

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF MILL CREEK  
METROPARKS HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2021.

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of Mill Creek MetroParks was held on Monday, February 8, 2021. The Meeting was video recorded and broadcasted live via Facebook Live Video.

The meeting opened at 6:00 p.m., with recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance.

Lee Frey welcomed staff and guests watching remotely.

Roll Call was as follows:

Germaine Bennett;	Present
Lee Frey;	Present
Tom Frost,	Present via Zoom
Jeff Harvey;	Present
Paul Olivier;	Present

Lee Frey turned control of the meeting over to Aaron Young, Executive Director. Aaron entertained a motion for the position of Board President. Tom Frost moved to nominate Lee Frey as Board President. 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, Olivier
Voting Nay:	None

Aaron turned control of the meeting over to Lee Frey, Board President.

Lee entertained a motion for the position of Board Vice President. Jeff Harvey moved to nominate Germaine Bennett as Board Vice President. 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, Frost, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay:	None

The Board was presented with the Minutes of the Meeting of January 11, 2020. Commissioner Frey accepted the minutes into the records as written.

Kevin Smith, Finance Director/Treasurer presented the Department Report for Finance and requested that disbursements #83759 - #83849 for a total of \$577,717.08 be approved. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Finance Director, the funds having been certified as on hand and duly appropriated, that disbursements #83759 - #83849 for a total of \$577,717.08 be approved. 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, Frost, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay:	None

Kevin Smith, Finance Director/Treasurer requested approval of Resolution R-21-01, requesting authorization to make tax advance requests to the Mahoning County Auditor on behalf of the Board as they become available throughout 2021. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Finance Director, to approve Resolution R-21-01 as presented. 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, Olivier
Voting Nay:	None

Kevin Smith, Finance Director/Treasurer presented the Board with a copy of the State of Ohio's Auditor Award for the 2019 Audit.

Aaron Young, Executive Director provided an update on the new microphones that were installed to assist with the sound and communication during Board Meetings. Aaron thanked Brian Moff and James Hunt for their work on the issue.

Aaron Young, Executive Director provided an update on the development of a Board presentation schedule for the Department Directors. More updates will be provided once the scheduled is finalized.

Aaron Young, Executive Director provided an update on the status of the partnership with The Nature Conservancy regarding the survey and treatment plans for the invasive pest, the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid that was identified within Mill Creek Park. TNC will be performing the survey and treatment of all Hemlocks within the MetroParks as part of their grant from the US Forestry Service.

Aaron Young, Executive Director acknowledged the retirement of Jack Moss, Maintenance Supervisor after 31 years of service.

Aaron Young, Executive Director provided an update on the MetroParks Round 15 Clean Ohio Fund Application. The application for funding in the amount of \$294,431 was approved for the purchase of 88 acres in Springfield Township. This will be the first land acquisition in Springfield Township in the history of the MetroParks. Plans for the development of the land as a park are to be developed.

Aaron Young, Executive Director provided an update on the status of the 2020 Annual Report. The report is to be finished and posted on the MetroParks website by March 1, 2021. Aaron also provided a preliminary summary of the accomplishments of the administration from 2017-2021 which included nearly \$20 million dollars in capital improvements with nearly \$9 million dollars or 45% coming from third party sources.

Lee Frey, Board President moved to amend and extend the Executive Directors contract as a result of the exemplary performance and progress being made under his leadership. The term of the contract will now run through 2027. 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, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

Lee Frey, Board President moved to amend the Board By-Laws as noted:  
Section 1 - Board of Park Commissioners, F.3:

From: To select and regularly evaluate an Executive Director to manage the day to day activities of the Park subject to direction by the Board.

To: To select and evaluate an Executive Director to manage the day to day activities of the Park subject to direction by the Board. The evaluation shall take place in June and December of each year the Executive Director is employed.

The reasoning behind the change is that with the contract extension, Lee feels that we can go to twice a year from quarterly. It gives any subsequent Board guidance as to when to evaluate and can be changed by them with a majority vote. It was vague before this. With the reports of the Department Heads each year, this will keep us informed and will stimulated conversation and questions. We have a veteran and efficient Board that keeps up on events. 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, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

Lee Frey, Board President requested that the Board renew Aaron's nomination to the at-large seat of the District 6 Natural Resources Assistance Council NRAC on behalf of Mill Creek MetroParks. Aaron has served in the position since 2016 and has helped to secured nearly \$750,000 in funding for land acquisition for the MetroParks. Lee Frey, Board President moved to nominate Aaron Young to the at-large seat of the District 6 NRAC as requested. 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, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

Lee Frey, Board President opened the discussion regarding the appointment of a replacement for Commissioner Paul Olivier to the MetroParks Foundation. Commissioner Olivier's new employment prohibits him from serving on the MetroParks Foundation Board. Lee moved to appoint Jeff Harvey to the MetroParks Foundation Board as a representative of the MetroParks Board of Park Commissioners. 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, Frost, Harvey, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

Justin Rogers, Planning & Operations Director requested that the Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with First Energy/Ohio Edison for the provision of services related to upgrading electrical service to the Ford Nature Center from single phase service to three phase service at a not to exceed price of \$150,000. Lee Frey moved, to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with First Energy/Ohio Edison for the provision of services related to upgrading electrical service to the Ford Nature Center from single phase service to three phase service at a not to exceed price of \$150,000as requested. 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, Frost, Harvey, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

Brian Tolnar, Director of Golf & Recreation presented and requested approval for two special events. One is the Panerathon to be held on 08-29-21 and the second the Greatest Golfer Marathon & Outing on 06-28-21. Lee Frey moved, to approve the special events as requested. 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, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

Chris Litton, Development Director presented the deposit report for the period of January 1-29, 2021 at a total of \$14,268.84.

Chris Litton, Development Director presented and requested approval of the 2021 Annual Development Plan. Lee Frey moved, to approve the 2021 Annual Development Plan, as requested. 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, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

Commissioners Comments:

- Germaine Bennett – Germaine thanked all for the well wishes. Congratulated Lee on his Board appointment. She looks forward to reviewing the By-Laws. Thanked Chris for his work with the Foundation. Thinks we have a very strong Board.
- Lee Frey – Requested a hard copy of the by-laws for the next meeting to be discussed at the April Meeting. They need to be updated every five years. Thanked the Board for the appointment at Board President. Thanked Aaron for the review and for the summary of the accomplishments from 2017-2021.
- Tom Frost – Congratulated Lee and Germaine on their respective positions. Thanked Kevin for the good work he does. Thanked Aaron for the third funding support. He was glad to see the expansion into Springfield Township.
- Jeff Harvey – Contacted other park districts to see what other Park Districts paid their Directors. Our website has more than any other Park Districts share on their website. The public sees what good things are happening.
- Paul Olivier – Thanked Aaron and the team for the awards that are being received during a very challenging time. Thanked Germaine and Lee for their leadership. Thanked Jeff for taking over for him on the Foundation.

Public Comments to the Board:

- None

Lee moved at 7:06 p.m. to exit Regular Session and to go into Executive Session for the purpose of: to consider the appointment, employment, discipline or compensation of public employees, as well as pending or imminent court action and purchase or sale of property. 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, Frost, Harvey, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

Paul Olivier had to excuse himself from the meeting due to another obligation at approximately 7:30 pm.

Lee moved at 7:43 pm to exit Executive Session and to go into Regular Session. 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

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 8, 2021, at 6 p.m., at the MetroParks Farm.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

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Presiding Officer

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Secretary