

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, February 9, 2026.

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

Paul Olivier, Board President welcomed staff and guests.

Roll Call was as follows:

Lee Frey;	Present
Jeff Harvey;	Present
Jim Houck;	Present
Paul Olivier;	Present
Katharine Paull;	Present

The Board was presented with the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 12, 2026. Paul asked the Board if there were any edits or corrections and, with their being none, Paul accepted the minutes into the record as written.

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

- Stan Socha: Stan thanked Aaron for calling him back. He is a supporter of the trails. He recommended a handicap porti-john in the area of The Flats. He referenced the one at Lanterman's Mill. He recommended natural bird houses and suggested that the schools could help. He mentioned the East Golf Hike & Bike Trail and suggested that some Christmas type trees need planted near the benches as a result of the ornaments hanging in that area.
- Mickey Drabison: Mickey noted the deer count that was reported in the paper and suggested that the deer are "running out." He noted the deer harvested by in Mahoning County per ODOW's report. He compared those numbers to adjoining Counties. Mickey requested that the deer hunt be stopped for a year. He believes the deer have no effect on the birds. He encouraged the new members to read their Board By-Laws.
- Ray Thomas: Ray noted that this time of year used to be a great time of year for ice skating. He referenced the long season in the past for skating. He questioned the use of the DEK rink that replaced the ice-skating rink. He suggested that we do more than a Children's Garden.
- Abby Ivan: Abby read a prepared statement regarding the harshness of winter and the impact on the animals. She noted that she has attempted to help injured deer in the past and referenced the support of their family members. She disagrees with the deer management.
- Shari Nesbitt: Presented a pamphlet on Operation Search and Help. It is program that is funded through The Youngstown Foundation. She seeks to pay for things for children with various needs. They are willing to partner with MCMP to promote spaces or events with folks with other abilities. How can MCMP be more embracing of those in the community with needs?

Nick Morchak, Finance Director/Treasurer presented the Department Report for Finance and requested that disbursements #97287 - #97424 for a total of \$1,360,981.54, be approved. Paul Olivier moved, to accept the recommendation of the Finance Director, that the funds having been certified as on hand and duly appropriated, that disbursements #97287 - #97424 for a total of \$1,360,981.54, be approved. 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, Houck, Olivier, Paull
Voting Nay:	None

Nick Morchak, Finance Director/Treasurer presented a request to increase appropriations to account 100.6001.5056 Police Salaries & Wages by \$12,347.13. This was reimbursement from the Ohio Attorney General for continued professional training and will be used towards training hours in 2026. Paul Olivier moved, to accept the recommendation of the Finance Director, to increase appropriations to account 100.6001.5056 Police Salaries & Wages by \$12,347.13. The motion was seconded by Jim Houck and after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Nick Morchak, Finance Director/Treasurer presented a request to increase appropriations to account 100.2203.5097 Fellows Riverside Gardens Davis Center Capital Improvements by \$47,553.42. This was money received from an insurance claim related to audio system & tower repairs and will be used towards contractor payment. Paul Olivier moved, to accept the recommendation of the Finance Director, to increase appropriations to account 100.2203.5097 Fellows Riverside Gardens Davis Center Capital Improvements by \$47,553.42. 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, Houck, Olivier, Paull  
Voting Nay: None

Nick Morchak, Finance Director/Treasurer presented and requested approval of Resolution R-26-02 Requesting Authorization to make tax advance requests to the Mahoning County Auditor on behalf of the Board as they become available throughout the current year. Paul Olivier moved, to accept the recommendation of the Finance Director, and approve Resolution R-26-02 Requesting Authorization to make tax advance requests to the Mahoning County Auditor on behalf of the Board as they become available throughout the current year. 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, Houck, Olivier, Paull  
Voting Nay: None

R-26-02

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING AUTHORIZATION  
TO MAKE TAX ADVANCE REQUESTS TO  
THE MAHONING COUNTY AUDITOR ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD  
AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT 2026**

**WHEREAS**, per ORC 321.34, the Mahoning County Auditor has procedures available to request Real Property Tax Collection advances for Mill Creek MetroParks, and

**WHEREAS**, the Treasurer of the MetroParks will request advances on the dates listed below:

- February 20, 2026 (if sufficient taxes are collected at this time)
- February 27, 2026
- March 6, 2026
- March 13, 2026
- March 20, 2026
- March 27, 2026 (if settlement is not completed by this date)

and,

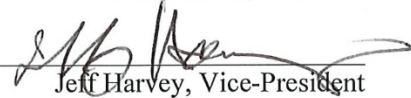
**WHEREAS**, the Board of Park Commissioners of Mill Creek MetroParks authorizes the Treasurer to make this request, and authorizes the Treasurer to receive advances when funds are available throughout the calendar year, and

**WHEREAS**, the Treasurer of the MetroParks will provide the Mahoning County Auditor a copy of this resolution by noon the Monday before the advance is scheduled.

**IN WITNESS THEREOF**, We, the Board of Park Commissioners hereunto set our hand this  
9<sup>th</sup> day of FEBRUARY, 2026.



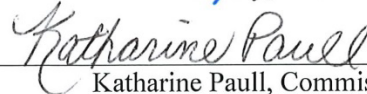
Paul Olivier, President



Jeff Harvey, Vice-President



Lee Frey, Commissioner



Katharine Paull, Commissioner



Jim Houck, Commissioner

Aaron Young, Executive Director, shared that the 2025 Annual Report has been completed and is available on the MetroParks website.

John Novosel, Police Sgt. presented and requested approval of the Lexipol Police Policy updates related to impound lot fees. Paul Olivier moved to accept the recommendation of the Police Sgt. and approve the Lexipol Police Policy updates related to impound fees. 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, Houck, Olivier, Paull  
Voting Nay: None

Brian Tolnar, PGA Director of Golf & Recreation presented and requested approval of the following Special Events/Races/Requests to Collect Funds.

1. YSU Faculty & Staff Banquet on 04-16-26 @ FRG Rossi Auditorium
2. Youngstown Flea/Market for Makers (Fathers Day Edition) on 06-21-26 @ FRG
3. Mill Creek Distance Classic on 03-22-26
4. Walk for Parkinsons on 05-16-26
5. Youngstown Ultra Trail Classic on 09-12-26
6. Canfield Girls Basketball Par-3 Outing on 08-06-26
7. Greatest Golfer of the Valley Tournament on 08-07-26
8. Chaney High School Alumni Outing on 08-15-26
9. Presidents Athletic Conference (PAC) Men's & Women's Cross Country Championship on 10-31-26

Paul Olivier moved to accept the recommendation of the PGA Director of Golf & Recreation and approve the Special Events/Races/Requests to Collect Funds. The motion was seconded by Katharine Paull and after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Chris Litton, Development Director presented the MetroParks Foundation donation report for the period of January 1-31, 2025, at a total of \$25,706.61, for approval. Paul Olivier moved to accept the recommendation of the Director of Development and approve the donation report for the period of December 1-31, 2025, at a total of \$25,706.61. 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, Houck, Olivier, Paull  
Voting Nay: None

Chris Litton, Development Director presented and requested approval of the 2026 Annual Development Plan. Paul Olivier moved to accept the recommendation of the Director of Development and approve the 2026 Annual Development Plan. 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, Houck, Olivier, Paull  
Voting Nay: None

Commissioner Comments:

- Paul Olivier: Paul thanked the Police Department for responding to a recent vehicle issue with promptness.
- Jeff Harvey: None.
- Lee Frey: Lee suggested that Shari contact our education department for suggestions related to our programming. Lee referenced the Sound Off section of the Vindicator and the recent reference to the trees being cut down in the park. He further suggested that people call if they have any questions. He quoted the 2025 Annual Plan and referenced the many efforts to support habitat development and the thousands of trees that are planted every year in the MetroParks. Lee congratulated Jeff Harvey for maintaining the record for being the Board member with the fastest request to have him/her removed.

- Jim Houck: Jim noted that two different people commented to him about the promptness of staff plowing the roads and trails.
- Katharine Paull: Kat complimented the staff in creating the Annual Report, as she found it very user friendly.

Paul Olivier moved to exit regular session and go into executive session at 5:35 pm to consider the appointment, employment, discipline, or compensation of public employees and purchase or sale of property. 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, Houck, Olivier, Paull  
Voting Nay: None

Paul Olivier moved to exit executive session and return to regular session at 6:47 pm. 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, Houck, Olivier, Paull  
Voting Nay: None

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 9, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., in McMahon Hall located at the MetroParks Farm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:48 p.m.

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Presiding Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary