

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF MILL CREEK  
METROPARKS HELD MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of Mill Creek MetroParks was held on Monday, October 16, 2023.

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

Lee Frey moved to go into executive session at 6:02 pm for the purpose of pending or imminent court action and to consider the appointment, employment, discipline, or compensation of public employees. The motion was seconded by Tom Frost after discussion, the roll being call upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Lee Frey moved to exit executive session and return to regular session at 6:22 pm. The motion was seconded by Germaine Bennett after discussion, the roll being call upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

The Board was presented with the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 18, 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 #90868 - #91114 for a total of \$1,077,242.40, be approved. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Finance Director, that the funds having been certified as on hand and duly appropriated, that disbursements #90868 - #91114 for a total of \$1,077,242.40, 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

Nick Morchak, Staff Accountant presented the quarterly credit card report. This is for the third quarter of 2023. No Board action is needed. The Board did not have any questions and thanked Nick for the presentation.

Aaron Young, Executive Director shared that the Volney Rogers Legacy Awards Luncheon was held on October 12, 2023, honoring Dr. John and Denise Debartolo-York and the Beecher/Flad Family. Aaron thanked all of the members of the Board for attending and Chris Litton for preparing the event.

Randy Campana, Chief of Police presented updated police policies for approval. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Chief of Police, to approve the updated police policies. The motion was seconded by Paul Olivier 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 September 1-30, 2023, at a total of \$50,028. Lee Frey moved at the request of the Director of Development to accept the deposit report for the period of September 1-30, 2023, at a total of \$50,028. 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 Litton, Development Director presented Resolution R-23-10: Acknowledgement of Grants, Donations or Trusts for the Period of July 1 to September 30, 2023. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Development Director, to approve Resolution R-23-10: Acknowledgement of Grants, Donations or Trusts for the Period of July 1 to September 30, 2023. 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


Resolution R-23-10

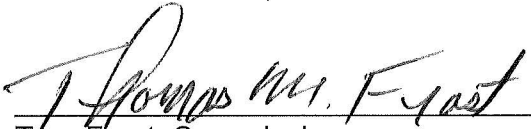
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GRANTS, DONATIONS, OR TRUSTS

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 July 1, 2023, through September 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 16<sup>th</sup> day of OCTOBER, 2023.

  
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Lee Frey, President

  
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Germaine Bennett, Vice President

  
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Tom Frost, Commissioner

  
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Jeff Harvey, Commissioner

  
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Paul Olivier, Commissioner

Donor	Amount	Intent	Date
Sandra McDevitt	\$ 800.00	General Endowment	7/20/2023
Maria Muraca	\$ 500.00	Fellows Riverside Gardens	7/21/2023
Maria Muraca	\$ 50.00	Fellows Riverside Gardens	7/21/2023
Mahoning Garden Club	\$ 50.00	Fellows Riverside Gardens	7/12/2023
Humble Hands Home Maintenance	\$ 75.00	Rose Garden Endowment	6/29/2023
James & Jennifer McLaughlin	\$ 50.00	Fellows Riverside Gardens	7/1/2023
Sandra McDevitt	\$ 200.00	General Endowment	6/30/2023
Scott Schulick	\$ 250.00	Ford Nature Center	7/10/2023
Fireline Inc.	\$ 1,000.00	Short Term Tree Fund	6/22/2023
Schwab Charitable	\$ 50,000.00	Short Term Trail	7/6/2023
Pattie & Michael Sabo	\$ 18.00	General Endowment	8/28/2023
Mark Allen Brown	\$ 250.00	Fellows Riverside Gardens	8/18/2023
Jeffery & Tracy Mottice	\$ 35.00	General Endowment	8/12/2023
MS Consultants	\$ 144.95	General Endowment	7/27/2023
PayPal	\$ 4,442.38	Ford Nature Center	8/4/2023
Farmers Trust Company	\$ 3,500.00	Volney Rogers Short Term	8/10/2023
Schwab Charitable	\$ 49,000.00	Trail Fund	8/9/2023
Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens	\$ 20,209.91	Children's Garden	8/9/2023
AJGA	\$ 3,788.00	Golf Endowment	8/10/2023
Suzanne Miranda	\$ 550.00	Fellows Riverside Gardens Endc	9/7/2023
James Conway	\$ 100.00	Fellows Riverside Gardens Endc	9/23/2023
Fidelity Charitable	\$ 1,000.00	Trails Endowment	8/7/2023
Alan Scharus	\$ 600.00	Trails Endowment	9/15/2023
John Daubenspeck	\$ 50.00	Trails Endowment	9/7/2023
Eldon Jones	\$ 100.00	Trails Endowment	9/11/2023
Richard Kempe	\$ 100.00	Trails Endowment	9/12/2023
Lisa Backman	\$ 50.00	Fellows Riverside Gardens Endc	8/25/2023
Glen Gardeners	\$ 100.00	Fellows Riverside Gardens Endc	7/25/2023
Seth Sarty	\$ 4,440.00	Fellows Riverside Gardens Endc	9/23/2023
Sight For All United Inc.	\$ 500.00	Volney Rogers Short Term	8/30/2023
Brian Gorby	\$ 5,000.00	Farm Short Term	9/20/2023
Fireline Inc.	\$ 1,000.00	Trail Fund	9/13/2023
PNC	\$ 500.00	Volney Rogers Short Term	9/14/2023
Dobson Family Partnership	\$ 500.00	Volney Rogers Short Term	9/15/2023
Hill Barth & King	\$ 500.00	Volney Rogers Short Term	9/25/2023
Roth, Blair, Roberts, Strasfeld	\$ 500.00	Volney Rogers Short Term	9/21/2023
Canfield Fair Parking	\$ 30,650.00	Farm Short Term	9/4/2023
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 180,603.24</b>		

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

- Emily Draca: Mentioned the flawed survey on deer counts claiming to quote both Nick Derico and Aaron Young. Asked how many deer are to be left in Mill Creek MetroParks? She stated that we will be infamous and not famous for the slaughtering of deer.
- Cathy Doslovic: Asked the Commissioners if any have a background in wildlife, forestry, or conservation? Asked if there were any scientists on the Board? She used to give her student tours in the park and mentioned that they would have a better chance of viewing raccoons and deer. The deer is the Ohio State animal. Students will need to look at pictures to see Deer.
- Rich Vrbonic: Signed in but chose not to speak.
- Linda Ciotti: Stated that the Board and Administration should be ashamed of themselves. She has not seen one deer since the slaughter began.
- Joe Ciotti: Asked how many Board members have been appointed by Judge Rusu? He indicated that appointees don't have to listen to anyone but people who are elected do.
- Lisa Bond: Stated that bowhunting was outlawed in England in previous decades. Does not believe that bowhunting is recreation. Mr. Young is a public servant and should be facilitating a public comment meeting prior to initiating programs.
- Jerry Serbel: Stated that he lives on Bears Den across from the Park. The Park cleaned up the tree that he was complaining about. He disagrees with claims that they are picking on the Board. The deer are creatures of God. He watched WKBN 27 news and called into question who to believe. He sarcastically stated that he appreciates the signs at the parks that informs people of hunters being present.
- Janet Bernard: Asked when the applications for the Board are going to be available? Since Mr. Young has arrived, we have lost jobs, volunteers, runners, concerts, dead trees and feels bad for Mr. Derico as he is being made a scapegoat. She stated that she does not think Mr. Derico is qualified.
- Denise Loboy: Read from a prepared statement. Her concern is for the lack of transparency regarding the issue. Questions leadership on how information is made available. Concerned that accurate information be provided to the public. The people will prevail in removing the Board from their positions for the benefit of Mill Creek Park.
- Celeste Sinistro: Questions the article written by the editor of the Vindicator regarding the issue of deer management. Questions why a visiting magistrate heard the case. MCMP Administration will dig in their heels until this issue goes away but it will not go away. She and others are opposed to the killing of wildlife in Mill Creek Park.
- Sue Kuderca: Stated that WFMJ reported that 64 deer have been killed so far and wanted to know if that is accurate? She questioned how many will be taken given the success of those hunters to date? She asked if the program will stop once the proposed number of deer
- Joe Midlock: Signed in but chose not to speak.
- Lana Van Auker: Stated that her parents accepted animals while she was growing up and questioned if the Board knows what a Sanctuary is? She provided a summary of where she lives near Sawmill Creek Preserve and the smell of "wreaking death." She stated that she talked with the hunters. The death of deer is a tragedy.
- Mike Drabison: Stated that Mr. Young did not allow for his questions at past meetings. He stated that \$50,000 was budgeted to address the deer issue. He asked how much money is left to continue to address this issue? Mr. Young is on a YouTube channel and stated that if there were only 50 deer per square mile that he wanted them gone and asked if the Board agrees with them?
- Anne Jasenec: Asked Mr. Young where he lives? Who pays his taxes? She stated that he did not come to court for the hearing. She quoted the management consultant who provided an employee report to Geauga Park District criticizing Mr. Youngs leadership while he was an employee there.
- Kathy Maine: Asked why is she seeing all the people that were on her side no longer being on her side? She stated that Mr. Young was behind her reduced support. She claims that Boardman indicated that Mr. Young threatened them if they help her and that he would not help them with their water issue. She asked that Mr. Young read back to her the summary of what she said.

- Anita Ward does not want to speak.
- Katelyn D'Amico: She lives two blocks from the Bike trail. The family enjoys walking to see the deer. She does not feel safe now that the program is going on. She does not feel safe. Her kids do not want to see deer with an arrow in it. She is a teacher and claims that law enforcement stated that no one is 100% accurate. She is heartbroken over the issue. She always defends our area due to the wonderful park that we have.
- Elaine Hoskins: She asked why ODNr stated that there were 7-8 surveys that were provided to them. She questions how many deer will be killed. She asked if the numbers are met will the hunting continue to happen. She would like the answers to her questions.
- Rich: Stated that he was not at the meeting to talk about deer. He mentioned the ultramarathon that is always the first weekend in September that is not Labor Day. The staff that work in maintenance have always treated them with respect. The trail runners do not use any of the amenities of the park and asked that the Board consider their request to look at the fee schedule. He indicated that by the time they found out about the fee schedule, their registration was already in progress.

Commissioners Comments:

- Lee shared that applications to the Board are at the probate court. Due to continued harassment by the attendees Lee adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., in McMahon Hall at the MetroParks Farm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.

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Presiding Officer

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Secretary