

Canfield, Ohio
July 21, 2008

The Board of Park Commissioners of Mill Creek MetroParks met in Regular Session on Monday, July 21, 2008, at 6:00 p.m., with members M. Virginia Dailey, Carl Nunziato, and Rick Shale present.

Dr. Shale moved the Minutes of the Meeting of June 21, 2008, be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nunziato and passed.

Dave Christy presented the Treasurer's Report. Dr. Shale moved, the funds having been certified as on hand and duly appropriated, that disbursements # 44065 through # 44336 be approved.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Nunziato, the vote taken resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Dailey, Nunziato, Shale
Voting Nay: None

After an explanation of the procedures for receiving real estate tax advances by the Treasurer, Mr. Nunziato moved that the Board authorize the Treasurer to request and receive 2nd half real estate tax advances from the Mahoning County Auditor for the following dates:

July 25, 2008
August 1, 2008
August 8, 2008
August 15, 2008
August 22, 2008

The motion was seconded by Dr. Shale and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Dailey, Shale
Voting Nay: None

Mr. Nunziato mentioned that there was a letter to editor in Sunday's Vindicator from Bob Stanger, who was complimentary about the MetroParks. Mr. Nunziato suggested we send an acknowledgement to Mr. Stanger as well as any other writers of similar complimentary letters.

Mr. Nunziato visited the Copeland Oaks Community in Smith Township where he saw their five mile cross-country trail which is under construction. He was pleased that the MetroParks was exploring various collaborative projects with them. Dave Imbrogno and Steve Avery visited the facility last month providing advice on the construction of the trail. Mr. Imbrogno added that, other ideas discussed included co-sponsoring a community special event on the Copeland Oaks campus which is extensive with large grassy areas, a lake, ample parking and nearby utilities. These discussions are part of a goal to create a programmatic presence in those areas of the county where the MetroParks does not have a physical

presence. Mr. Nunziato asked Steve Avery to check out an area where a creek was seemingly blocked by the trail construction activity.

Staff Report - Executive Director, Dave Imbrogno

¥ Mr. Imbrogno reminded the Board and Staff to think about items they have which might be of archival interest and forward them to him. He stressed the importance of staying connected to our history as we move forward. He also noted that the rarest and most interesting archival items are often the common items which we take for granted and thus are commonly discarded. Correspondence, copies of emails, program flyers, old signs, and CafŽ menus are just a few examples of things to consider. We will solicit items twice a year in January and June.

¥ Mr. Imbrogno reported that he met with the Director of Second Harvest Food Bank to explore common interests. There are many natural connections between Second Harvest and the MetroParks, especially at the MetroParks Farm and Fellows Riverside Gardens. Some of the Second Harvest TV promos will be shot in the MetroParks. Helping Second Harvest to plant an orchard and garden in front of their warehouse was discussed. One very exciting idea was to design a master gardener program focused on raising food plants. The program would target representatives of each agency that Second Harvest works with. The members of these various church and community groups would then go into their communities to teach others to grow their own food.

¥ Commissioner Shale, Mr. Imbrogno and Assistant Horticulturist, Ellen Speicher, visited Tod Homestead Cemetery and met with representatives of their board and staff. Next year is the 100th anniversary of the Cemetery. They would like to identify and highlight some of the famous people buried there. One of those is Mill Creek Park founder Volney Rogers. Volney Rogers was also a member of the first group of Tod Cemetery Trustees, possibly becoming the Chairman. Bruce Rogers, the first Mill Creek Park Superintendent, is also buried at the cemetery. Discussions focused upon the Cemetery improving the physical gravesite and Mill Creek MetroParks creating a landscape appropriate to the Park's founder. We might also assist with a brochure on famous people in the Cemetery and provide website links.

¥ A draft of the poster and banner design for the Smith Township Concert and Community Day was presented. There are now more than a half dozen sponsors providing free food and other items. The event is scheduled for August 16, beginning at 4 p.m. with food, nature walks, and a naturalist's table. The concert will begin at 6 p.m. featuring the Bluegrass Group, Get Out and Push.

¥ Community Advisory Committees for critical areas of MetroParks operations is a priority. One of the first to be formed will be a Natural Areas Advisory Committee. The main goal of that group is

to help develop a Natural Areas Management Plan for the entire MetroParks. They would also solicit and review research proposals and advise us on various land management options. Mr. Imbrogno asked for suggestions for people with appropriate expertise to invite to serve on the committee.

¥ The Garden Gazebo walkway is complete and everyone was invited to take a walk to see it after the meeting.

¥ The new staff evaluation process is underway and about half-way complete.

¥ A final reminder was given for the Volunteer Appreciation Event on Aug 6, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the MetroParks Farm.

¥ Finally, Mindy Henning's parents contacted us to confirm their desire to establish a scholarship fund in Mindy's memory. Generous contribution from them and other donors have resulted in \$6,300 to start the fund. Discussions are underway to decide how the fund will be used and how recipients will be selected

Mr. Nunziato asked about the status of the Tennis Court renovations at the Wick Recreation Area. Dave Imbrogno reported that he forwarded a new project schedule with a new October 1 deadline for the renovations to be complete to the tennis players that inquired about the project at the last board meeting. The group seemed satisfied with the response. Mr. Imbrogno also checked into their reports that a tree had been down near the court for a long time. The Wick and the Horticulture staff believe that this was during a very large storm a few years ago and it just took time for the Forestry staff to get to all of the downed trees.

Mr. Nunziato asked about the status of car break-ins and other security problems. Police Chief, Nate Pinkard reported that there have been fewer incidents this year than last year. One reason for the decrease in incidents is installation of new security cameras in critical areas, combined with a greater police presence in critical areas.

Ms. Dailey announced that the next Regular Board Meeting has been scheduled for Monday, August 18, 2008, 6 p.m. at Fellows Riverside Gardens.

Dr. Shale moved the Board meet in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing property matters: 1. a possible easement; and for the purpose of discussing personnel matters: 1. preliminary ideas for some re-organization of the Administrative Office.

For Executive Session: Dailey, Nunziato, Shale
Against Executive Session: None

The motion was seconded by Mr. Nunziato and passed, and the Board met in Executive Session beginning at 6:18 p.m.

The Board returned from the Executive Session at 8 p.m. Upon completion of the Executive Session, the Board adjourned its meeting.

Presiding Officer

Secretary