

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, December 8, 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 November 10, 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 #96904 – #97156 for a total of \$981,398.64, 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 #96904 – #97156 for a total of \$981,398.64, 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

Nick Morchak, Finance Director/Treasurer presented a request to decrease appropriations to Fund 701 – Replacement Reserve Fund by \$1,209,000 for approval. This is a year-end fund adjustment needed to ensure that appropriations do not exceed the estimated resources and amount available to spend in the fund at the end of the year. Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the Finance Director, that the request to decrease appropriations to Fund 701 – Replacement Reserve Fund by \$1,209,000, 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

Nick Morchak, Finance Director/Treasurer presented a request to increase appropriations to account 100.3620.5075 Yellow Creek park Materials & Supplies by \$2,030.00, for approval. This was money received from an insurance claim resulting from vandalism damage incurred to the Yellow Creek Park bathrooms. Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the Finance Director, that the request to increase appropriations to account 100.3620.5075 Yellow Creek park Materials & Supplies by \$2,030.00, 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

Nick Morchak, Finance Director/Treasurer presented the 2026 Temporary Budget at a total of \$1,380,000 for approval. Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the Finance Director, that the 2026 Temporary

Budget at a total of \$1,380,000, 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

Aaron Young, Executive Director, on behalf of the MetroParks Administration thanked Board President Germaine Bennett and Commissioner Tom Frost for their service to the MetroParks. Germaine began her service as a Board member on January 1, 2015. Tom began his service as a Board member on January 1, 2017. Aaron presented Germaine and Tom with a 3D printed replica of the Volney Rogers Statue to commemorate their service to Mill Creek MetroParks

Mark Wenick, President of the MetroParks Foundation presented the 2025 Foundation Annual Report. A copy of the annual report was provided to the Board. The Board thanked Mark for the report and the work of the members of the Foundation. Germaine Bennett moved to accept the 2025 Foundation Annual Report. 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 a request to reappoint Jamie Dietz, Esq. to another three-year term on the MetroParks Foundation Board, ending on 02-28-29. Germaine Bennett moved at the request of the Executive Director to reappoint Jamie Dietz, Esq. to another three-year term on the MetroParks Foundation Board, ending on 02-28-29. 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

Aaron Young, Executive Director presented the summaries of the various Citizens Advisory Committees to the Board. A copy of each summary was provided to the Board. Aaron recommended that the Citizens Advisory Committees continue for another year under the same terms and conditions as previously approved. Germaine Bennett moved at the request of the Executive Director to continue the Citizens Advisory Committees for another year under the same terms and conditions as previously approved, as requested. 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

Aaron Young, Executive Director presented the 2026 Fee Schedule for approval. Aaron noted some minor changes in the times facilities are available for rent and any corresponding change in cost. Aaron further noted that the State Auditor requires that this document is approved by the Board annually. Germaine Bennett moved at the request of the Executive Director to approve the 2026 Fee Schedule, as requested. The motion was seconded by Paul Oliver, after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Zack Torok, Staff Accountant presented the 2026 Fuel & Gasoline Bids for approval. 21st Century (Reed Oil Company) was the lone bidder and it is recommended that 21st Century (Reed Oil Company) be awarded the 2026 Fuel & Gasoline Bid. Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the Staff Accountant, that 21st Century (Reed Oil Company) be awarded the 2026 Fuel & Gasoline Bid. 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

Zack Torok, Staff Accountant presented the 2026 Chemical & Fertilizer Bid for approval. Bids were received by two bidders but due to the lack of products listed and bid, the recommendation is to reject all bids and rebid. Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the Staff Accountant, to reject all bids and rebid for Chemicals & Fertilizers for 2026. 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

Randy Campana, Chief of Police presented and requested approval of the October Police Policies. Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the Chief of Police to approve the updated October Police Policies, 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, Frost, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay: None

Megan Hanley, HR & Administrative Services Director presented the Cybersecurity Program Policy for approval. Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the HR & Administrative Services Director to approve the Cybersecurity Program Policy, 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, Frost, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay: None

Megan Hanley, HR & Administrative Services Director presented the 2026 Employee Pass for approval. Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the HR & Administrative Services Director to approve the 2026 Employee Pass, as requested. 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

Justin Rogers, Planning & Operations Director presented an update on the status of the 2025 Capital Improvement Projects. Justin shared that the presentation will be uploaded to the MetroParks website for all to view and reference.

Chris Litton, Development Director presented the MetroParks Foundation donation report for the period of November 1-30, 2025, at a total of \$40,867.90, for approval. Germaine Bennett moved at the request of the Director of Development to accept the donation report for the period of November 1-30, 2025, at a total of \$40,867.90. 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

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

- Germaine reminded all who signed up to comment about the rules associated with public comment.

- Chris Flak spoke on behalf of the Save the Deer group. She commented on the success of the year for raising money, but that it was not a good year for the raccoons via the previously approved memo-predator management program. She requested more information on the need for the program. She requested that the MetroParks do more to educate the public on not feeding wildlife. She referenced the MetroParks website on the survey numbers associated with the white-tailed deer. She stated that the public has had enough of the deer management program. She hopes the new Board members do a better job in 2026.
- Mickey Drabison stated that he has some thoughts to share. He stated that the deer hunting will end in February. He stated that it is not a sin to see deer. He questioned as to why the concerts were canceled at Wick Recreation Area. Mickey stated that he is friends with Germaine and Tom.
- Chief Running Turtle stated that he has been doing animal rescue for 13 years. All animals are to be respected. Christ said to respect all of the creatures of the earth. The presentation did not mention any type of animal protection or wildlife. He requested that a child be added to the Board.
- Jerry Serbel wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He stated that he is still against the deer killing within the MetroParks. He doesn't see any deer while driving. He questioned how the hunters who break the rules are addressed. He stated that he loves the deer. He commented on how much the Park paid for parcels across from where he lives on Bears Den Road. He stated that they are not pets.
- Lana Van Auken thanked the Board for allowing her to speak since she was late to the sign-in sheet. She read from a prepared statement about the benefits of wildlife and locations doing non-lethal control. She quoted Jane Goodall and summarized her work.

Commissioner Comments:

- Jeff recommended that Public Comment is moved to the beginning of the agenda beginning in 2026. Jeff thanked Tom and Germaine for their work on the Board. Jeff commended the staff for a successful 2025.
- Lee addressed Chief Running Turtle's comment on the presentation not including wildlife. Lee thanked Germaine and Tom for their service and they will be missed. Lee wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.
- Paul echoed the comments of the other commissioners. Paul thanked the staff for a successful 2025 and he looks forward to a successful 2026.
- Germaine thanked Aaron for his work organizing the Park. She thanked the staff for their work and the many improvements to the MetroParks during her tenure. She believes that we should all respect one another even in our differences. She thanked everyone and wished all a Merry Christmas.
- Tom congratulated Germaine and thanked the Board for making him a better commissioner. He commended Aaron and his leadership and the staff for their work. He will miss the team and thanked them. He thanked the public for coming to the meetings and sharing their passion for the MetroParks. He has many memorable moments within the MetroParks as do most of members of the public. He thanked Aaron for his work.

Germaine Bennett moved to exit regular session and go into executive session at 6:15 pm to consider the purchase or sale of property. The motion was seconded by Paul Olivier, after discussion inclusive of inviting Jim Houck to sit in on the executive session, 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 exit executive session and return to regular session at 6:37 pm. 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

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 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 6:38 p.m.

Presiding Officer

Secretary