

Canfield, Ohio
July 11, 2016

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of Mill Creek MetroParks was held on Monday, July 11, 2016, at the MetroParks Farm. President John Ragan welcomed guests and staff.

The meeting opened at 6 p.m. with recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call was as follows: Germaine Bennett, present, Bob Durick, present; Lee Frey, present; John Ragan, present; and Tom Shipka, present. John Ragan asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the recent Dallas, TX police officer shootings.

With the resignation of Scott Schulick, the 1st Vice-President position has become vacant. After discussion, John Ragan asked for a motion for the election of 1st Vice-President for 2016.

Tom Shipka moved that Lee Frey be elected 1st Vice-President for 2016. The motion was seconded by Bob Durick and passed.

Voting Aye: Bennett, Durick, Frey, Ragan, Shipka
Voting Nay: None

John Ragan presented the Minutes of the Meeting of June 13, 2016, and asked that they be approved. Germaine Bennett motioned they be approved. The motion was seconded by Lee Frey and passed, and the vote taken resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Durick, Frey, Ragan, Shipka
Voting Nay: None

Bob Bacha, Interim Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report. After discussion, Bob Durick moved, the funds having been certified as on hand and duly appropriated, that disbursements #70675 - #70973, for a total of \$432,171.64 be approved. The motion was seconded by Tom Shipka and the vote taken resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Durick, Frey, Ragan, Shipka
Voting Nay: None

Bob also presented the cash balances as shown below:

CASH BALANCES
June 30, 2016

Cashier Change	\$7,400.00
Cash-Active Account	\$1,663,965.30
Cash-Payroll Account	\$5,000.00
*Star Plus Investment Acct.	\$1,890,763.74
TOTAL CASH	\$3,567,129.04

Aaron Young, Executive Director, presented a revised employee Tobacco Policy for approval:

Tobacco Policy

In accordance with Chapter 3794 of the Ohio revised code, the use of any tobacco product is strictly prohibited in all MetroPark facilities, vehicles and entryways. Smoking is permitted in parking lots provided that it is done at least fifty feet from entryways. Employees who smoke should check with their supervisor to learn the location in their area approved for smoking/chewing/vaping. When using tobacco or similar products in approved areas, employees must not leave cigarette butts or other traces of litter or tobacco use on the ground or any other surface. Employees who violate the tobacco policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

After discussion, Lee Frey motioned that the policy be approved. The motion was seconded by Tom Shipka and the vote taken resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Durick, Frey, Ragan, Shipka
Voting Nay: None

Carol Vigorito, Recreation and Education Director, presented the following special event requests for approval:

- a. Request of MCMP Recreation & Education Department to hold their Youth Camp Overnighter program in the Wick Recreation Area on August 15 and 16, 2016.
- b. Request of V & V Appliance Parts, Inc. to hold a 7.25k fundraiser in the Newport Drive area, on October 1, 2016
- c. Request of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to hold a fundraiser walk in the Bears Den/Cross Drive area, on October 8, 2016.
- d. Request of Youngstown Youth Flag Football Association to hold their games, and sell concessions, in the Wick Recreation Area September 11 – October 23, 2016. It was noted that the Association recently made a \$500 donation to the MetroParks.

After discussion, Tom Shipka motioned that the requests be approved. The motion was seconded by Germaine Bennett and the vote taken resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Durick, Frey, Ragan, Shipka
Voting Nay: None

Tom Shipka made a motion that the Bylaws of the Board of Commissioners of the Mill Creek MetroParks revise the number of Board members that constitute a quorum from two members to three members. After discussion, Germaine Bennett seconded the motion, and the vote taken resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Durick, Frey, Ragan, Shipka
Voting Nay: None

Tom Shipka moved that, beginning no later than January 2017, the meetings of the Board of Commissioners of the Mill Creek MetroParks consist of bi-monthly Regular Meetings and bi-monthly Work Sessions such that:

- a. Both types of meetings will comply with The Ohio Open Meetings Act (R.C. 121.22);
- b. The bi-monthly Regular Meetings will follow the format of regular monthly meetings held in 2016;
- c. The bi-monthly Work Sessions will include 1) discussion and deliberation by the Board, with staff participation, on Park matters, including but not limited to, items that may appear on the

agenda of the next Regular Meeting, 2) invited presentations and proposals to the Board by individuals and groups with special Park concerns and interests, and 3) reports to the Board by any committees which the Board may establish.

The motion was seconded by Germaine Bennett.

During discussion, Tom Shipka made a motion to end the discussion on the motion, Lee Frey seconded the motion, and the vote taken resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Durick, Frey, Ragan, Shipka
Voting Nay: None

After further discussion, the vote taken on the original motion resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Frey, Shipka
Voting Nay: Ragan
Voting to Abstain: Durick

Tom Shipka moved that the Board of Commissioners of the Mill Creek MetroParks establish the following Standing Committees: Finance, Development, Employee Relations, Wildlife, Recreation, Nature Education, Environment, Horticulture, and Volunteers in accord with the following:

- a. Each Standing Committee will comply with The Ohio Open Meetings Act (R.C. 121.22);
- b. Standing Committees will serve in an advisory role to the Board of Commissioners;
- c. Each Standing Committee will consist of five voting members with knowledge of and interest in the area(s) of concern of the Committee to which he/she is appointed;
- d. The Executive Director of the Park or his/her designee will be a non-voting, ex officio member of each Standing Committee;
- e. Standing Committee members will be appointed by the President of the Board based on the recommendations of other Board members;
- f. Standing Committee members may include current and former Board members;
- g. Each Standing Committee will meet at least two times a year and will report to a meeting of the Board at least once a year;
- h. Each Standing Committee will select its own chairperson for a given calendar year;
- i. The voting members of each Standing Committee will serve for three-year, renewable terms;
- j. Standing Committees will be appointed no later than January, 2017;
- k. Standing Committees will be provided space on Park property to conduct their meetings;
- l. Standing Committees will be provided information which they request by Park staff to carry out their work;
- m. The Finance Committee will monitor and evaluate the Park's revenues and expenditures, evaluate proposed budgets, and make recommendations on these matters to the Board to ensure long-term fiscal soundness;
- n. The Development Committee will monitor and evaluate the Park's fund-raising efforts, including those of the Mill Creek MetroParks Foundation, the Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens, and other relevant Park entities, and make recommendations to the Board to coordinate and improve these efforts;
- o. The Employee Relations Committee will monitor and evaluate the pay, work conditions, employment benefits, staffing patterns, and morale of Park employees and make appropriate recommendations to the Board on these matters;
- p. The Wildlife Committee will monitor and evaluate the welfare and treatment of animals on Park property and make appropriate recommendations to the Board on this matter;
- q. The Recreation Committee will monitor and evaluate the recreational sites and activities on Park property and make appropriate recommendations to the Board on these matters;
- r. The Nature Education Committee will monitor and evaluate the nature education programs offered by the Park and make appropriate recommendations to the Board on them;

- s. The Environment Committee will monitor and evaluate the current contracts, and proposed future contracts, between the Park and private or public companies which use, or seek to use, Park property to extract or transport gas, oil, or other minerals or chemicals and make appropriate recommendations to the Board on such matters;
- t. The Horticulture Committee will monitor and evaluate the programs used and the practices followed in the Park to grow, sustain, or remove plants, flowers, trees, and other vegetation and make appropriate recommendations to the Board on such matters; and
- u. The Volunteer Committee will monitor and evaluate the programs used and the practices followed in the Park to attract and retain qualified and dedicated volunteers to help promote the mission of the Park and make appropriate recommendations to the Board on such matters.

Germaine Bennett seconded the motion.

During discussion, John Ragan made a motion to table the motion; a second was not received.

After discussion, Tom Shipka amended his motion to add that the implementation of the motion to establish committees and their purpose would remain open for discussion and change if so desired by the Board Members. The vote taken resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Durick, Frey, Shipka
Voting Nay: Ragan

Tom Shipka moved that a specific staff member be designated by the President of the Board of Commissioners of the Mill Creek MetroParks to act on behalf of the Executive Director during the absence of the Executive Director, expected or unexpected, when the Executive Director is absent four or more consecutive days due to vacation, sickness, or other reasons and that the President publicize the identity of and contact information for this individual. After discussion, Bob Durick seconded the motion, and the vote taken resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Durick, Frey, Ragan, Shipka
Voting Nay: none

Lee Frey commented that he met with the Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens organization, and that they offered to pay for the Master Gardener program. Lee made a motion to allow Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens to pay for the Master Gardener Program, until such time that the MetroParks can take it over, or until a majority vote says that they wish to discontinue the program. Tom Shipka seconded the motion and the vote taken resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Durick, Frey, Ragan, Shipka
Voting Nay: none

John Ragan requested a motion to approve going into a contract with Janus Small Associates to conduct a board retreat. Tom Shipka made a motion to approve entering into a contract, as long as the date is approved by all of the MetroParks Commissioners. Germaine Bennett seconded the motion, and the vote taken resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Durick, Frey, Ragan, Shipka
Voting Nay: none

Aaron, Executive Director Report:

1. AJGA Event Summary
 - a. Congratulations to staff for a great event
 - b. Thank You Letters to Board & Staff from AJGA Participants
 - c. AJGA Estimates Local Economic Impact between \$200,000 to \$209,000

2. 07-06-16 Letter of Support for Eastgate COG Ohio Environmental Education Fund Grant Application
 - a. Proposed Yellow Creek Park Watershed Interpretive Signage
3. New Park Planner: Andrew Steingass

Commissioners Comments:

- Lee Frey – spoke regarding water quality, and noted that it is not mentioned in the 2012 Strategic Plan. He understands that it is a difficult situation, there is no easy fix, and will take a lot of work. He also thanked Aaron for posting the MetroParks' mission statement on the wall in McMahon Hall. He thanked Tom for his work on the motions, and encouraged the public to join the committees.
- Tom Shipka – appreciates the Board's willingness to get started on his motions. He asked the severe critics to please give the path that has begun tonight some time to settle in, to tone it down a little, and to show interest in serving on one of the committees.
- Germaine Bennett – thanked Tom for his hard work
- Bob Durick – thanked Tom for his hard work, and encouraged the public to join one of the committees.
- John Ragan – thanked the staff, the Park looks great, and everyone is doing a good job.

Public Comments:

- Chris Peyko – spoke regarding the lawsuit filed recently. He applauded the recommendations made by Tom Shipka this evening. Questioned staffing, and algae on the lakes.
- Judy Peyko – announced to the public to see her or Chris regarding the lawsuit. She indicated that she appreciated Mr. Frey and Mr. Shipka. She questioned funds used from the Mill Creek MetroParks Foundation to attend a banquet. Aaron replied that it was to honor one of our Head Golf Pro's Athena Award. She questioned a free room rental at the Davis Center. Aaron replied regarding the free room rental for the Regional Chamber of Commerce, that we are a member of, that they asked us to host that month's meeting, with ODNR as the speaker and that the MetroParks sends requests for 3rd party grants to ODNR.
- Elsie Dursi – compliments to Tom and the board regarding changes, working together, and including the public. She expressed concern that we have more park planners than naturalists; she thinks the community feels that naturalists are more important; would like to see that balance is restored. She asked to Board to consider hiring Ellen Speicher back.
- Chance Metz – spoke regarding weeds and the smaller parking lot at the Lily Pond. He also spoke regarding mulch, weeds, and empty flower beds at the Gardens.
- Linda Boardsen – Expressed that quality environmental education is important in the Park; referred to a book regarding nature deficit disorder. She thanked the Board.
- Paul Hagman – Spoke as President of the Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens organization. He thanked the Board, and expressed that the Gardens is important, and that they reaffirm their commitment and will continue the same level of support. He announced the Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens volunteer cleanup day, and he asked that the community, staff, supporters, and critics attend the cleanup.

- Lynn Anderson – Thanked Germaine, Lee, and Tom. She spoke regarding fracking, laws, ODNR meeting, and boring under Hitchcock Woods and bike path. Asked that the bike path phase III project not continue. She asked for the resignations of Bob Durick, John Ragan, and Aaron Young. She mentioned the recent heavy rainfall.
- Deby Clark – thanked current employees of Mill Creek MetroParks, and of Fellows Riverside Gardens for all that they do to keep everything beautiful.
- Pam Garver – commended the Board on the motions this evening. She feels the park should make it friendly for volunteers. She questioned positions terminated, and new staff hired. She mentioned that there was a theft at a wedding recently at the Gardens.
- Bill Adams – listed wages in various departments, compared to naturalist wages. He is tired of the lack of naturalists, the direction the park is going, and that the Board did not do their job.

John Ragan announced that the next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Monday, August 8, 2016, at 6 p.m. at the MetroParks Farm.

There being no further business, Germaine Bennett moved to adjourn the meeting. Lee Frey seconded the motion, and the vote taken resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Durick, Frey, Ragan, Shipka

Voting Nay: None

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.