

Canfield Ohio
July 14, 2014

The Board of Park Commissioners of Mill Creek MetroParks met in Regular Session on Monday, July 14, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. with members Jay Macejko, and John Ragan, and Lou Schiavoni present. Bob Durick was excused due to a planned vacation. Valencia Marrow was excused due to two deaths in her family.

Mr. Schiavoni presented the Minutes of the Meeting of June 9, 2014, and asked that they be approved. Mr. Macejko motioned they be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schiavoni and passed, and the vote taken resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Macejko, Schiavoni
Voting Nay: None
Abstaining: Ragan (was not present at the June 9 meeting)

Kevin Smith, Treasurer/Administrative Services Director presented the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Ragan moved, the funds having been certified as on hand and duly appropriated, that disbursements #64642 through #64983 be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Macejko and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Macejko, Ragan, Schiavoni
Voting Nay: None

Kevin requested permission to increase appropriations by \$30,000 to account #100-3063-5097 Slippery Rock Pavilion. Mr. Macejko motioned that the appropriation increase be made. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ragan and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Macejko, Ragan, Schiavoni
Voting Nay: None

Kevin request permission to increase appropriations by \$135,000 to account 701-3260-5097 – Lily Pond Parking Lot Project. This is for the recently approved grant to pave the Lily Pond parking lot. Mr. Macejko motioned that the appropriation increase be made. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ragan and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Macejko, Ragan, Schiavoni
Voting Nay: None

Kevin request permission to increase appropriations by \$52,344 to account 701-7040-5097 – Replacement Reserve Ax Factory Run Riparian Protection Project. This is for the recently approved Clean Ohio grant for property acquisition. Mr. Macejko

motioned that the appropriation increase be made. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ragan and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Macejko, Ragan, Schiavoni
Voting Nay: None

Kevin request permission to increase appropriations by \$24,677 to account 701-7044-5097 – Replacement Reserve Eastern Expansion Project. This is for the recently approved Clean Ohio grant for property acquisition. Mr. Macejko motioned that the appropriation increase be made. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ragan and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Macejko, Ragan, Schiavoni
Voting Nay: None

Kevin request permission to increase appropriations by \$18,500 to account 100-0490-5097 – Fundraising Events. This is for the nearly \$8,000 in expenses incurred for the Blues, Brews & BBQ's event & the nearly \$10,500 in event proceeds that will be paid to the Mill Creek MetroParks Foundation. Mr. Macejko motioned that the appropriation increase be made. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ragan and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Macejko, Ragan, Schiavoni
Voting Nay: None

Kevin request permission to increase appropriations by \$66,500 to account 100-4450-5097 – Lanterman's Mill. This is for the additional actual & anticipated expenses related to the cookbook sales plus the net proceeds that will be paid to the Mill Creek MetroParks Foundation. Mr. Macejko motioned that the appropriation increase be made. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ragan and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Macejko, Ragan, Schiavoni
Voting Nay: None

Kevin presented a recommendation to the Board regarding the Designation of Depositories required by Ohio Revised Code Section 135. He requested that Home Savings and Loan be asked to be added as a depository for Mill Creek MetroParks. After discussion, Mr. Ragan motioned that we request that Home Savings & Loan be asked to a depository for Mill Creek MetroParks.

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

Voting Aye: Macejko, Ragan, Schiavoni
Voting Nay: None

Steve Avery, Planning & Natural Resources Director presented the following bid tabulations:

TABULATION OF BIDS

PROJECT NAME: Resurfacing of West Golf Drive, Phase II

BID OPENING: July 2, 2014

CONTRACT TERM: 21 Calendar Days

ESTIMATE: \$262,611.00

10% BID CAP: \$288,872.10

Name of Bidder	Total Amount of Bid as Read at Bid Opening	Total Amount of Bid After Tabulation
Barbicas Construction Co., Inc. Akron, Ohio	272,369.35	272,369.35
Butch & McCree Paving, Inc. Hillsville, Pennsylvania	279,832.74	279,832.74
R.T. Vernal Paving & Excavating, Inc. North Lima, Ohio	279,398.40	279,398.40
The Shelly Company Twinsburg, Ohio	229,922.01	229,922.01
Shelly & Sands, Inc. Akron, Ohio	240,463.60	240,463.60
Stateline Paving, LLC North Lima, Ohio	271,398.75	271,398.75

NOTES:

1. Six (6) bids were received, checked and tabulated. The total amount of each bid was within the 10% bid cap.
2. No mathematical errors were found in any of the bids.
3. The low bidder at bid opening and after tabulation is The Shelly Company.
4. The Shelly Company is currently prequalified with ODOT in 33 work classifications.
5. All required bonds, documents, forms and attachments were included with The Shelly Company's bid.

6. The Shelly Company is experienced in the type of work required and furnished a listing of 14 recent completed projects totaling over \$140 million.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. It is recommended that The Shelly Company be awarded the contract for the project named "Resurfacing of West Golf Drive, Phase II" at the grand total amount bid of \$229,922.01.

After discussion, Mr. Macejko moved the bid of The Shelly Company be accepted, it being the lowest and best bid. Mr. Ragan seconded the motion, and the vote taken resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Macejko, Ragan, Schiavoni
Voting Nay: None

Dennis Miller requested permission to fill the Maintenance Manager position with Randy Mallecke who will be promoted from the Forestry crew due to the retirement of Phil Pezzuto.

After discussion, Mr. Macejko moved that the position be filled. Mr. Ragan seconded the motion, and the vote taken resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Macejko, Ragan, Schiavoni
Voting Nay: None

Keith Kaiser, Horticulture Director, presented the following request for approval.

- Request from the Junior League of Youngstown to hold a Kentucky Derby party at the Davis Center on May 2, 2015.

Mr. Ragan motioned that the requests be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Macejko and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Macejko, Ragan, Schiavoni
Voting Nay: None

Carol Vigorito, Recreation & Education Manager, presented the following requests for approval/

- Request to hold an overnight campout at the Wick Recreation Area on August 9, 2014.

Mr. Ragan motioned that the request be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Macejko and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Macejko, Ragan, Schiavoni

Voting Nay: None

Mr. Schiavoni made a statement about the June 26, 2014, goose roundup.

“First of all, let me say, Dennis, the Board, and myself are truly saddened by the fact that we had no choice but to euthanize the geese. As difficult as the decision was, we truly believe it was necessary. When the enjoyment of our park and its infrastructure are threatened, we had to act.

Our Newport Wetland was so full of goose waste, patrons advised me that they wouldn't get out of the car to take their 2-year old grandson for a visit. They were worried about the bacteria he might be exposed to if he had fallen.

Our beloved Lily Pond was so overrun with aggressive geese, that, because they were used to humans feeding them, they feared no one. I was called by a female patron who said her miniature dachshund was attacked by the geese when she tried to walk around the pond. I was also told by another patron that her child's finger was bitten while visiting there.

Have you ever tried to have a relaxing lunch at the pond, you can't, because the geese would take food right out of your hand.

This was a place where goose droppings covered the trails and polluted our beautiful, spring-fed pond. We had a fundraiser at the pond, and put thousands of dollars into the infrastructure for the event. Within months, the new vegetation was ruined by polluting geese and non-compliant visitors feeding them, even though numerous signs told them not to feed the wildlife. Since we have had that event, we have had generous donors, foundations, and state grants donate funds to improve the infrastructure of the pond, and we would not be doing our due diligence to these donors or visitors if we sat on the sidelines and watched these tremendous assets to erode.

This was not a decision that took place overnight. Since 2010 before I was on the Board, and before Dennis was Director, there were several discussions among the staff on goose management. Our naturalist and staff sought the advice of the DNR on how to remove these geese.

As they suggested, we took all possible preventive means first. We tried reflective tape, predator decoys, pyrotechnic noise guns, blinking lights and lasers. We employed a dog and we sterilized eggs. Unfortunately, these measures did not solve the problem.

Why was there no Board approval of this issue? Because our naturalist and staff were advised by the DNR how to handle this problem. Why would we as a Board legislate issues on animal control when our own staff asked and received expert advice?

Each of these birds excrete between 1 & 2 pounds of waste daily. The waste causes bacteria and salmonella.

For all of the above reasons, we feel our actions were in the best interest of the MetroParks and our visitors.”

Kirsten Peetz, Natural Resources Manager, gave information about goose management in the MetroParks, and detailed previous and current management techniques:

Non-Lethal Canada Goose Management Activities Implemented in Mill Creek Park

Egg Addling

- 2014 – 268 eggs, 52 nests
- 2013 – 166 eggs, 36 nests
- 2012 – 94 eggs, 19 nests
- 2011 – 102 eggs, 22 nests

Dogs

- 2014 (dog at Wick Recreation Area)
- 2011 (employee’s dog used to chase geese at Newport Wetlands and Lily Pond)
- 2000-2012 (dogs at Golf Course)

Pyrotechnics (Screamer Sirens and Bird Bangers)

- 2014 – 1400 rounds, 9 launchers
- 2013 – 400 rounds, 4 launchers

Reflective Flash Tape

- 2013 – Lily Pond

Habitat Modification

- Naturalized Areas: East Newport, East Golf, Stitt Pavilion, attempted shoreline restoration at Lily Pond
- Landscape Plantings: Newport Wetlands

Predator Decoys

- Lily Pond – 2013
- Golf Course – 2012-present

Lasers

- 2012-2013

Blinking Lights

- Lily Pond – 2012

Wire Fencing

- Golf Course

Education

- Educational literature developed
- “Do Not Feed” signs at Lily Pond, Lake Glacier, Newport Wetlands

Dennis Miller, Executive Director, reminded everyone of the ground rules for public comments:

- If you want to speak, you MUST have signed in upon entry, with at least your name & city.
- You will be asked to give your name and city of residence before you make your comments.
- You will be allotted three minutes, and will be timed.
- Your time cannot be given to another speaker.
- Each person gets to speak only once so that everyone who would like to address the board will have a chance to do so.
- All participants must maintain an atmosphere of respect. That means no booing, hissing, shouting, whispered comments loud enough for those around you to hear, clapping, etc., as people are speaking. If you choose to violate this rule, you will be asked to leave the board meeting.
- Please keep your comments on-topic. Verbal attacks on others or accusations will not be tolerated. You will forfeit your time if you choose to engage in this activity.
- If you did not get a chance to speak, written comments can always be sent to Mill Creek MetroParks, PO Box 596, Canfield, OH 44406.

The Board received the following public comments”

- Nancy Borowski of Milton Township, spoke against the goose roundup.
- Candice Sinistro LaRocca of Boardman Township, spoke against the goose roundup.
- Cynthia Tareshawty of Youngstown, spoke against the goose roundup and asked about future plans
- Doug Bush, of Boardman, spoke about understanding that what the park did with the goose roundup and that it was necessary
- Marsha Karzmer of Boardman, asked about future plans, and requested a meeting with open dialogue regarding goose management
- Marcelle Svenson of Boardman, asked about wetland management, specifically Lake Newport area

- Pam Traino of Boardman, spoke against the goose roundup
- Chris Khumprakob of Youngstown, spoke against the goose roundup, and had comments about the Sunoco pipeline going through the park
- Barb Bush of Boardman, thanked the Board for their decision to conduct the goose roundup
- Chris Flack spoke against the goose roundup, suggested more education, and mentioned that the trash in the park was a problem
- Lynn Anderson of Youngstown asked about ODNR permits, Sunoco pipeline, requested a public hearing on the pipeline, seismic testing, and fracking in the park
- Diane Flack of Youngstown, noted that there was no mention, in Board meetings, of goose management in the past year, offered help with educating the public
- Pearl Sinistro of Boardman, commented about wildlife in general, and human waste
- Dan Russo of Poland, told a story about trying to release a chipmunk in the park several years ago
- Jeff Meyers of Poland, commended the Board for their decision to do the goose roundup
- Emily Schaff of Youngstown, spoke against the goose roundup, and suggested obtaining grants for education
- Rick Shale of Boardman, offered his appreciation for the Board's decision to do the goose roundup, spoke about Volney Roger's plan, and the volunteer status of the Board members
- Nikki Hershfeldt of Newton Falls, questioned the lack of public information prior to the goose roundup and of the extreme measures taken
- Becky Barry of Boardman, applauded the Board's decision to do the goose roundup, and spoke of a frightening incident with her dogs and children last year. She is in favor of animal control without public opinion.
- Sean O'Toole of Youngstown, had a complaint about the news media surrounding the goose roundup, agrees with wildlife management, and complained about the public feeding the geese

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

Mr. Schiavoni announced that the next Regular Board Meeting has been scheduled for Monday, August 11, 2014, at 6 p.m. at the Golf Course Outing tent.

There being no further business, Mr. Ragan moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Macejko seconded the motion, and the vote taken resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Macejko, Ragan, Schiavoni

Voting Nay: None

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.