Probate Judge Rusu was present to swear in new MetroParks Commissioner Scott Schulick, and reappointed Commissioner John Ragan, both with a term ending December 31, 2017. He thanked them for their service to the public. The Judge also announced that Commissioner Valencia Marrow has turned in her resignation due to family matters, and a new Commissioner will be appointed before the next meeting.

The Board of Park Commissioners of Mill Creek MetroParks met in Regular Session on Monday, January 12, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. with members Bob Durick, Valencia Marrow, John Ragan, Lou Schiavoni, and Scott Schulick present.

Mr. Schiavoni presented the Minutes of the Meeting of December 15, 2014, and asked that they be approved. Ms. Marrow motioned they be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ragan and passed, and the vote taken resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Durick, Marrow, John Ragan, Schiavoni

Voting Nay: None

Abstaining: Schulick (was not on the Board for this meeting)

Mr. Schiavoni presented the Minutes of the Meeting of December 30, 2014, and asked that they be approved. Mr. Ragan motioned they be approved. The motion was seconded by Dr. Durick and passed, and the vote taken resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Durick, Marrow, John Ragan, Schiavoni

Voting Nay: None

Abstaining: Schulick (was not on the Board for this meeting)

Kevin Smith, Administrative Services Director/Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report. Ms. Marrow moved, the funds having been certified as on hand and duly appropriated, that disbursements #66521 – #66716 be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ragan, and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Durick, Marrow, Ragan, Schiavoni, Schulick

Voting Nay: None

Justin Rogers, Planning Manager, presented the Hitchcock Woods Right of Way Easement for approval. Dr. Durick motioned that the easement be approved. The motion was seconded by Ms. Marrow, and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Durick, Marrow, Ragan, Schiavoni, Schulick

Voting Nay: None

Rikki Brammer, Programs and Events Coordinator, presented a request from Youngstown Road Runner Club to hold their 26th Annual Distance Classic Half Marathon Fundraiser, Sunday, March 1, 2015, in the Wick Recreation Area.

Ms. Marrow moved the request be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schulick and the vote taken resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Durick, Marrow, Ragan, Schiavoni, Schulick

Voting Nay: None

Rikki Brammer presented a request from Casal's Day Spa to hold a 5k Run/Walk Fundraiser, Sunday, April 19, 2015, in the Wick Recreation Area.

Ms. Marrow moved the request be approved. The motion was seconded by Ms. Schulick and the vote taken resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Durick, Marrow, Ragan, Schiavoni, Schulick

Voting Nay: None

Rikki Brammer presented a request from Fitness Together to hold a 5k Fundraiser on Saturday, May 9, 2014, in the Wick Recreation Area (Rikki)

Dr. Durick moved the request be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ragan and the vote taken resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Durick, Marrow, Ragan, Schiavoni, Schulick

Voting Nay: None

Carol Vigorito, Recreation & Education Manager announced that Ray Novotny, Outdoor Education Manager has received both the National Association for Interpretation (NAI) Meritorious Service Award and the Thomas Say Naturalist Award of Excellence for Outstanding Event or Program. The awards were presented at NAI's national workshop in November in Denver, Colorado. NAI recognizes excellence in interpretation through their professional awards program. Ray has worked for Mill Creek MetroParks since 1985 and is a Life Member of NAI.

Ray Novotny spoke regarding his career at the MetroParks, and thanked everyone who has worked with him over the years.

The Board received the following public comments:

Rick Shale, of Boardman spoke regarding a letter to the Editor of the Vindicator recently regarding the Shop in the Gardens selling products made out of the United States. He asked that the Board respond and clarify that the Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens has their own mission, and the MetroParks did not control the items sold in the shop.

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, February 9, 2015, at 6 p.m. at the MetroParks Farm.

Ms. Marrow moved the Board meet in Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, discipline, or compensation of public employees.

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

Voting Ave: Durick, Marrow, Ragan, Schiavoni, Schulick

Voting Nay: None

The motion was passed, and the Board met in Executive Session at 6:19 p.m.

The Board returned from the Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

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

Voting Aye: Durick, Marrow, Ragan, Schiavoni, Schulick

Voting Nay: None

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.