

Canfield, OH
August 17, 2015

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of Mill Creek MetroParks was held on Monday, August 17, 2015, at the MetroParks Farm. President Lou Schiavoni welcomed guests and staff.

The meeting opened at 6 p.m. Roll Call was as follows: Germaine Bennett, present; Bob Durick, present; John Ragan, absent; Lou Schiavoni, present; and Scott Schulick, present.

Lou Schiavoni presented the Minutes of the Meeting of July 13, 2015, and asked that they be approved. Scott Schulick motioned they be approved. The motion was seconded by Germaine Bennett and passed, and the vote taken resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Durick, Schiavoni, Schulick
Voting Nay: None

Mark Mrofchak, Staff Accountant presented the Treasurer's Report. Germaine Bennett moved, the funds having been certified as on hand and duly appropriated, that disbursements #68002– #68246 be approved. The motion was seconded by Bob Durick and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Durick, Schiavoni, Schulick
Voting Nay: None

Aaron Young, Executive Director's Report:

- Staff Acknowledgement
 - Carol Vigorito: Patron Thanks, from Camp Moshava
 - Officer Dustin Strines: Patron Thanks, from a bicyclist
- Donor Acknowledgement
 - Glen Cimaglia for the donation of 9 "No Littering - \$500 Fine" signs
- Aaron spoke regarding a collaborative meeting with KSU College of Architecture & Environmental Design, and YSU Center for Urban & Regional Studies, and requested the following resolution be approved.

R-15-11

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT BY THE MILL CREEK METROPARKS FOR THE DOWNTOWN YOUNGSTOWN ECONOMIC ACTION GROUP AND THE COLLABORATION TO SUPPORT THE ECONOMIC GROWTH OF THE YOUNGSTOWN METROPOLITAN AREA

WHEREAS, The Mill Creek MetroParks desires to respond more effectively to the needs of our member communities by participating in the Downtown Visioning and Action Plan ongoing development and leadership provided by the Downtown Youngstown Economic Action Group; and

WHEREAS, The Downtown Youngstown Economic Action Group (EAG) continues to obtain supportive commitments from public institutions, non-profits and private businesses in the region to further the resurgence of the core city; and

WHEREAS, the downtown area of employment, higher education, financial services, justice, government, and culture is a critical component to an overall economic resurgence in the region; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this resolution is to memorialize an initiative to forge a symbiotic effort among key institutions and organizations in downtown Youngstown and throughout the region to provide ongoing advice, consent and implementation of the Downtown Visioning and Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, Mill Creek MetroParks will provide meaningful support in participative efforts to develop a vibrant downtown Youngstown, for the region; and

WHEREAS, the EAG has goals for the beautification of downtown thoroughfares, enhance signage of downtown gateway areas through the Wayfinding Signage Plan, increase safety and accessibility for pedestrian and bike travel in downtown, increase access to capital for private development, find ways to reduce the costs and remove the barriers to revitalization for new development, and formalize a downtown Special Improvement District and/or other vehicles to improve infrastructure and service provision to retain, grow and attract businesses; and

WHEREAS, Mill Creek MetroParks wishes to support and participate in the efforts to align a vision and mission, for the implementation of collaborative priority projects with the Downtown Youngstown Economic Action Group for a period of time that shall end on January 1, 2018.

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that Eastgate staff shall forward a copy of this resolution to EAG.

After discussion, Scott Schulick motioned that the resolution be approved. The motion was seconded by Bob Durick and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Durick, Schiavoni, Schulick

Voting Nay: None

Executive Director report continued:

- Lake Newport Water Quality Testing Update will be put on the MetroParks website.
- Met with representatives of Senator Sherrod Brown's office.
- Asked the Board if they would like him to begin investigating potential dredging options.
 - Lou Schiavoni is in favor of studying options for dredging lakes
 - Germaine Bennett mentioned that the last time we looked into this option, there was opposition as to where to put the sludge
 - Scott Schulick is in favor of the study, look up information from last time we tried this in the '90s, and suggested that we use YSU Center for Urban Studies.
 - Bob Durick is in favor of studying the options
 - Aaron said that no monies had been put aside over the years for dredging.
- Levy page on MCMP Website

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

R-15-12

FILING OF APPLICATION FOR TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Eastgate Regional Council of Governments (Eastgate), on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), administers financial assistance for FHWA's Transportation Alternatives Program, as authorized by Section 1103 in the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), and

WHEREAS, Eastgate is currently accepting applications for the Transportation Alternatives Program, and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Alternatives Program will provide up to 80% of the total construction cost of a project, including construction engineering, inspection and testing, and

WHEREAS, the northerly segment of East Cohasset Hike & Bike Trail in Mill Creek Park needs to be improved, and

WHEREAS, improvements to East Cohasset Hike & Bike Trail are eligible projects based on the Transportation Alternatives Program criteria, having a direct relationship to the surface transportation system and is a contributing feature in the Mill Creek Park Historic District, and

WHEREAS, Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District desires financial assistance under FHWA's Transportation Alternatives Program.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Park Commissioners of the Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District agree as follows:

1. The Executive Director of the Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District is hereby authorized and directed to prepare and file an application with Eastgate for financial assistance from the Transportation Alternatives Program for the improvement of the northerly segment of East Cohasset Hike & Bike Trail in Mill Creek Park.
2. The Board of Park Commissioners agrees to share in the cost of the proposed project.
3. The Board of Park Commissioners agrees to the future maintenance of the proposed project.

After discussion, Scott Schulick motioned that the resolution be approved. The motion was seconded by Germaine Bennett and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Durick, Schiavoni, Schulick
Voting Nay: None

Rikki Brammer, Programs and Events Coordinator, requested that Empowering Woman Organization be permitted to hold a fundraiser the morning of Saturday, October 17, 2015 in the Wick Recreation Area

Germaine Bennett moved the request be approved. The motion was seconded by Bob Durick and the vote taken resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Durick, Schiavoni, Schulick
Voting Nay: None

Rikki requested Animal Charity of Ohio be permitted to hold a fundraiser in the Wick Recreation Area the morning of Saturday, October 3, 2015 in the Wick Recreation Area

Scott Schulick moved the request be approved. The motion was seconded by Germaine Bennett and the vote taken resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Durick, Schiavoni, Schulick
Voting Nay: None

Jim Willock, Chief of Police requested that Youth Flag Football League be given permission to have their games at the Wick Recreation Area September 20 through October 21, 2015.

Scott Schulick moved the request be approved. The motion was seconded by Bob Durick and the vote taken resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Durick, Schiavoni, Schulick
Voting Nay: None

Commissioner's comments:

- Lou Schiavoni assured everyone that he was not going to let this water issue rest.
- Bob Durick thanked Vindicator Reporters Jordan and Pete Milliken about the article on Volney Rogers' fight to keep Mill Creek clean.
- Germaine Bennett appreciates the diligence on this lake issue. Also, kudos to Aaron as she is getting a lot of feedback from groups he has spoken to.

Public Comments:

- Thomas P. Gilmartin, Jr. spoke regarding the situation with the lakes.
- Jay Blackstone spoke regarding fundraising efforts for the Ford Nature Center. Would like to see the momentum keep going; the Ford family is still very interested in the project.
 - Steve Avery responded to this comment that the roof has been replaced this summer with a synthetic slate. And, recently, the carpentry work on the dormers were finished.

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

Lou Schiavoni announced that the next Regular Board Meeting has been scheduled for Monday, September 14, 2015, at 6 p.m., at the Golf Course Hospitality Tent in Boardman.

There being no further business, Bob Durick moved to adjourn the meeting. Scott Schulick seconded the motion, and the vote taken resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Durick, Schiavoni, Schulick
Voting Nay: None

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.