

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF MILL CREEK  
METROPARKS

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of Mill Creek MetroParks was held on Monday, March 11, 2024.

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 February 12, 2024. Lee Frey accepted the minutes into the record as written.

Nick Morchak, Finance Director/Treasurer presented the Department Report for Finance and requested that disbursements #91908 - #92104 for a total of \$844,985.11, 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 #91908 - #92104 for a total of \$844,985.11, 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

Aaron Young, Executive Director provided an update on the status of the 2023 Annual Report. The report is available on the MetroParks website. Aaron thanked the Departments for the work that they put into the development of the Annual Report.

Justin Rogers, Director of Planning & Operations presented and recommended approval of the professional architectural services agreement for the Vickers Nature Preserve shelter. The agreement is with DPH Architecture in the amount of \$75,500. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Director of Planning & Operations, that the professional architectural services agreement for the Vickers Nature Preserve shelter be approved. 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

Aaron Young, Executive Director recommended the reappointment of Attorney Thomas H. Sanborn to another three-year term to the MetroParks Foundation Board retroactive to February 29, 2024. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Executive Director, that Attorney Thomas H. Sanborn be reappointed to another three-year term on the MetroParks Foundation Board retroactive to February 29, 2024. 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

Aaron Young, Executive Director presented a one-year agreement with the Mahoning County Agriculture Society for the use of the Fair Grounds for overflow parking during Cross Country events at the Farm

between September and November of 2023. Aaron requested that the Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the Mahoning County Agriculture Society for the use of the Fair Grounds for overflow parking during Cross Country events at the Farm. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Executive Director, to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the Mahoning County Agriculture Society for the use of the Fair Grounds for overflow parking during Cross Country events at the Farm. 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

Aaron Young, Executive Director presented and recommended approval of the Cross-Country Course Fees. The fees have been updated to include the fee associated with the agreement with the Mahoning County Agriculture Society for the use of the Fair Grounds for overflow parking during Cross Country events. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Executive Director, that the Cross-Country Course Fees be approved. 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

Randy Campana, Chief of Police presented the MetroParks Police policy updates for approval. A summary of changes was provided. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Chief of Police, that the MetroParks Police policy updates 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

Aaron Young, Executive Director presented and requested approval of the following requests to collect Funds:

1. Request to Collect Funds:
  - a. Huntington National Bank Night at the Races @ McMahon Hall on 03-22-24 to benefit the Mahoning Valley Peloton.
  - b. Valley Legends Stadium Campaign Awareness Luncheon @ FRG Rossi Auditorium on 05-09-24 to benefit Valley Christian School Stadium Fund.

Lee Frey moved at the request of the Executive Director that the Requests to collect Funds be approved. 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 the MetroParks Foundation deposit report for the period of February 1-29, 2024, at a total of \$40,301.79 for approval. Lee Frey moved at the request of the Director of Development to accept the deposit report for the period of February 1-29, 2024, at a total of \$40,301.79. 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

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

- Lisa Bond stated that a dead raccoon was found on the East Golf Hike & Bike Trail and called the MetroParks to have it removed. She inquired if the MetroParks does any type of testing to dead animals found within the MetroParks. She corrected Mr. Harvey on his comments on-line

regarding hunting in Canada. She also stated that the MetroParks phone system is difficult to use.

- Kathy Maine indicated to Mr. Young that she will talk to the Board as he indicated to her at the past meeting. She indicates that Mr. Young is autocratic and it must be hard for people to come to work for him. She shared with the Board that when they sleep at night they are alone. The deer hunt will be on their conscious.
- Mike Drabison believes that Mr. Young runs the show, not the Board. He referenced some financial figures associated with the deer hunt. He believes that payments of the MetroParks should be accounted for within the budget on a line-item basis. He asked where these referenced items are located on the annual budget.
- Celeste Sinistro read from a prepared statement regarding the parking lot at the corner of Pinewood Drive and SR 224. She stated that it is unfinished and was not done professionally. She referenced a previous call with Mr. Young regarding the development of the project. She stated the the development of the project was a “show of force” by Mr. Young.
- Chris Flak referenced a letter and petitions that were provided to the Board in December of 2023 for the removal of Mr. Young as Executive Director. She asked when a decision would be made. Lee indicated that one would be made during commissioners time.
- Lana Van Aker read a prepared statement that included a quote from Donald Allen who was in attendance. She commented regarding the chemicals used on the golf course and the habitat destroyed for the development of the disc golf course. She noted the loud airplane that went over her house several weeks ago doing the deer survey. She disagreed with the MetroParks stating that the deer hunt was a success. She ended with a quote by Jane Goodall.
- Jerry Serbel stated that he is a resident of Mahoning County and could not believe that the MetroParks was pleased with the success of the deer hunt. He is afraid to go into the Park but stated that he has not visited. He questioned bowhunters being allowed in the Park. He is disgusted with the Board and does not believe the previous deer counts. Mr. Young does what he wants.

Commissioner Comments:

- Lee indicated that no testing is done on roadkill including raccoons. Nick confirmed that no testing was done on the raccoons. USDA notifies the MetroParks of local known incidents involving rabies.
- Lee indicated that the petitions to remove Mr. Young were received and the Board feels that Mr. Young is doing a good job and will not be acting on those petitions.
- Jeff commented about the scrutiny regarding the golf course.
- Lee commented about the financial benefit of the golf course to the area and the tournaments for the young people. He noted that the course has 36 holes of championship level golf. The outings help to raise revenue for community fundraisers.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 8, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., in McMahon Hall at the MetroParks Farm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:45 p.m.

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Presiding Officer

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Secretary