

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, March 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 February 9, 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)

- Jerry Serbel stated that he lives on Bears Den. He is asking the Board to stop killing the deer. He stated that he stopped feeding corn to the deer. He suggested that we plant greenery that the deer can eat. He pleaded that the Park stop killing the deer.
- Stan Socha thanked the Board for the work around the Lily Pond & the chips around the Flats. He requested that the handicap port o john restroom be relocated to the Flats. Stan provided a copy of a wood carving of an owl on an old stump. He noted that example was around \$2,000 each. He noted that maybe the carvings could be sold or used as fundraisers. He suggested that wood shop classes create bird houses for the Park.
- Lana Van Auker stated that she lives on Sawmill Creek near the wildlife area. She stated that she photographs many dead deer each year. She believes that Mill Creek has failed in providing for the animals. She further quoted David Attenborough. She noted that she has designated her property as wildlife refuge. She thanked the Board for allowing her to speak.
- Mike Drabison commented that their group has been accused of not respecting the Board. Mike questioned the survey numbers and the ability of the Board to handle criticism. Mike claimed that too many false things are being said. He stated that he is not a trouble maker and that his group will give respect if they are given respect. He quoted the Executive Director as stating that the reason for the deer management was due to negative impacts on birds including the wood-thrush.
- Abby Ivan stated that the last time she spoke she failed to not welcome the new Board members. She noted that most of the group lives near Mill Creek Park. She noted that they have questioned the survey numbers from the beginning. She requested that the Park stop killing the deer. She referenced Boardman Park and their noted lack of a deer problem.

Nick Morchak, Finance Director/Treasurer presented the Department Report for Finance and requested that disbursements #97425 - #97620 for a total of \$906,873.36, 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 #97425 - #97620 for a total of \$906,873.36, be approved. 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

Aaron Young, Executive Director, provided an update on the FRG Horticulture Maintenance Center Project. The project will be delayed until 2027 due to the unexpected maintenance needs identified within the Davis Center involving the geothermal system and the Café terrace. Investigations are ongoing into both of these areas to determine next steps. Aaron also acknowledged the Golf team for receiving the Game Changer Award from the PGA of America for providing youth programming in 2025. This is the fourth consecutive year for receiving the award. The also received the Player Development Award from the Northern Ohio PGA Section for providing programs such as the PGA Junior League for kids, PGA Hope program for Veterans, Clubs for Kids program for area High School teams within the Mahoning Valley and for hosting the Drive Chip & Putt qualifier & NOPGA Junior tour for the past 10 years.

Aaron Young, Executive Director presented and requested approval of the Revised 2026 Rental Rate Fee Schedule. Aaron identified that the only category that had changes was the addition of the education rooms at FNC. Paul Olivier moved to accept the recommendation of the Executive Director and approve the Revised 2026 Rental Rate Fee Schedule. 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

Aaron Young, Executive Director presented and requested approval of the following Special Events/Races/Requests to Collect Funds.

1. Mother's Day Flea @ FRG on 05-10-26

Paul Olivier moved to accept the recommendation of the Executive Director and approve the Special Events/Races/Requests to Collect Funds. 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

Chris Litton, Development Director presented the MetroParks Foundation donation report for the period of February 1-28, 2026, at a total of \$9,062.30, for approval. Paul Olivier moved to accept the recommendation of the Director of Development and approve the donation report for the period of February 1-28, 2026, at a total of \$9,062.30. The motion was seconded by Jeff Harvey, after discussion related to various Partners in the Park, 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 staff for their work during the winter. He wished everyone a happy St. Patricks Day.
- Jeff Harvey: Jeff Harvey stated that wood-thrush birds are not extinct.
- Lee Frey:
- Jim Houck:
- Katharine Paull:

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 13, 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 5:24 p.m.

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Presiding Officer

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Secretary