

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, May 12, 2025.

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

Germaine Bennett, 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 April 14, 2025. Germaine accepted the minutes into the record as written.

Nick Morchak, Finance Director/Treasurer presented the Department Report for Finance and requested that disbursements #95015 - #95298 for a total of \$1,240,618.23, be approved. Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the Finance Director, that the funds having been certified as on hand and duly appropriated, that disbursements #95015 - #95298 for a total of \$1,240,618.23, 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:	Bennett, Frey, Frost, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay:	None

Aaron Young, Executive Director, provided an update on the status of the City of Youngstown's Mill Creek Sewer Improvement Project. The project is expected to start in late 2025 and will extend for up to two years. Price Road and West Glacier Drive will be closed requiring Glacier Boathouse and the Log Cabin to also be closed. Aaron will keep the Board updated as new information becomes available.

Justin Rogers, Director of Planning & Operations, presented Resolution R-25-05 ODOT Salt Program Participation for approval. Germaine Bennett moved at the request of the Director of Planning & Operations that Resolution R-25-05 ODOT Salt Program Participation be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Tom Frost and after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

R-25-05
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION
IN THE ODOT ROAD SALT CONTRACTS AWARDED IN 2025

WHEREAS, the Mill Creek MetroParks, Mahoning County (hereinafter referred to as the "Political Subdivision") hereby submits this written agreement to participate in the Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT) annual road salt bid in accordance with Ohio Revised Code 5513.01(B) and hereby agrees to all of the following terms and conditions in its participation of the ODOT road salt contract:

- a. The Political Subdivision hereby agrees to be bound by all terms and conditions established by ODOT in the road salt contract and acknowledges that upon award of the contract by the Director of ODOT it shall be bound by all such terms and conditions included in the contract; and
- b. The Political Subdivision hereby acknowledges that upon the Director of ODOT's signing of the road salt contract, it shall effectively form a contract between the awarded salt supplier and the Political Subdivision; and
- c. The Political Subdivision agrees to be solely responsible for resolving all claims or disputes arising out of its participation in the ODOT road salt contract and agrees that each party hereto shall be responsible for liability associated with that party's own errors, actions, and failures to act.
- d. The Political Subdivision's electronic order for Sodium Chloride (Road Salt) will be the amount the Political Subdivision agrees to purchase from its awarded salt supplier at the delivered bid price per ton awarded by the Director of ODOT; and
- e. The Political Subdivision hereby agrees to purchase a minimum of 85% of its electronically submitted salt quantities from its awarded salt supplier during the contract's effective period; and
- f. The Political Subdivision hereby agrees to place orders with and directly pay the awarded salt supplier on a net 30 basis for all road salt it receives pursuant to ODOT salt contract; and
- g. The Political Subdivision acknowledges that should it wish to rescind this participation agreement it will do so by written, emailed request by no later than Friday, May 2, **by 5:00 p.m.** The written, emailed request to rescind this participation agreement must be received by the ODOT Office of Contract Sales, Purchasing Section email: Contracts.Purchasing@dot.ohio.gov by the deadline. The Department, upon receipt, will respond that it has received the request and that it has effectively removed the Political Subdivision's participation request. Furthermore, it is the sole responsibility of the Political Subdivision to ensure ODOT has received this participation agreement as well as the receipt of any request to rescind this participation agreement. The Department shall not be held responsible or liable for failure to receive a Political Subdivision's participation agreement and/or a Political Subdivision's request to rescind its participation agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the following authorized person(s) that this participation agreement for the ODOT road salt contract is hereby approved, funding has been authorized, and the Political Subdivision agrees to the above terms and conditions regarding participation on the ODOT salt contract:

	(Authorized Signature)	<u>5/12/2025</u>	Approval Date
	(Authorized Signature)	<u>5/12/25</u>	Approval Date
	(Authorized Signature)	<u>5/12/2025</u>	Approval Date
	(Authorized Signature)	<u>5/12/2025</u>	Approval Date
	(Authorized Signature)	<u>5/12/2025</u>	Approval Date

THIS RESOLUTION MUST BE UPLOADED TO THE SALT PARTICIPATION WEBSITE BY NO LATER THAN MAY 2, 2025.

PLEASE NOTE: THE DEPARTMENT WILL NOT ACCEPT TYPED SIGNATURES. PARTICIPATION AGREEMENTS SUBMITTED WITH TYPED SIGNATURES WILL BE INVALID AND INELIGIBLE FOR APPROVAL. YOU CANNOT SUBMIT A WORD DOCUMENT VERSION OF THIS PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Jeff Harvey, Commissioner presented and requested that the MetroParks Wildlife Sanctuary be renamed George L. Fordyce Park in accordance with the MetroParks Naming Rights Policy. Jeff provided a summary of accomplishments of George L. Fordyce as it relates to ornithology and birding. Germaine Bennett moved at the request of Commissioner Harvey that the MetroParks Wildlife Sanctuary be renamed George L. Fordyce Park 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:	Bennett, Frey, Frost, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay:	None

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

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

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

- Robert Thomas; Recreation Committee
- Adele Taylor; Education Committee
- John James; Education Committee

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

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

Brian Tolnar, PGA Director of Golf & Recreation, presented and requested that the following special events be approved;

1. Youngstown Marathon @ MCP on 06-01-25

Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the PGA Director of Golf & Recreation, that the 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 donation report for the period of April 1-30, 2025, at a total of \$18,396.00 for approval. Germaine Bennett moved at the request of the Director of Development to accept the donation report for the period of April 1-30, 2025, at a total of \$18,396.00. 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)

- Dennis Sanchez asked to be notified of when his time to speak starts. He claims to have done nothing wrong and that his constitutional rights were violated. He stated that the way he was treated at the last meeting was disrespectful. He shared that he was yelled at while visiting Fellows Riverside Gardens. He commended the MetroParks police on their professionalism. He wished everyone well.
- Jerry Serbel wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day. He stated that he can't believe that the MetroParks allows archery hunting while non-hunters are visiting. He disagreed with the slaughtering of the deer. He stated that there has been no reason to kill so many deer.
- Lana Van Auker read a prepared statement regarding the killing of animals. She quoted David Attenborough. She stated that killing of animals is wrong. She has designated her yard as wildlife habitat.

- Mike Drabison stated that the USDA did a study about the amount of deer within the Parks. He questioned the differences between the surveys. He asked why we haven't spoken about the deer management program. He questioned the numbers from any survey.

Commissioner Comments:

- Jeff spoke about the number of education programs offered by the MetroParks. Jeff provided a summary of the number of programs from both 2024 and 2025.
- Paul acknowledged Nick Morchak for recently being named as one of the Valley's top 25 under 35 professionals.
- Germaine thanked staff for their work done at FRG. She noticed the high visitation this past weekend.

Germaine Bennett moved to exit regular session and go into executive session at 5:31 pm to consider the appointment, employment, discipline, or compensation of public employees and purchase or sale of property. 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

Lee Frey moved to exit executive session and return to regular session at 6:33 pm. 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

Germaine Bennett moved to approve the Third Amended and Extended Employment Agreement for the Executive Director. 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

Jeff Harvey moved to authorize the Executive Director to divest the MetroParks of the McGuffey Wildlife Preserve in accordance with Ohio Revised Code. The motion was seconded by Lee Frey, after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 9, 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 6:50 p.m.

Presiding Officer

Secretary