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, October 26, 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, Vice-President;	Present
Jim Houck;	Absent
Paul Olivier, President;	Present
Katharine Paull;	Present

The Board was presented with the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 14, 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)

- Emily Draca read a prepared statement and quoted the term “In Perpetuity” and a statement made by Mr. Young on a recent podcast. She quoted a second comment that related to the number of deer is irrelevant. She questioned the safety of the park while deer are being hunted. She noted her disdain for the Director and the Board will remain in perpetuity.
- Cathy Doslovic read a prepared statement related to deer management within the Parks. She stands against hunting. She noted the complex bonds of deer and positions within the ecosystems and questioned killing or hunting. She believes that true wildlife management does not need to involve lethal means and use non-lethal alternatives. We all need to be advocates for the animals within the Parks.
- Sylvia Halt commented on the deer management program and the previous numbers related to deer management. She quoted the Director and his comments made on a recent podcast as it pertains to the undergrowth within the Parks. She asked the Board to do their due diligence and get away from deer management.
- Mike Drabison commented that he was approached by a group to combine and to oppose the next tax levy. He declined that they want to join the group. He questioned why people have to pay for activities within the Park. He questioned the Board on knowing the by-laws and noted that they can disagree with the Director. He offered to sit down with any board member to discuss the issue of lies associated with the deer management program. He commented that the Park is not the same.
- Jim Cliff noted that he lives next to the Park on Cathyanne Drive. He provided photography of an area flooded by Mill Creek. He quoted that the trees have fallen and kept the water from flowing. He noted that he talked to the Army Corps of Engineers about the flooding and they directed them to Mill Creek MetroParks. He asked the MetroParks to act. He also opposed hunting within the parks.
- Lana Van Auker stated that she lives to Sawmill Creek Preserve. She read from a prepared statement commenting about all living creatures having a right to live. She commented that Volney Rogers wanted Mill Creek Park to preserve the deer and wildlife. She believes culling is inhumane. She quoted David Attenborough and the love for animals. She commented that she is teaching her family to be kind to all animals.
- John Pieros stated that he lives in Boardman Township. He is against the hunting within the Parks. He questioned the previous information that was provided to justify the management. He thinks that the statements and surveys were incorrect. He is against hunting with in the Park.

- Abby Ivan stated that she is a lifelong resident of Boardman and read from a prepared statement. She commented that ODNR stated that they will just need to get used to the deer management. She commented that the team was out there for six days doing deer management. She commented that USDA has all of the technology needed to do the work. She questioned the cost for six nights of deer management, but the park is still soliciting for donations. She believes that the issues are all starting over.

Nick Morchak, Finance Director/Treasurer presented the Department Report for Finance and requested that disbursements #99160 - #99419 for a total of $1,782,240.61 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 #99160 - #99419 for a total of $1,782,240.61, 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, Olivier, Paull
Voting Nay: None

Zach Torok, Staff Accountant presented the 3rd Quarter Credit Card Report for 2026. No action was needed.

Aaron Young, Executive Director provided an update clean up from the July 5, 2026 tornado. The North Course opened to the public on Saturday, October 10, 2026. The South Course is expected to open for the 2027 season. We have recently learned that the Governor has authorized the State Disaster Relief Program (SDRP) for the July 4-6, 2026 event. Ohio EMA still needs to get funding approval from the State Controlling Board, which is anticipated to be scheduled for no later than November 30, 2026. We anticipate submitting a request for reimbursement of clean up expenses and lost revenues. Aaron also shared that the ribbon cutting for the Anthony J. Fox Family Foundation Children's Garden was held on October 9, 2026 @ 11:00 am.

Paul Olivier moved to exit regular session and go into executive session at 5:22 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, Olivier, Paull
Voting Nay: None

Lee Frey moved to exit executive session and return to regular session at 6:04 pm. 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, Olivier, Paull
Voting Nay: None

Randy Campana, Police Chief presented the OVI Task Force Contract for FFY 2027 for approval. Paul Olivier moved to accept the recommendation of the Police Chief and that the OVI Task Force Contract for FFY 2027 be approved. The motion was seconded by Katharine Paull, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Randy Campana, Police Chief presented the October 2026 Police Policies for approval. Paul Olivier moved to accept the recommendation of the Police Chief and that the October 2026 Police Policies be approved. The motion was seconded by Jeff Harvey, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Megan Hanley, HR & Administrative Services Director presented the 2027 Healthcare Plans (Medical, Dental & Vision) for approval. Paul Olivier moved to accept the recommendation of the HR & Administrative Services Director and that the 2027 Healthcare Plans be approved. The motion was seconded by Lee Frey, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Aaron Young, Executive Director presented the 2026 Revised Fee Schedule for approval. Paul Olivier moved to accept the recommendation of the Executive Director and that the 2026 Revised Fee Schedule be approved. The motion was seconded by Lee Frey, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Aaron Young, Executive Director presented the following Special Events/Requests to Collect Funds for approval. Aaron identified that the Board should address the requests individually.

1. Suburban League Championship Meet on 09-22-26 @ MetroParks Farm Course
2. Salvation Army 2026 Holiday Kettle Bell Launch on 11-07-26 @ Children's Garden
3. Tipping at Christmas at the Mill on 11-29-26 @ Lanterman's Mill

Aaron recommended that the Suburban League Championship Meet on 09-22-26 @ MetroParks Farm Course be approved as it was being done so after the fact due to the applicant missing the previous Board Meeting deadline but did get the approval of Administration. Paul Olivier moved to accept the recommendation of the Executive Director and approve the special event/requests to collect funds. The motion was seconded by Jeff Harvey, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Aaron recommended that the Salvation Army 2026 Holiday Kettle Bell Launch on 11-07-26 @ Children's Garden be approved. Paul Olivier moved to accept the recommendation of the Executive Director and approve the special event/requests to collect funds. The motion was seconded by Katharine Paul, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Aaron presented the request to allow musicians to have tip jars or Tipping at Christmas at the Mill on 11-29-26 @ Lanterman's Mill. Paul Olivier moved to discuss the issue before moving forward. The motion was seconded by Lee Frey, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Discussion ensued related to the appropriateness of the requests and the challenges with policing it in the future. Paul Olivier moved to end discussion and approve the request for tipping. The motion was seconded by Lee Frey, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Chris Litton, Development Director presented the MetroParks Foundation donation report for the period of September 1-30, 2026, at a total of $36,368.00, for approval. Paul Olivier moved to accept the recommendation of the Director of Development and approve the donation report for the period of September 1-30, 2026, at a total of $36,368.00. The motion was seconded by Lee Frey, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Chris Litton, Development Director presented Resolution R-26-06 Acknowledgement of Grants, Donations or Trusts for the period of July 1, 2026 thru September 30, 2026, for approval. Paul Olivier moved, to accept the request of the Development Director, and that Resolution R-26-06 Acknowledgement of Grants, Donations or Trusts for the period of July 1, 2026 thru September 30, 2026be 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, Olivier, Paull
Voting Nay: None

Resolution R-26-06

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, 2026, through September 30, 2026 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 26th day of OCTOBER, 2026.

Paul Olivier, President

Jeff Harvey, Vice President

Lee Frey, Commissioner

Jim Houck, Commissioner

Katharine Paull, Commissioner

3rd Qrt. 2026 Donation Log			
Mill Creek MetroParks Foundation			
Donor	Amount	Designation	Date
Tom Shipka	$100.00	General Endowment	7/1/2026
Manchester Newman Bennett	$250.00	Children's Garden	6/30/2026
David Detec	$100.00	Children's Garden	7/13/2026
Kris & Rob Fox	$78,060.97	Children's Garden	7/23/2026
Fireline, Inc.	$1,000.00	General Fund	7/9/2026
Ethan Tabor	$25.00	General Fund	7/11/2026
Bill Deal	$50.00	General Fund	7/13/2026
Sharon Kurjan	$50.00	Tree Trust	7/4/2026
Jinx Christensen	$200.00	Tree Trust	7/7/2026
Kimberly Roy	$5,000.00	Park Bench Fund	7/8/2026
Katherine Madison	$20.00	Park Bench Fund	7/9/2026
Grant Menough	$10.00	Park Bench Fund	7/9/2026
Stephen Whetstone	$50.00	Park Bench Fund	7/10/2026
Sue Terry Kornbau	$10.00	Park Bench Fund	7/10/2026
Eliane Habeger	$20.00	Park Bench Fund	7/13/2026
Stephen Whetstone	$50.00	Park Bench Fund	7/13/2026
Stephen Whetstone	$50.00	Park Bench Fund	7/15/2026
Stephen Whetstone	$50.00	Park Bench Fund	7/24/2026
Katherine Paull	$500.00	Golf Short-Term	7/13/2026
Chris Litton	$25.00	Golf Short-Term	7/14/2026
Marica Dunphy	$150.00	Golf Short-Term	7/15/2026
Robert Blake	$50.00	Golf Short-Term	7/15/2026
Cathleen Anastis	$50.00	Golf Short-Term	7/16/2026
James Houck	$100.00	Golf Short-Term	7/16/2026
Mahoning Valley Amature Radio	$100.00	Farm Short-Term	7/22/2026
The Columbus Foundation	$1,000.00	Trail Endowment	8/13/2026
Tom Shipka	$100.00	General Endowment	8/1/2026
Akron Children's Hospital	$60.00	Children's Garden	8/13/2026
Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens	$28,135.75	Children's Garden	8/5/2026
Patricia Wagner	$100.00	Children's Garden	8/1/2026
Deirdre Sadler	$20.00	Park Bench Fund	8/19/2026
Stephen Whetstone	$50.00	Park Bench Fund	8/19/2026
Patrick K. Hyland	$2,500.00	Park Bench Fund	8/31/2026
Ethan Tabor	$25.00	General Short-Term	8/11/2026
Kimberly Ciola	$50.00	Tree Trust	8/25/2026
Sanders Burstein	$50.00	Tree Trust	8/22/2026
Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens	$105,910.33	Short-Term Gardens	8/20/2026
Mike McConnell	$500.00	Natural Trail Endowment	9/11/2026
John Warrick	$1,000.00	Natural Trail Endowment	8/17/2026
Fireline, Inc.	$4,000.00	Tree Trust	9/16/2026
Canfield Fair Fundraiser	$30,843.00	Farm Short-Term	9/15/2026
Ethan Tabor	$25.00	General Short-Term	9/11/2026
Total:	**$260,440.05**		

Commissioner Comments:

- Paul Olivier asked Aaron Young, Executive Director to bring up the issue of land acquisition to the table. Aaron provided an update on the status of land acquisition negotiations within Jackson Township and noted that he had been previously authorized by the Board to negotiate. Those negotiations have led to a draft agreement and that in order to move forward with the acquisition of Liberty Park, located in Jackson Township the Board would need to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a purchase and sale agreement. The purchase price for Liberty Park is one dollar. Paul Olivier moved to accept the recommendation and authorize the Executive Director to enter into a purchase/sale agreement with Jackson Township for Liberty Park. The motion was seconded by Jeff Harvey, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

  Voting Aye: Frey, Harvey, Olivier, Paull
  Voting Nay: None
- Paul thanked the staff for their work and the community for their patience as we recover from the July 5, 2026 tornado.
- Jeff noted that the Children's Garden was completed and that we reached our goal of three million dollars in philanthropic support for the project.
- Lee commented that the use of contraception for deer management needed authorized by the State of Ohio, of which they declined. He wished everyone a happy day.
- Katharine thanked the staff for their work on the Children's Garden. As a former educator she thinks the facility is great.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 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 6:25 p.m.

_____ _____

Presiding Officer Secretary