

Canfield, Ohio  
July 10, 2017

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of Mill Creek MetroParks was held on Monday, July 10, 2017, at the MetroParks Farm. President Lee Frey 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, Lee Frey, present, Tom Frost, present; John Ragan, absent; and Tom Shipka, present.

The Board was presented with the Minutes of the Meetings of May 8, and June 12, 2017. Commissioner Frey moved that the minutes be accepted to the records.

Kevin Smith, Finance Director presented the Finance Director's report. Lee Frey moved, the funds having been certified as on hand and duly appropriated, that disbursements #73488 - #73738, for a total of \$994,940.15 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, Frey, Frost, Shipka  
Voting Nay: None

Kevin requested to increase appropriations by \$4,296.00 to account 100-0460-5058 – Marketing Promotions & Publications. We received a grant reimbursement from Eastgate Regional Council of Governments for five permanent interpretive education signs and three traveling signs. This appropriation increase will allow the Marketing department to realize the benefit of this grant refund for money already spent out of their budget. Tom Shipka motioned the appropriation request be approved. Tom Frost seconded the motion, and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Frey, Frost, Shipka  
Voting Nay: None

Justin Rogers, Planning Manager, presented the Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition Membership Commitment document for signature by the Board President. Tom Frost motioned the Commitment be approved. Germaine Bennett seconded the motion. After discussion, and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Frey, Frost, Shipka  
Voting Nay: None

Aaron Young, Executive Director, presented Resolution R-17-11 Accepting Donations for the period May 1, 2017 through June 30, 2017. Tom Frost motioned the donations be accepted. Germaine Bennett seconded the motion, and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Frey, Frost, Shipka  
Voting Nay: None

Andrew Pratt, Gardens Director, presented a request from the Garden Forum of the Greater Youngstown Area, to hold their annual meeting and scholarship fundraiser in the Rossi Auditorium on November 2, 2017, and collect monies at the meeting. Germaine Bennett motioned the request be approved. Tom Shipka seconded the motion, and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Frey, Frost, Shipka  
Voting Nay: None

### Executive Director's Report

1. Ohio Senate Acknowledgement for the New Wet Playground at the James L. Wick Jr. Recreation Area
2. AJGA Junior All-Star Series Tournament Appreciation Plaque
  - a. Thank you to the Mill Creek MetroParks Foundation for your generous support & sponsorship
  - b. Aaron thanked Brian and staff.
3. Ohio Public Works Commission, Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Round 11 Grant Award
  - a. Glenwood Corridor Open Space Acquisition Project; \$43,980 (75%) of \$58,640
  - b. Five (5) undeveloped resident parcels (2.86 acres) on the West side of Glenwood Ave. and South Side of Devonshire Drive, located between Midlothian Boulevard & West Boulevard
  - c. Aaron thanked Justin.

### Commissioners Comments

- Lee Frey welcomed everyone. Noted that 4 committees need to schedule their report for a Board meeting before the end of the year. Those groups are Nature Education, Development, Environment, and Community Engagement.
- Germaine Bennett thanked Jeff Harvey and the Audubon Society for the geese counting report.
- Tom Frost commended the MetroParks Police for a recent arrest. Also noted that after recent storms, the Maintenance crews cleaned the bike trail up promptly.
- Tom Shipka thanked staff, volunteers, taxpayers, and standing committee members for their hard work.

### Public Comments to the Board

- Chris from Jubilee Limo – not present
- Chris Peyko – not present
- Judy Peyko – questioned the need to pay to have the MetroParks attorney present at this meeting, feels it is a waste of money. Lee Frey and Tom Frost disagreed. She feels that the most important parts of the park are nature, wildlife, preservation, conservation, and cleanup of lakes. Chance Metz showed the Board a poster of pictures. She asked for Aaron's resignation or termination.
- Chance Metz – unhappy with the weeds at the Lily Pond, feels it looks neglected, and they should be cut back. Although happy with some of the improvements like the new signs, and splash pad, feels the money should be spent on things like roads first. He has noticed some change for the better, but not enough progress to gain the public's trust.
- Pat McComy spoke regarding a safety concern at the Lily Pond with some juveniles that were hanging around, and that tried to steal her photography equipment. She also photographed girls dangerously close to the edge of the Lanterman's Falls. She has notice an increased patrol since then. She said the Lily Pond's high weeds make it easier for criminals to hide. The Board recommended she call the MetroParks Police any time she feels unsafe, and they'll send a cruiser out immediately.
- Patrick Lorelli signed up to speak, but decided not to. He would rather have a meeting in private with the Board. They invited him to contact them to schedule.

Lee Frey announced that the next meeting, a Work Session, has been scheduled for 6 p.m., Monday, August 14, 2017, in McMahon Hall at the MetroParks Farm.

Tom Shipka would like a water quality report update for the next Work Session meeting.

Tom Shipka moved the Board meet in Executive Session for:

1. To consider the appointment, employment, discipline, or compensation of public employees.

2. Pending or Imminent Court Action

Tom Frost seconded the motion, and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Frey, Frost, Shipka  
Voting Nay: None

The motion was passed, and the Board met in Executive Session at 6:26 p.m.

Germaine Bennett motioned to return to Regular Session. Lee Frey seconded the motion and the Board returned from Executive Session at 8:07 p.m. and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Frey, Frost, Shipka  
Voting Nay: None

There being no further business, Tom Shipka moved to adjourn the meeting. Tom Frost seconded the motion, and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Frey, Frost, Shipka  
Voting Nay: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.