

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 Tuesday, November 10, 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. Germaine apologized for the last minute cancellation of the October meeting. Commissioner Frey also apologized for missing the last meeting due to a medical issue.

Roll Call was as follows:

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

The Board was presented with the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 15, 2025. Germaine accepted the minutes into the record as written. The October 14, 2025 Regular Meeting was cancelled due to a lack of quorum

Nick Morchak, Finance Director/Treasurer presented the Department Report for Finance and requested that disbursements #96380 – #96612 for a total of \$1,375,252.12, 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 #96380 – #96612 for a total of \$1,375,252.12, 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, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay:	None

Nick Morchak, Finance Director/Treasurer presented the Department Report for Finance and requested that disbursements #96613 – #96903 for a total of \$1,873,132.26, 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 #96613 – #96903 for a total of \$1,873,132.26, 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, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay:	None

Nick Morchak, Finance Director/Treasurer requested to increase appropriations to account 100.0010.5075 Administrative Taxes by \$2,844.66. This was money received from the Ohio Real Title Agency for tax proration to Mill Creek MetroParks that will be used to pay the 2026 real estate tax for the Sharrott Road property. Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the Finance Director, to increase appropriations to account 100.0010.5075 Administrative Taxes by \$2,844.66, be approved 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:	Bennett, Frey, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay:	None

Zack Torok, Staff Accountant presented the Quarterly Credit Cart for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2025. No action was required.

Aaron Young, Executive Director, provided an update on the status of several land acquisitions. The purchase of 12 Harold Street, Austintown Township has been completed. This parcel is just south of the parking lot at the Mahoning Avenue Bikeway Trailhead. The purchase of Sharrott Road Wetlands has also been completed. This is parcel is just over 61 acres located in Beaver Township and is just west of the SR 7/Turnpike Interchange. YNDC has completed a claim deed transfer of 1110 and 1114 Parkview Ave to the MetroParks.

Megan Hanley, HR & Administrative Serviced Director presented the 2026 Healthcare coverage plans for approval. Several proposals with varying options were submitted, with Anthem being rated the best plan based on current offerings and recommended for approval. Anthem's plan for 2026 is a 1.42% increase over the current rates with no changes to deductibles or out of pocket expenses. Germaine Bennett moved at the request of the HR & Administrative Serviced Director to accept the 2026 Healthcare Coverage proposal from Anthem. 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, Harvey, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

Megan Hanley, HR & Administrative Serviced Director presented two appointments to the Citizens Advisory Committee for approval. Sara Daugherty is recommended for the Finance Committee and Serene Awad is recommended for the Natural Resources Committee. Germaine Bennett moved at the request of the HR & Administrative Services Director to appoint Sara Daugherty to the Finance Citizens Advisory Committee and Serene Award to the Natural Resources Citizens Advisory Committee. 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, Harvey, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

Randy Campana, Chief of Police presented and requested approval of the 2026 OVI Task Force Contract. Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the Chief of Police to approve the 2026 OVI Task Force Contract, as requested. 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, Harvey, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

Aaron Young, Executive Director, presented and requested approval of a request to collect funds on MetroParks Property. The request was made by Kimberly Graffius, Source Vitality for a Winter Solstice Holistic Healing Celebration on December 21, 2025 within McMahon Hall. Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the Executive Director, to approve the request to collect funds on MetroParks Property, as requested. The motion was seconded by Lee Frey and after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Justin Rogers, Director of Planning & Operations presented the bid tabulation for the project named George L. Fordyce Improvements. There was only one bid received, and it is over the 10% bid cap and must be rejected in accordance with Section 13.12 of the Ohio Revised Code. Justin shared that he will make some minor revisions to the scope and rebid the project. Germaine Bennett moved at the request of the Director of Planning & Operations to reject all bids for the George L. Fordyce Improvements in

accordance with Section 153.12 of the Ohio Revised Code. 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, Harvey, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

Justin Rogers, Director of Planning & Operations presented the bid tabulation for the project named George L. Fordyce Improvements. Justin recommended that Site Prep Services, LLC bid total of \$109,829.50 (Base Bid of \$67,229.00, A#1: \$41,268.50, and A#3: \$1,332.00) be accepted for the project named "George L. Fordyce Park Improvements" in accordance with Section 153.12 of the Ohio Revised Code. Germaine Bennett moved at the request of the Director of Planning & Operations that Site Prep Services, LLC bid total of \$109,829.50 (Base Bid of \$67,229.00, A#1 \$41,268.50, and A#3 #1,332.00) be accepted for the project named "George L. Fordyce Park Improvements" in accordance with Section 153.12 of the Ohio Revised Code, be approved. 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, Harvey, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

Aaron Young, Executive Director provided the Board with a copy of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation (YNDC) for the Parkview Avenue Sidewalk Extension. Aaron shared that the MetroParks was contacted by YNDC with a proposal to connect the newly constructed sidewalk on Parkview Avenue to the East Cohasset Hike & Bike Trail. The work would be paid for by YNDC with no cost to the MetroParks. Aaron requested that the Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with YNDC for the project. Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the Executive Director to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a memorandum of understanding for the Parkview Avenue Sidewalk Extension, as requested. 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, Harvey, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

Aaron Young, Executive Director, presented and requested approval of Resolution R-25-14 Authorizing the Executive Director to sell the McGuffey Wildlife Preserve in accordance with the provisions of Ohio Revised Code. Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the Executive Director, to approve Resolution R-25-14 Authorizing the Executive Director to sell the McGuffey Wildlife Preserve in accordance with the provisions of Ohio Revised Code, as requested. 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, Harvey, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

**Resolution Authorizing MetroParks Executive Director to sell McGuffey Wildlife Preserve**

**WHEREAS**, After extensive & careful review in both public and executive sessions, the Board of Park Commissioners of the Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District, operating under Chapter 1545 of the Ohio Revised Code, finds that the land previously acquired through the July 25, 1998 agreement with The William Holmes McGuffey Historical Society, an Ohio non-profit corporation, is no longer necessary for the purposes for which they were acquired.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Park Commissioners of the Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District, operating under Chapter 1545.12 of the Ohio Revised Code, desires to divest the 73.65 acres of land situated in Coitsville Township, Mahoning County, Ohio, formally referred to as The McGuffey Wildlife Preserve.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the MetroParks Executive Director is hereby authorized to divest the MetroParks of the McGuffey Wildlife Preserve in accordance with Chapter 1545.12 of the Ohio Revised Code.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the MetroParks Executive Director is further authorized to enter into any agreements as may be necessary and appropriate to complete this transaction.

This Resolution passed this 10th day of November, 2025.

  
Germaine Bennett, President

  
Paul Olivier, Vice-President

Tom Frost, Commissioner

  
Jeff Harvey, Commissioner

  
Lee Frey, Commissioner

Aaron also provided the Board with a copy of a final lease agreement with City Switch DevCo 1, LLC., for the development of a cell tower within Hitchcock Woods just south of E. Parkside Drive in Boardman Township. Aaron requested that if there are no further edits to the agreement from the Board that the Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with City Switch DevCo 1, LLC., for the development of a cell tower within Hitchcock Woods just south of E. Parkside Drive in Boardman. Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the Executive Director to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with City Switch DevCo 1, LLC., for the development of a cell tower within Hitchcock Woods just south of E. Parkside Drive in Boardman, as requested. 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, Harvey, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

Chris Litton, Development Director presented the MetroParks Foundation donation report for the period of September 1-30, 2025, at a total of \$57,958.40 for approval. Germaine Bennett moved at the request of the Director of Development to accept the donation report for the period of September 1-30, 2025, at a total of \$57,958.40. 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, Harvey, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

Chris Litton, Development Director presented the MetroParks Foundation donation report for the period of October 1-31, 2025, at a total of \$34,571.00 for approval. Germaine Bennett moved at the request of the Director of Development to accept the donation report for the period of October 1-31, 2025, at a total of \$34,571.00. 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, Harvey, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

Chris Litton, Development Director presented Resolution R-25-13 Acknowledgment of Grants, Donations or Trusts for the period of July - September 2025, for approval. Germaine Bennett moved at the request of the Director of Development that Resolution R-25-13 Acknowledgment of Grants, Donations or Trusts for the period of July - September 2025, 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, Harvey, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

Resolution R-25-13

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, 2025, through September 30, 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.

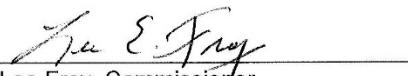
*IN WITNESS THEREOF*, We, the Board of Park Commissioners hereunto set our hand this 10<sup>th</sup> day of NOVEMBER, 2025.



Germaine Bennett, President



Paul Olivier, Vice President



Lee Frey, Commissioner

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Tom Frost, Commissioner



Jeff Harvey, Commissioner

3rd Qrt. 2025 Donation Log			
Mill Creek MetroParks Foundation			
Donor	Amount	Designation	Date
Terry Newton	\$100.00	General Short-Term	6/19/2025
Fireline Inc.	\$1,000.00	General Short-Term	6/26/2025
Jeffery Roshitsh	\$250.00	General Short-Term	7/3/2025
Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association	\$100.00	Farm Short-Term	7/7/2025
Antonia Schildcrout	\$1,500.00	General Short-Term	7/11/2025
Clinton Joste	\$100.00	General Short-Term	7/11/2025
Ethan Tabor	\$25.00	General Short-Term	7/11/2025
Lesile Cramb	\$50.00	FRG Endowment	7/17/2025
Diane Natoli	\$25.00	FRG Endowment	7/20/2025
Sandra Reel	\$25.00	FRG Endowment	7/21/2025
Plato Kalfas	\$2,500.00	General Short-Term	7/21/2025
Fidelity Charitable	\$1,000.00	General Short-Term	7/23/2025
JC Enterprise Center Inc.	\$50.00	FRG Endowment	7/24/2025
Theresa Ravey	\$100.00	FRG Endowment	7/25/2025
Clare Jones	\$50.00	General Short-Term	7/29/2025
Herb Brooks	\$2,500.00	General Short-Term	7/31/2025
William Perozzi	\$100.00	Children's Garden	7/31/2025
Tom Shipka	\$200.00	General Endowment	8/1/2025
Heidi Belman	\$50.00	General Short-Term	8/4/2025
June Brought	\$200.00	General Short-Term	8/4/2025
Henry Kost	\$20.00	Children's Garden	8/5/2025
Rusy Jones	\$50.00	Children's Garden	8/6/2025
Cynthia Fiscus	\$50.00	Children's Garden	8/7/2025
Jennifer Burke	\$50.00	Children's Garden	8/10/2025
Ethan Tabor	\$25.00	General Short-Term	8/11/2025
The Columbus Foundation	\$1,000.00	Natural Trails Endowment	8/12/2025
Linda Yost	\$50.00	Children's Garden	8/13/2025
Tom O'Neill	\$50.00	Children's Garden	8/13/2025
Elizabeth Gerberich	\$50.00	Children's Garden	8/13/2025
Paul & Janeen Kollat	\$25.00	Children's Garden	8/14/2025
Dolly Aigner	\$100.00	Children's Garden	8/14/2025
Jeffery Krok	\$50.00	Children's Garden	8/14/2025
Joseph T. Joseph Family Trust	\$50.00	Children's Garden	8/15/2025
David Stites	\$100.00	Children's Garden	8/16/2025
John Warrick	\$1,000.00	Natural Trails	8/20/2025
Marianne Klein	\$150.00	FNC Endowment	8/20/2025
Nicholson- Bodenbender Family	\$100.00	Children's Garden	8/20/2025
Donna Meeker	\$20.00	Children's Garden	8/20/2025
Randy Homringhouse	\$50.00	General Short-Term	8/26/2025
Thomas Shipka	\$100.00	General Endowment	9/1/2025
Elizabeth Basista	\$2,500.00	General Short-Term	9/3/2025

Anne Crowley	\$100.00	Tree Short-Term	9/9/2025
Mill Creek MetroParks	\$10,293.80	General Short-Term	9/11/2025
Ethan Tabor	\$25.00	General Short-Term	9/11/2025
Canfield Fair Parking Fundraiser	\$30,604.00	Farm Short-Term	9/11/2025
Dina Morell	\$1,500.00	Children's Garden	9/19/2025
Farmer's Trust Co.	\$3,500.00	General Short-Term	9/19/2025
Lauren White	\$50.00	Tree Short-Term	9/23/2025
Eleno Siderias	\$50.00	Tree Short-Term	9/23/2025
Stacia Pryts	\$50.00	Tree Short-Term	9/23/2025
Melinda O'Brien	\$100.00	Tree Short-Term	9/23/2025
Karen & Kevin Murphy	\$50.00	Tree Short-Term	9/24/2025
Vito Abruzzino	\$50.00	Tree Short-Term	9/24/2025
Traci Whitacre	\$2,500.00	General Short-Term	9/24/2025
Stan & Jody Nudell	\$25.00	Tree Short-Term	9/24/2025
Louie & Robin Pilch	\$50.00	Tree Short-Term	9/24/2025
Tanya Sukhu	\$75.00	Tree Short-Term	9/25/2025
Debra Obrosky	\$100.00	Tree Short-Term	9/25/2025
Kimberly Kuhn	\$50.00	Tree Short-Term	9/25/2025
Mill Creek MetroParks	\$505.60	General Short-Term	9/26/2025
Barbara Gabriel	\$685.00	Children's Garden	9/26/2025
Rose & Salloum Sahyoun	\$25.00	Children's Garden	9/26/2025
Joanne Wollet	\$50.00	Children's Garden	9/26/2025
Gerald & Marian Eskay	\$20.00	Children's Garden	9/26/2025
Donna McMahon	\$100.00	Children's Garden	9/26/2025
Jo Dee & Steve Stanovack	\$100.00	Children's Garden	9/26/2025
Celeste Bohyer	\$50.00	Children's Garden	9/26/2025
Anonymous Cash Donations	\$75.00	Children's Garden	9/26/2025
Sarah Palchak	\$2,500.00	General Short-Term	9/28/2025
Kelly Hawk	\$850.00	Tree Short-Term	9/28/2025
Craig DiTommaso	\$100.00	Tree Short-Term	9/30/2025
Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens	\$20,651.69	Children's Garden	7/1/3025
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 90,400.09</b>		

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

- Kathy Maine commented that she wanted to talk about accountability and read from a prepared statement. She commented that the Board should answer questions during the meeting and questioned why the Executive Director is keeping the minutes. She noted that a stenographer should take minutes. She believes that someone who doesn't have a conflict of interest should be keeping the minutes. She questioned the record of her comments in past meeting minutes. She noted that it is her opinion that her comments are not fully reflected in the past minutes. She believes it is wrong to sell McGuffey as a public park. She thanked the Board for their time.
- Dennis Sanchez, Chief Running Turtle stated that he spoke to hundred of meetings with Native American Indians and at each meeting where you don't refer to people by their last names. Commissioner Bennett asked Dennis to address his comments to the Board. Dennis stated that

Mr. Young needs to show respect when referencing the names of the Board. He noted that Mr. Young doesn't look at those speaking during public comment sessions. He questioned the slaughter of deer. He asked if the Board could point out any happy people at the meeting. Dennis stated that it is "One nation under god."

- Jerry Serbel stated that he is a resident of Youngstown Ohio. He stated that he's been coming to the meetings for the last three years and is against killing the deer within Mill Creek Park. He requested that the MetroParks provide accurate survey numbers. He asked that the Board stop killing deer within the MetroParks.
- Lana Van Auker read a prepared statement involving quotes and summaries from Jane Goodall. She stated that "We don't own this earth, we belong to this earth. This land is not our own." She stated that topic of animal rights is crucial to life on this earth. She questioned how the MetroParks can sell land that was given to it.
- Abby Ivan read a prepared statement that included comments by Geoff Westerfeld of Ohio Division of Wildlife. She noted that Geoff doesn't believe the original survey numbers nor does he believe that any were sick. She noted that the deer killed are young and small. She noted that Geoff commented that small deer will grow and eat like an adult deer.
- Celeste Sinistro from Boardman requested that the Board stop the killing of all the wildlife within the Park. She noticed a contradiction within the MetroParks of people teach yoga and the energetic connection of all things within the Park and the killing of animals. She believes that it should be stopped.
- Melissa Sinistro commented that there is a problem on the East Golf Hike & Bike Trail, which is the speed in which e-bikes travel on the trail. Traditional cyclists also do not abide by the rules of the trail. She requested that the rules be posted.
- Pearl Sinistro asked that Mr. Young look at her as a sign of respect. Germaine requested that Pearl address her comments to the Board. Pearl stated that she has lived next to the Park for 60 years. She stated that nobody respects anything. She asked that all in attendance respect everything.

Commissioner Comments:

- Germaine thanked all who spoke during public comment.
- Jeff thanked the staff who spent 2.5 hours the past week meeting with the Save the Deer people.
- Lee thanked the 21 people who applied to be on the Board. He thanked those that recently ran for public office.
- Paul thanked all of the Veterans as Veteran's Day is Tuesday.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 8, 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 5:50 p.m. There was a motion to adjourn

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Presiding Officer

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Secretary