

Canfield, Ohio
September 15, 2008

The Board of Park Commissioners of Mill Creek MetroParks met in Regular Session on Monday, September 15, 2008, at 6:00 p.m., with members M. Virginia Dailey, Carl Nunziato, and Rick Shale present.

Executive Director Dave Imbrogno introduced and welcomed our new Public Relations & Development Director Linda Kostka. Most recently, Linda worked with Planned Parenthood, and Second Harvest Food Bank. She is originally from Pennsylvania and has been in Youngstown/Mahoning County area since 1979.

Recreation Director Tom Bresko introduced Annette Vasko, former Part-time Yellow Creek Park Manager, whose role has been expanded to include responsibilities which she has assisted with on and off for a number of years. She has been at Yellow Creek for five years, filling in for the Recreation Director and Assistant Recreation Director when they have been on vacation, or on days off. Her new title will be Recreation Facilities Manager. Tom spoke highly of Annette's past work and confidently about her new full-time role.

Dr. Shale moved the Minutes of the Meeting of August 18, 2008, be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nunziato and passed.

Dave Christy, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report. Dr. Shale moved, the funds having been certified as on hand and duly appropriated, that disbursements # 44658 through #44905 be approved.

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

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

Dr. Shale further moved that the following income be appropriated:

General Fund:

Employee Insurance	\$329,295.83
Education & Visitors Center	27,149.14
Equipment Operating	23,073.58
Judge Morley Performing Arts Pavilion	5,250.00

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

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

Dave Christy gave an explanation and a brief history regarding the following resolution. Mr. Nunziato moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

R-08-06

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR

WHEREAS, The Board of Park Commissioners of Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District, Mahoning County, Ohio, in accordance with the provisions of law has previously adopted a Tax Budget or has been granted authority by the Mahoning County Budget Commission to waive this requirement for the next succeeding fiscal year commencing January 1, 2009; and

WHEREAS, The Budget Commission of Mahoning County, Ohio, has certified its action thereon to this Board together with an estimate by the County Auditor of the rate of each tax necessary to be levied by this Board, and what part thereof is without, and what part within, the ten mill limitation; therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the Board of Park Commissioners of the Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District, Mahoning County, Ohio, that the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission, in its certification, be and the same are hereby accepted; and be it further

RESOLVED, That there be and is hereby levied on the tax duplicate of said Park District the rate of each tax necessary to be levied within and without the ten mill limitations as follows:

SCHEDULE A/SUMMARY OF AMOUNTS REQUIRED FROM GENERAL PROPERTY TAX APPROVED BY BUDGET COMMISSION AND COUNTY AUDITOR'S ESTIMATED TAX RATES

FUND
Amount Approved by
Budget Commission
Inside 10 Mill
Limitation
Amount to Be
Derived from Levies
Outside 10 M
Limitation
County Auditor's
Estimate of Tax Rate
to be Levied Inside
10 Mill Limit
County Auditor's
Estimate of Tax Rate
to be Levied Outside
10 M Limitation

Column I
Column II
Column III
Column IV
General Fund

6,259,195.79

1.75

TOTAL

6,259,195.79

1.75

And be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of this Board be and is hereby directed to certify a copy of the Resolution to the County Auditor of said County.

Dr. Shale seconded the Resolution and the roll being called upon its adoption the vote resulted as follows:

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

Tom Bresko presented a request from Struthers Rotary to again hold their Rubber Duck Race Fundraiser in Yellow Creek Park on Saturday, October 18, 2008. After discussion, Dr. Shale motioned that the event be approved.

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

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

Dave Imbrogno, Executive Director responded to the Commissioner's request that the Board consider a Board Self-Assessment process. Mr. Imbrogno described it as a common practice for non-profit boards to periodically assess what is working well and what needs attention. Some of the various sources for putting together such a process were described. After some discussion, the board agreed that we should select a process and embark upon it early next year.

Dave Imbrogno announced that a Staff Diversity Training session is scheduled for November 13, at 1:00 p.m., and November 14, at 9:00 a.m. Cliff Johnson, who comes highly recommended, will be the facilitator. The MetroParks defines diversity in its broadest sense to include ethnic, generational, gender, economic, geographic, different abilities, etc. The MetroParks plans to be proactive in addressing diversity issues, especially as they relate to volunteer and staff recruitment, and program and event audience.

Golf Director Dennis Miller gave an update on play and comparative statistics at the golf course. His statistics indicated the main factor affecting play is weather. Taking weather into account, he feels that, even with the new competition from other courses, our numbers are holding

steady. He noted that the condition of the golf course is excellent. He was very complimentary about the work of Golf Course Superintendent Perry Toth. Dennis also presented a handout of golf activities scheduled throughout the year, league play, and also an insert from "Play Golf America" which gave Mill Creek Golf Course some national recognition. Finally, he updated the board on the impact of the storms that came through the area yesterday. Power is still out at the golf course. There is a lot of debris to clear. Crews are working full time, and hope to get the north course open in a day or so, then the south.

Justin Rogers presented the Trumbull-Mahoning Green Pact, a plan derived from Eastgate's EPAC (Environmental Planning Advisory Committee). The Pact outlines common sense steps to address environmental issues and protect, strengthen and enhance the quality of life for residents, economic vibrancy and the natural environment throughout our local community. The ten (10) goals as listed within the Pact include:

1. Growing a Strong, Green Economy
2. Encourage the Purchase of Green Products
3. Implementing Sustainable Development Policies and Practices
4. Building Green Facilities and Reducing Energy Consumption
5. Reducing Waste
6. Educating and Engaging Our Communities
7. Preserving Green Space and Creating Greenways
8. Reducing Emissions
9. Greening Public Fleets
10. Promoting Alternative Transportation

The MetroParks is already addressing many of these goals in its daily operations. Adopting the Green Pact can be a catalyst for the MetroParks to even more quickly implement them. Many Trumbull County communities and organizations have already signed the Pact. Eastgate is currently soliciting the support of any remaining Mahoning County entities. The Pact is a non-binding agreement that makes a statement to the community and provides an outline of what can be done in the best interest of our community to protect our air, water, and natural resources, increase green space, and reduce consumption of raw materials. In addition to these benefits, signing the Pact will strengthen applications for potential federal dollars allocated for such endeavors. After discussion, the Board agreed that this was very important and that a resolution will be drafted for approval at our next board meeting.

Dr. Shale proposed renaming the Farm Habitat Trail in honor of Mindy Henning. Mindy played a substantial role in creating this trail, and was a very important member of the MetroParks' education team. Dr. Shale made the motion to rename it the Mindy Henning Memorial Trail.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Nunziato moved the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Dr. Shale reported that he, Dave Imbrogno, and Ellen Speicher met with Tod Homestead Cemetery staff and trustees about working with them to clean up the gravesite of MetroParks founder and former Trustee of Tod Cemetery, Volney Rogers, who is buried there. Hikes to Volney Rogers' grave have been led over the years by Ray Novotny a MetroParks Naturalist, and Rick Shale. The cemetery would do the stone work and the MetroParks Horticulture Department would improve the landscaping.

Staff Report - Executive Director, Dave Imbrogno:

¥ The MetroParks new planning process began with the MetroParks Leadership Staff deciding the format and process for creating the plan. It will be a high priority to involve the entire staff, the Commissioners and the community. One item of note was the idea to do more than the traditional 5 year plan. Our plan would look as many years into the future as the MetroParks is old (118 years). Thus, the plan might be a 5, 25 and 125 year plan (or maybe 118 years to match our age). The Leadership Staff will meet every two weeks to work on the plan with other opportunities to involve others announced along the way. The goal is to have a new plan in place shortly after the first of the year. However, far from being complete, the plan will be a constantly evolving and changing guide for the MetroParks future.

¥ Linda Kostka reported on recent Development & Marketing activities. First, WYSU will be involving the MetroParks with their upcoming pledge drive. The plan is to offer as one of the WYSU membership benefits an alternative to receiving the traditional gift. Instead, a tree will be planted in the MetroParks as part of one of its natural areas restoration projects. Next spring, Executive Director Dave Imbrogno will lead a walk for WYSU donors to see the site that is being restored. This was a spin-off of a national program which planted a tree at an un-named location nationally. WYSU hopes that the tangible local connection will be very attractive to potential new and renewing members. Linda also updated the Board on the Mindy Henning Scholarship fund which has so far attracted \$7,860 in donations. The goal is to reach \$10,000 so that an annual award of \$500 can be given while preserving the principal and allowing some growth for the fund.

¥ Dave Imbrogno, Linda Kostka, and Tony Leone will meet about the 2009 concerts soon with the goal being to expand them into the western part of the county using the Smith Township Community Day as a model, and to reconsider how the Yellow Creek Concerts are offered. Linda and Dave have already scheduled to meet with the Chair of the City of Struthers Parks Committee to talk about the possibility of collaborating on ours and their concerts and possibly other activities.

¥ Keith Kaiser showed a 2009 MetroParks calendar that Scott Lanz has done. Scott is donating the proceeds to the MetroParks. The calendars will be for sale at the Gardens, Ford Center, Mill, and

at the main office in Canfield, for \$11.95, as well as in other community locations. ¥ Recreation and Programs Director, Tom Bresko, reported that the Sunset at the Farm event went on despite the heavy rain. They quickly downsized and were pleased to have over 700 people show up. This was the first time in the past 12 years that weather has been a problem with the event. Mr. Imbrogno was very complimentary about the Recreation and Program Department's flexibility in dealing with this and other similar situations.

The Board, and others present, complimented the Planning & Operations Department on the rapid clean up and re-opening of MetroParks roads after the recent winds and storms.

Ms. Dailey announced that the next Regular Board Meeting has been scheduled for Monday, October 20, 2008, 6 p.m. at the MetroParks Farm, Classroom A.

The Board received the following public comments:

¥ Nancy Brundage Ð congratulated and spoke highly of Annette, welcomed Linda Kostka, and was pleased to hear that we were planning to sign the Green Pact. She invited those present to come to the bird hike she would be leading at the Newport Wetlands and announced the next Audubon Meeting, September 23 which will feature a wonderful program on owls.

¥ Tom Bresko said that he was certain that the Henning Family would be very pleased about renaming of the trail in honor of Mindy, as was he.

At the end of the public comment session, the Board thanked the public for their comment.

Dr. Shale moved the Board meet in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate issues: 1. possible easement, and also to discuss personnel matters: 1. related to the golf course, and 2. internships.

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 at 6:59 p.m.

The Board returned from the Executive Session at 8:08 p.m. Upon completion of the Executive Session, the Board adjourned its meeting.