

Canfield, OH  
October 16, 2019

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of Mill Creek MetroParks was held on Wednesday, October 16, 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,	Present
Jeff Harvey;	Present
Paul Olivier;	Absent

The Board was presented with the Minutes of the Meeting of September 9, 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 #80302 - #80533 for a total of \$1,097,255.39 be approved. 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, Frost, Harvey
Voting Nay:	None

James Ridge, Accountant presented the Quarterly Credit Card Report as required by ORC 1545.072. No action was needed.

Kevin Smith, Finance Director/Treasurer requested to increase appropriations to account 100-2600-5073 Gardens Programs & Special Events - Supplies by \$900.00. We received a \$900.00 donation from the Garden Forum of the Greater Youngstown Area for pumpkins and poinsettias and this will allow the Gardens to make these purchases. Lee Frey moved at the request of the Finance Director Request to increase appropriations to account 100-2600-5073 Gardens Programs & Special Events - Supplies by \$900.00. 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, Frost, Harvey
Voting Nay:	None

Kevin Smith, Finance Director/Treasurer requested to increase appropriations to account 100-0080-5195 Reserve for Contingencies by \$19,082.42. We received insurance deductible reimbursements from our insurance company and this will replace the deductible money spent

out of this account. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Finance Director, to increase appropriations to account 100-0080-5195 Reserve for Contingencies by \$19,082.42. The motion was seconded by Tom Frost, after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Kevin Smith, Finance Director/Treasurer requested to increase appropriations to account 100-2503 Gardens Capital Improvements by \$241,006.56. We will be receiving \$241,006.56 from the Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens towards the renovation of the outdoor education building. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Finance Director, to increase appropriations to account 100-2503 Gardens Capital Improvements by \$241,006.56. 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, Frost, Harvey  
Voting Nay: None

Justin Rogers, Planning Manager presented resolution R-19-08 authorizing the Executive Director to prepare and file an application with Eastgate Regional Council of Governments for financial assistance from the Transportation Alternatives Program FY22-23 for the construction of the East Park Drive Trail Phase II in Mill Creek Park. The project will be constructed to connect the north terminus of East Park Drive Trail-Phase I with the south terminus of East Cohasset Hike & Bike Trail. The Transportation Alternatives Program will provide up to 80% of the total construction cost of a project, including construction engineering, inspection and testing. Lee Free moved, at the recommendation of the Planning Manager, to approve resolution R-19-08 as presented. 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, Frost, Harvey  
Voting Nay: None

Lee Frey moved to approve the Annual Audubon Society Goose Count for a new three year period from 2020 – 2022. The motion was seconded by Tom Frost, after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Nick Derico, Natural Resource Steward presented the Raccoon Population Density Survey at the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary. Nick recommended that the Board authorize Administration to move forward with recommended wildlife management activities inclusive of population control of raccoons at the Wildlife Sanctuary. Lee Free moved, at the recommendation of the Natural Resource Steward, to authorize Administration to move forward with recommended wildlife management activities inclusive of population control of raccoons at the Wildlife Sanctuary. The

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

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

Aaron Young, Executive Director presented and requested approval of a proposed rule change to Rule 20.6 Rappelling, Climbing, Bouldering. The new rule will read: No person is permitted to climb, rope climb or rappel any hillside, ravine area or rock face on Park District lands, except as described here and in designated areas. Bouldering (low climbing without ropes), along with bouldering specific safety equipment, i.e. helmets and portable bouldering pads, is permitted within the area encompassed by Bears Den Road, Cross Drive and New Cross Drive. All roped climbing, rappelling, and the placement or use of fixed or removable bolts, anchors, or hardware is strictly prohibited. Jeff Harvey moved, to table the discussion until further investigation was conducted into the presence of potential state listed threatened/endangered fern species within the proposed area. 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, Frost, Harvey  
Voting Nay: None

Aaron Young, Executive Director presented and requested approval of a proposed policy related to Other Power Driven Mobility Devices. The policy for the use of Other Power Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMD) within Mill Creek MetroParks is in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title II and Title III Revised Regulations. These regulations provide a definition of a wheelchair and other power-driven mobility devices and add additional provisions identifying where they can be used. (Credit/Attached: Americans with Disabilities Act Title II and Title III Revised Regulations Fact Sheet Series, Fact Sheet #7). Lee Free moved, at the recommendation of the Executive Director, to approve the proposed policy as drafted. The motion was seconded by Tom Frost, after discussion, and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Chris Litton, Development Director provided an update on fundraising through the Mill Creek MetroParks Foundation. Year to date totals for the Endowment Drive are over \$90,000 by way of 54 individual donors. The Columbus Foundation contributed \$1000 towards the Trails Endowment. The Ford Nature Center Capital campaign is about 90% complete.

Lee Free, board President thanked the Committees and Liaisons for submitting their requested summaries. 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.

Commissioners Comments:

- Germaine Bennett – Thanked the Committees and Liaisons for submitting their reports. She loves this time of year in the Parks.
- Lee Frey – Thanked the Committees and Liaisons for submitting their reports. Thanked the Staff for a great Summer.
- Tom Frost – Complimented the PD on the work that was being done in patrolling the speeds of users on the Bikeway. Complimented Administration on the progress being made with the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan.
- Jeff Harvey – Asked that we no longer print the check registers for the meeting. Commissioners can review the electronic copies. He shared that the 12th Annual Big Sit was conducted at the Sanctuary with 201 species being identified Year to Date.

Public Comments to the Board:

- Nancy Brundage commented on how nice Pumpkin Walk at FRG was.

Lee Frey announced that the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12, 2019, at 6 p.m., at the MetroParks Farm.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

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Presiding Officer

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Secretary