

Canfield, Ohio
November 14, 2016

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of Mill Creek MetroParks was held on Monday, November 14, 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 presented the Minutes of the Meeting of October 11, 2016, and asked that they be approved. Lee Frey motioned they be approved. The motion was seconded by Bob Durick and passed, and the vote taken resulted as follows:

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

Kevin presented the Finance Director's report. Lee Frey moved, the funds having been certified as on hand and duly appropriated, that disbursements #71727 - #71939, for a total of \$721,957.75 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

Kevin also presented the cash balances as shown below:

INFORMATION ITEMS:

CASH BALANCES
November 7, 2016

Cashier Change	\$6,200.00
Cash-Active Account	\$2,355,879.46
Cash-Payroll Account	\$10,000.00
*Star Plus Investment Acct.	\$1,893,209.30
TOTAL CASH	\$4,265,288.76

*Star Plus has a current net yield of 0.40%.

Kevin requested to increase appropriations by \$18,296.25 to account 100-1100-5007 - Golf Course Operations, Contract Jobs. The golf cart leasing company provided a complimentary month of carts to the golf course during the new golf cart leasing negotiations. Instead of forgiving a golf cart lease payment they issued a refund check for \$18,296.25. This appropriation increase will allow the golf department to realize the benefit of this refund.

Lee Frey motioned the request be approved. The motion was seconded by Tom Shipka and passed, and the vote taken resulted as follows:

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

Aaron Young, Executive Director, presented a tentative 2017 Board Meeting Schedule. After discussion, Tom Shipka made a motion to amend his motion from the July 11, 2016, Board Meeting, to indicate that every other meeting, during the months of February, April, June, August, October, and December would be a Work session, and, if necessary, a brief Regular meeting would be held prior to the Work session.

Mill Creek MetroParks
 2017 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Monday	January 9	6pm	Regular Meeting	MetroParks Farm
Thursday	January 19	6pm	Special Meeting	MetroParks Farm
Monday	February 13	6pm	Work Session	MetroParks Farm
Monday	March 13	6pm	Regular Meeting	MetroParks Farm
Monday	April 10	6pm	Work Session	MetroParks Farm
Monday	May 8	6pm	Regular Meeting	MetroParks Farm
Monday	June 12	6pm	Work Session	MetroParks Farm
Monday	July 10	6pm	Regular Meeting	MetroParks Farm
Monday	August 14	6pm	Work Session	MetroParks Farm
Monday	September 11	6pm	Regular Meeting	MetroParks Farm
Tuesday	October 10	6pm	Work Session	MetroParks Farm
Monday	November 13	6pm	Regular Meeting	MetroParks Farm
Monday	December 18	6pm	Work Session	Davis Center at Fellows Riverside Gardens

Dates, time, and location are subject to change.
 Please check www.millcreekmetroparks.org, or call 330-702-3000 to verify.

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

Jim Willock, Chief of Police presented a proposal for Police Dispatch consolidation for 2017, with the Austintown-Boardman-Mahoning County Joint Communications District. After discussion, Tom Shipka motioned the proposal be approved. The motion was seconded by Germaine Bennett and passed, and the vote taken resulted as follows:

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

Megan Millich, Human Resources Director, presented information regarding the 2017 employee Healthcare Provider. After discussion, Bob Durick motioned that the Plans be accepted. 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

Janet Yaniglos, Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens Board, presented the John and Doris Andrews Horticulture Certificate Program, and asked that it be approved.

Janet also presented a Memorandum of Understanding regarding Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens Sponsored Tours, and asked that it be approved. After discussion, Lee moved that both requests be approved. The motion was seconded by Tom Shipka and passed, and the vote taken resulted as follows:

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

Voting Nay: None

Aaron presented the Executive Director Report:

1. Received an anonymous donation of \$ 5,000 for Buckeye Horse Park through The Youngstown Foundation who added 5% for a total of \$5,250.
2. Continued challenges with existing phone system, MDI to review and recommend VOIP System
3. The Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) has announced its 2016 Annual Awards of Excellence winners. Mill Creek MetroParks Lily Pond Restoration Project placed 3rd in the Capital Improvement Projects under \$1,000,000 category. The staff was thanked.
4. Eastgate Regional Council of Governments has approved 80% funding for the Idora Bridge Improvement Project for 2018.

Public Comments

Pam Garver – spoke regarding consolidating the advisory committees and that she would like them to report to the Board and not to the Executive Director, the need for a full-time naturalist, and transparency issues.

Barbara Brothers – spoke regarding the advisory committees and that she would like them to report to the Board and not to the Executive Director, and about Aaron's actions being detrimental to the MetroParks.

Jim Ruffing – spoke regarding the advisory committees, felt 9 committees was redundant, and that they should report to the Board, not to the Executive Director.

Francisco Nolasco – spoke regarding the delay in setting up the committees, and problems he's had with the MetroParks Police in the past.

Cathy Pannunzio – spoke regarding the advisory committees and would like to see them go forward as planned. She spoke about wildlife and trapping, and asked if any trapping permits were issued for the 2016-2017 season. Aaron said there were none that he knows of.

Angie Bradian – spoke regarding the Board's duty to protect wildlife, need for a humane solution, and had a list of actions that were bad press for the Park. She blamed the Planning Director for the killing of the geese at the Lily Pond a few years ago, because he was the supervisor of the Natural Resources staff.

John Ragan reiterated that what we did with the geese was ODNR's recommendation to the previous Executive Director, and that Mr. Avery and Ms. Peetz had nothing to do with the decision.

John Ragan also reported that the Board asked Aaron to go to his staff and give the Board their input, and the report he gave was just that. Aaron stated that a variety of factors were considered to form the recommendations.

Elsie Dursi – asked about Board training, or more Board training, stalling on setting up the advisory committees, and questioned the lack of a horticulture committee on Aaron's proposal.

Anna Ciambatti – expressed that her and her husband felt that the committees must report to the Board, not to the Executive Director

The Board thanked the public for their comments and input.

Commissioners Comments

Tom Shipka moved the following:

1. The 2017 Budget of the Mill Creek MetroParks (MCMP) will provide a competitive salary for a fulltime MCMP Director of Development (DD);
2. The DD will work with all entities which are an integral part of fund-raising for MCMP, including the Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens (the Friends), the MCMP Foundation (the Foundation), and the MCMP Board of Commissioners and staff to
 - a. coordinate the fund-raising activities of these entities,
 - b. promote donations to these entities, including publicizing opportunities for donations,
 - c. identify and contact potential donors,
 - d. help strengthen the MCMP Foundation,
 - e. work with the Standing Committee on Development of the MCMP Board of Commissioners, and
 - f. explore, with the Friends, the Foundation, and the MCMP, the feasibility and desirability of a conservancy fund-raising model similar to the one at the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.
3. The DD, although a full-time employee of the MCMP, will report regularly to the MCMP Board, the Friends Board, and the Foundation Board;
4. The search for a DD, including soliciting applications, interviewing selected applicants, and recommending one or more applicants to the MCMP Board of Commissioners for appointment as DD, will be carried out by a DD Search Committee consisting of the President of the YSU Foundation, the President of the Friends, the President of the Foundation, two members of the MCMP Board of Commissioners appointed by the President of the MCMP Board, and the Executive Director of MCMP;
5. Travel, lodging, and meal expenses of any out-of-town applicants for the DD position who are invited by the DD Search Committee to an interview and who must travel a significant distance for the interview will be reimbursed by MCMP.

Lee Frey seconded the motion. After discussion regarding the current Community Engagement Director's job description, it was agreeable that the Development Director would be its own full-time position, separate from the Community Engagement Director. Roll call was as follows:

Germaine Bennett - Aye
Bob Durick – Aye
Lee Frey – Aye
John Ragan - Aye

Tom Shipka - Aye

The motion passed.

After discussion, Germaine moved that a full-time Community Engagement Director position be posted. Lee Frey seconded the motion and the roll call was as follows:

Germaine Bennett - Aye

Bob Durick – Aye

Lee Frey – Aye

John Ragan - Aye

Tom Shipka - Aye

The motion passed.

John Ragan announced that the next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Monday, December 19, 2016, at 6 p.m. in the Davis Center at Fellows Riverside Gardens.

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

John Ragan announced that a Special Board Meeting-Work session would be held immediately after the adjournment of this meeting, to discuss the Advisory committees

The meeting adjourned at 7:49pm