

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF MILL CREEK
METROPARKS HELD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of Mill Creek MetroParks was held on Monday, September 9, 2019, at the MetroParks Farm. President Lee Frey welcomed guests and staff and reminded those in attendance to sign-in if they wish to address the Board as part of the public comment portion of the meeting.

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,	Absent
Jeff Harvey;	Present
Paul Olivier;	Present

The Board was presented with the Minutes of the Meeting of August 12, 2019. Commissioner Frey accepted the minutes into the records as written.

Kevin Smith, Finance Director/Treasurer presented the Department Report for Finance. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Finance Director, the funds having been certified as on hand and duly appropriated, that disbursements #80026 - #80302 for a total of \$795,613.87 be approved. The motion was seconded by Jeff Harvey, after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye:	Bennett, Frey, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay:	None

Kevin Smith, Finance Director/Treasurer requested to increase appropriations to account 100-3723-5007 Vickers Nature Preserve and Horse Park - Contract Jobs by \$13,126.51. Kevin stated that MCMP will be receiving a \$5,500.00 grant from the Mill Creek MetroParks Foundation to go towards trail improvements at Vickers Nature Preserve, as well as a \$7,626.51 check from the Buckeye Horse Park Association as part of the finalized Memorandum of Understanding. Lee Frey moved at the request of the Finance Director to increase appropriations to account 100-3723-5007 Vickers Nature Preserve and Horse Park - Contract Jobs by \$13,126.51. The motion was seconded by Germaine Bennett, after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye:	Bennett, Frey, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay:	None

Kevin Smith, Finance Director/Treasurer requested approval of Resolution R-19-07 accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Finance Director, to approve Resolution R-19-07 accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor. The motion was seconded by Paul Olivier, after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye:	Bennett, Frey, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay:	None

Aaron Young, Executive Director presented and requested approval of the 2019-2021 Sugar House Lease with the Rocky Ridge Neighborhood Association. Lee Free moved, at the recommendation of the Executive Director, to approve the 2019-2021 Sugar House Lease with the Rocky Ridge Neighborhood Association. The motion was seconded by Paul Olivier, after discussion, and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Frey, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay: None

Lee Free, Executive Director shared that correspondence was sent to the Chairs of the respective Standing Committees via the Executive Director requesting the following:

1. Each committee chairperson and each park liaison submit a written summary of their successes/activities over the past three years and reasons as to why their respective committees should/should not continue, to the Board of Park Commissioners by Friday, October 4, 2019.
 - a. These written summaries can be e-mailed directly to the Executive Director in preparation for the October 15, 2019 Board Meeting, so that copies can be made and provided to the Board.
2. Each committee chairperson and liaison shall attend the November 12, 2019 Board of Park Commissioners Meeting.

Aaron Young, Executive Director shared an update on the status of potential changes to the MetroParks Rules and Regulations that are currently being considered by Administration. The rules and/or policies surrounding bouldering/rock climbing and other power driven mobility devices (OPDMD) will be reviewed further with an expected recommendation being made at a later date.

Aaron Young, Executive Director presented and requested approval of the final Memorandum of Understanding with the Buckeye Horse Park Association. The MOU is the final provision of the original lease that expired in February 2019. Aaron shared that with legal counsel assistance, both entities were able to identify and agree to the balance of finances check being provided to MCMP in the amount of \$7,626.21. Lee Free moved, at the recommendation of the Executive Director, to approve the final Memorandum of Understanding with the Buckeye Horse Park Association. The motion was seconded by Germaine Bennett, after discussion, and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Frey, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay: None

Aaron Young provided the Board with an update of a local company known as Green Water Solutions, will be testing their Nano-Bubble Ozone Technology (NBOT) at various locations around Lake Newport in the latter part of September. The technology will be tested to evaluate its impact on the water quality and its ability to assist in fighting algae growth. Aaron identified that he has spoken with representatives of the Ohio EPA and the US Army Corps of Engineers about test that were conducted at other waterbodies and the impacts of the tests. Results of the testing by Green Water Solutions will be provided to the MetroParks.

Chris Litton, Development Director provided an update on fundraising through the Mill Creek MetroParks Foundation. As part of the update, Chris presented and requested approval of a naming rights agreement for the Plaza Green Roof as part of the Ford Nature Center Redevelopment Capital Campaign. The agreement names the plaza green roof, the Michael Kusalaba Plaza and additionally, The Michel Kusalaba Fund of The Youngstown Foundation will be recognized on the donor recognition panel located in the FNC Main Lobby area, in exchange for a financial contribution of \$300,000 to be made over a period of three years, beginning in 2020. Lee Free moved, at the recommendation of the Development Director, to Germaine Bennett, after discussion, and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Frey, Harvey, Olivier

Voting Nay: None

Commissioners Comments:

- Germaine Bennett – Great job to staff for what she is seeing in the Parks. Thanked all for the hard work that was done in finalizing the MOU with the BHPA.
- Lee Frey – Thanked the staff for hard work. Proposed an agenda item for the next meeting approving the counting of geese within the parks by the Audubon Society for a period of three years beginning in 2020.
- Jeff Harvey – Great job to Chris and the Development team. Getting closer to our goal every day.
- Paul Olivier – Thanked the Park for the support of Panerathon.

Public Comments to the Board:

- Darrell Markijohn, counsel for BHPA. Thanked the Board & Park District for a great 25 years and provided a summary of work completed by the BHPA, estimated by BHPA to be in value of \$300,000. The BHPA Board and Executive Board has been realigned. Darrell also provided a brief summary of how we got to where we are today. Darrell requested a reason for why the agreement could not be finalized. Darrell also suggested that the money that was provided to the MetroParks be provided back to BHPA in an attempt to earn back some good will.
- Robert Heldreth provided some comments on the Vickers Nature Preserve Master Planning course regarding a challenge course/trail course. He would like to see the mountain course/trail course feature continue. He stated that it is the fastest growing equestrian use activity today. Robert asked who was the person to contact regarding issues of equestrian use was.

Lee Frey announced that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16, 2019, at 6 p.m., at the MetroParks Farm.

Lee Frey moved to exit the regular session and to go into Executive Session at 6:34 pm for the purpose of to consider the appointment, employment, discipline, or compensation of public employees. The motion was seconded by Paul Olivier, after discussion, and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Frey, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay: None

Lee Frey moved to exit the executive session and return to Regular Session at 7:40 pm. The motion was seconded by Germaine Bennett, after discussion, and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennett, Frey, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay: None

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Presiding Officer

Secretary