

Meeting Minutes (Draft)

Natural Resources Citizen Advisory Committee

Thursday April 4th, 2024 | 3:00 PM

McMahon Hall

Prepared by Nick Derico, *Natural Resources Manager*



Committee Members in Attendance

Nick Derico | Joshua Noble | Ryan Jackson | Sean Baran | Peter Milliken | Sara Scudier | John Zimmerman | Ronald Kichton | Gary Davenport | Joshua Emanuelson |

Public Attendees:

| | |
|------|--|
| None | |
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I. Call to Order – 3:00 PM

Old Business

- * **Approval of Previous Meeting’s Minutes**
Nick Derico provided the meeting minutes from the previous meeting (09.14.23), members reviewed the minutes and offered no revisions or corrections. Josh Emanuelson motioned to approve the meeting minutes as revised, the motion was seconded by Sara Scudier.
- * **Roll Call**
Voting Aye – Scudier, Derico, Milliken, Davenport, Noble, Emanuelson, Zimmerman, Jackson
Voting Nay - None

II. **New Business**

Goose Management

1. Derico provided information to the committee regarding the annual goose management program, including a summary of activities for the year such as non-lethal harassment activities, the issuance of a nest destruction permit from ODNR, and the plan as the program transitions to egg addling (USDA).

Fish Stocking

1. Derico shared an update on the annual fish stocking program throughout the MetroParks, including the Lake Glacier trout stocking provided by ODNR and the additional pond stockings provided by the MetroParks (MetroParks Farm, Vickers Nature Preserve, Mirror Pond, and Yellow Creek Park).

Milliken posed a question to the group concerning the stocking of rainbow trout throughout the park and questioned if it was a good practice based upon them being non-native species that are not well suited to handle our water temperatures and/or water quality. The group discussed the pros and cons and came to the conclusion that the stocking of rainbow trout is a widespread practice, approved by the Division of Wildlife for the purpose of “put and take” recreational fishing and while rainbow trout are not well suited for our waters they do not pose an ecological risk since they remain in our waters for a relatively short time.

Sanctuary Expansion Improvements

1. Derico provided an update on the status of the project titled “Sanctuary Expansion Improvements”, which the MetroParks was awarded grant funding to complete through the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund. This project was reviewed and supported by the Committee at their last meeting (09/24) and will include an aggregate parking lot/entry drive, trail establishment, invasive plant management, native prairie restoration, and reforestation.

Native Plantings – Volunteer Opportunity

1. Derico shared an upcoming volunteer opportunity with the group which will include the installation of native plant plugs at several MetroParks locations in partnership with the Mahoning County Land Bank.

Deer Management Updates

1. With the Committee’s last meeting taking place prior to the implementation of the deer management program, Derico shared several updates with the group and their reviewed the end of year report for the program (posted to the MetroParks’ website).

Open Discussion

Ryan Jackson

Brought up the topic of hemlock woolly adelgid and asked if/when management for this invasive insect would expand into Yellow Creek Park. Derico updated the group on the status of the HWA management program, including the discovery of another invasive pest, elongate hemlock scale and the future plans for Yellow Creek.

Josh Emanuelson

Introduced the topic of urban forestry and asked what opportunities there were within the park, the group discussed the current tree planting program and the potential for expansion based upon the success of the last few years.

Public Comment

III. None

Committee Questions/Comments.

IV. None

Date of Next Meeting

V. TBD – Derico will send Doodle Poll

Adjournment – 4:14 PM
