

# 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, April 14, 2025.

The meeting opened at 5:00 p.m., with a recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance.

Paul Olivier, Board Vice President welcomed staff and guests.

Roll Call was as follows:

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

The Board was presented with the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 10, 2025. Paul accepted the minutes into the record as written.

Nick Morchak, Finance Director/Treasurer presented the Department Report for Finance and requested that disbursements #94841 - #95014 for a total of \$1,262,716.00, be approved. Paul Olivier moved, at the request of the Finance Director, that the funds having been certified as on hand and duly appropriated, that disbursements #94841 - #95014 for a total of \$1,262,716.00, be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Jeff Harvey and after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

|             |                       |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| Voting Aye: | Frey, Harvey, Olivier |
| Voting Nay: | None                  |

Austin Brooks, Staff Accountant, presented the 2025 first quarter credit card report. No Board action was needed. Paul Olivier thanked Austin for the report.

Paul Olivier moved to exit regular session and go into executive session at 5:03 pm for the purpose of collective bargaining matters. The motion was seconded by Lee Frey and after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

|             |                       |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| Voting Aye: | Frey, Harvey, Olivier |
| Voting Nay: | None                  |

Paul Olivier moved to exit executive session and return to regular session at 5:16 pm. The motion was seconded by Lee Frey and after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

|             |                       |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| Voting Aye: | Frey, Harvey, Olivier |
| Voting Nay: | None                  |

Aaron Young, Executive Director, provided an update on the status of the interior repairs at the Davis Center caused by the fire suppression system water line break during below freezing conditions earlier this year.

Aaron Young, Executive Director on behalf of Megan Hanley, HR & Administrative Services Director, presented and requested approval of the Local Union 288 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and Ohio Council 8 (AFSCME) contract for the period of 2025-2027. Paul Olivier moved, at the request of the HR & Administrative Services Director to approve the Local Union

288 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and Ohio Council 8 (AFSCME) contract for the period of 2025-2027 as presented. The motion was seconded by Jeff Harvey and after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Aaron Young, Executive Director on behalf of Megan Hanley, HR & Administrative Services Director, presented and requested approval of 2025 Employee Manual Updates. Paul Olivier moved, at the request of the HR & Administrative Services Director to approve the 2025 Employee Manual Updates as presented. The motion was seconded by Lee Frey and after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Aaron Young, Executive Director on behalf of Megan Hanley, HR & Administrative Services Director, presented and requested approval of the following individuals to the noted citizens advisory committees:

- Stephen Stanko; Finance Committee
- Hannah Aponte; Natural Resources Committee
- Joel Montaz; Recreation Committee
- Keagan Abbott; Recreation Committee

Paul Olivier moved, at the request of the HR & Administrative Services Director to appoint the individuals as recommended. The motion was seconded by Lee Frey and after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Randy Campana, Chief of Police presented the March 2025 Police Policy Updates for approval. Paul Olivier moved, at the request of the Chief of Police that the March 2025 Police Policy Update be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Jeff Harvey and after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Justin Rogers, Director of Planning & Operations, presented the Children's Garden Bid results. Justin recommended that United Contractors Inc. be awarded the contract for the project named Mill Creek MetroParks Children's Garden at the grand total amount of \$1,815,455.99. Paul Olivier moved at the request of the Director of Planning & Operations to award the contract for the project named Mill Creek MetroParks Children's Garden, to United Contractors, Inc. at the grand total amount of \$1,815,455.99. The motion was seconded by Jeff Harvey and after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Justin Rogers, Director of Planning & Operations, presented the 2025 Drive Resurfacing Bid results. Bears Den Drive and High Drive are included in the project. Justin recommended that Lindy Paving, Inc. be awarded the contract for the project at the grand total bid amount of \$271,326.35. Paul Olivier moved at the request of the Director of Planning & Operations to award the contract for the project named 2025 Drive Resurfacing, to Lindy Paving, Inc. at the grand total bid amount of \$271,326.35. The motion was seconded by Jeff Harvey and after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Justin Rogers, Director of Planning & Operations, presented the 2025 MetroParks Farm Parking Lot Improvements Bid results. Justin recommended that Lindy Paving, Inc. be awarded the contract for the project at the grand total bid amount of \$155,939.75. Paul Olivier moved at the request of the Director of Planning & Operations to award the contract for the project named 2025 MetroParks Farm Parking Lot Improvements, to Lindy Paving, Inc. at the grand total bid amount of \$155,939.75. The motion was seconded by Lee Frey and after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Justin Rogers, Director of Planning & Operations, presented the 2025 MetroParks Bikeway Improvements Bid results. Justin recommended that Lindy Paving, Inc. be awarded the contract for the project at the grand total bid amount of \$237,563.25. Paul Olivier moved at the request of the Director of Planning & Operations to award the contract for the project named 2025 MetroParks Bikeway Improvements, to Lindy Paving, Inc. at the grand total bid amount of \$237,563.25. The motion was seconded by Lee Frey and after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Chris Litton, Development Director presented the MetroParks Foundation donation report for the period of March 1-31, 2025, at a total of \$1,475,108.20 for approval. Paul Olivier moved at the request of the Director of Development to accept the donation report for the period of March 1-31, 2025, at a total of \$1,475,108.20. The motion was seconded by Jeff Harvey, after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Chris Litton, Development Director presented Resolution R-25-04 Acknowledgement of Grants, Donations, or Trusts for the period of January 1, 2025 to March 31, 2025, for approval. Paul Olivier moved at the request of the Director of Development to approve Resolution R-25-04 Acknowledgement of Grants, Donations, or Trusts for the period of January 1, 2025 to March 31, 2025, as presented. The motion was seconded by Lee Frey, after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

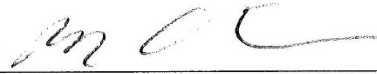
Resolution R-25-04

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 January 1, 2025, through March 31, 2025 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 14<sup>th</sup> day of MARCH, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Germaine Bennett, President

  
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Paul Olivier, Vice President

  
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Lee Frey, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Frost, Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Harvey, Commissioner

**1st Qrt. 2025 Reprt**

April 1, 2025

Prepared by: Chris Litton

| ENDOWMENTS                |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Fund</u>               | <u>Amount</u>         |
| General                   | \$300.00              |
| Fellows Riverside Gardens | \$480.00              |
| Wick Recreation Area      | \$184.26              |
| Ford Nature Center        | \$100.00              |
| Golf                      | \$150.00              |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>\$1,214.26</b>     |
| Short -Term               |                       |
| <u>Fund</u>               | <u>Amount</u>         |
| Children's Garden         | \$1,448,347.86        |
| Checking                  | \$50,997.01           |
| Tree                      | \$100.00              |
| Vickers Nature Preserve   | \$11,422.02           |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>\$1,510,866.89</b> |
| <b>Grand Total:</b>       | <b>\$1,512,081.15</b> |

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

- Dennis Running Turtle. Dennis commented on the white man that they respect nothing. He noted that respect is conveyed via eye contact. He inquired if there were any American Indians on the Board.
- Ray Thomas questioned if there were any children's events with the exception of Easter in the Park this year. He questioned if there are any emergency plans to address any type of fire within the Park.
- Frank Martin stated that he is from Boardman. He requested that Mill Creek MetroParks stop cutting down trees. He does not like seeing people's back yards. He questioned why we do not have a dense forest. He suggested that tax dollars be put to use cleaning up dead trees. He does not like the aggregate that was installed near the covered bridge trail. He questioned if there are any plans to replace the pavement on the East Golf Hike & Bike Trail or the parking lot service the Trail off of Shields.
- Jerry Serbel stated that he lives on Bears Den Road and that he loves the Park and the animals within it. He questioned the need to continue with the culling of the deer. He questioned if Youngstown was included in the deer survey. He stated that the Parks is very lucky that no one was injured. He is frustrated with the Board members.
- Mike Drabison stated that Aaron's friends call him a liar. He noted how many deer were culled, as well as those that were surveyed. Mike stated that hunters don't know where they harvest their deer at, even with a map.

Commissioner Comments:

- Lee thanked the park staff for the variety of programs that are offered during the year. He appreciates them and their work.
- Paul thanked everyone for coming and their comments. He recommended that if visitors have any questions that they seek out the appropriate staff members.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 12, 2025, at 5:00 p.m., in McMahon Hall located at the MetroParks Farm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:51 p.m. There was a motion to adjourn

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Presiding Officer

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Secretary