

# Community Engagement Committee

## 2018 Annual Report

### Members:

Jim Bolchalk  
Ed Howley  
Phyllis Johnson (through April 2018)  
Frank Krygowski  
Anne Liller  
Pat Rose  
Rick Shale, Chair  
Emily Young (since May 2018)  
Jaime Yohman, Staff Liaison

### Meetings:

February 23, 2018  
March 23, 2018  
May 4, 2018  
May 31, 2018  
July 16, 2018  
August 10, 2018  
October 26, 2018  
November 16, 2018

The Community Engagement Committee had another active year in 2018. We held eight meetings in ten months. We had one personnel change: Phyllis Johnson was unable to attend several meetings, and she left the committee in April. Emily Young was appointed to fill the vacancy, and she has proved to be a very active and hard worker. After serving as committee secretary for two years, Anne Liller resigned from that office, though she will remain an active member of the committee. We thank Anne for her excellent service to the committee in 2017 and 2018. Ed Howley has volunteered to be secretary in 2019.

The committee began the year by dealing with some unfinished business. In December 2017, we had submitted to the park board proposals for a Historic Collections Preservation Policy and a Bicycle and Recreation Facilities Safety Policy. The board objected to some parts of the policies and sent them back to our committee for further revisions. After discussion, the committee voted to approve revised versions of our policies, and these were approved by the board at their March meeting.

In March our committee began our major project for 2018: revising the Volunteer Handbook (which had last been updated in May 2013). Our staff liaison Jaime Yohman had looked at the handbooks from several other metroparks, and at her suggestion we decided to use the handbook from Stark Parks as a useful model.

At our May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting we held a lengthy, in-depth discussion of all sections of the Volunteer Handbook, and at the May 31<sup>st</sup> meeting the committee did a page-by-page review of our first rough draft. The July 16<sup>th</sup> meeting was devoted to correcting, revising, and adding to the

Volunteer Handbook. We were pleased with the final result and feel the new Volunteer Handbook will be a helpful tool for Mill Creek MetroParks and its volunteers.

We also crafted and approved a policy/list of guidelines regarding the Standing Committees annual reports. These written reports should include a list of committee members, meetings held, projects considered, actions taken, and any policies proposed to the park board. The committee chair presented this to the board, an action that was quickly seen to be unnecessary as the board had just approved an updated Policy on Standing Committees, which covered nearly all the points raised in our committee's proposal.

The Board asked our committee to look into the possibility of a refrigerated ice rink at the volleyball courts at the Wick Recreation Area. We reviewed material submitted by Pat McCamy and had many questions. We invited Pat McCamy to attend our August meeting. Unfortunately, we learned fifteen minutes before the meeting that she would not be attending. The committee discussed the proposal and concluded that it was not feasible for several reasons. Most importantly, it did not include any mention of a third-party partnership that would provide funding.

The new policy on Standing Committees requires each committee to submit to the board one to three goals it wishes to pursue in 2019. We devoted our October meeting to this task and came up with at least eight suggestions.

After further discussion, we voted to submit the following three goals to the Board:

**Community Engagement Committee 2019 Goals:**

1. Explore methods for recruiting new and younger park volunteers.
2. Investigate possible collaborative projects with other standing committees including holding a meeting of the chairs of all the standing committees.
3. Having established a Historic Preservation sub-committee and a Bicycle Facilities Safety sub-committee this year, we hope in 2019 to recruit more volunteers for these sub-committees, set some goals for these groups, and energize them so they will complete their goals.

November 16, 2018

Rick Shale, Chair

Note: This Annual Report was unanimously approved by the Community Engagement Committee on November 16, 2018.