the birds. Elaine said we would have \$50,000 if the hunt was called off. She asked for the Board to change their mind.
- Unnamed Male stated that Eric in Education could not verify how the deer survey was done. Asked the Board to forget the whole thing.

Commissioners Comments

- Lee outlined that visitors could go to the website and see the most up to date information on White-tailed Deer Management Plan. They are welcome to call Administration with any questions after reviewing the website.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 14, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., in McMahon Hall at the MetroParks Farm.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:44 p.m.

Presiding Officer

Secretary