

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF MILL CREEK  
METROPARKS HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2022.

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of Mill Creek MetroParks was held on Monday, February 14, 2022.

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

Lee Frey, Board President welcomed staff and guests.

Roll Call was as follows:

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

Lee turned control of the meeting over to Aaron Young, Executive Director who opened the floor for nominations for the position of Board President. Jeff Harvey nominated Lee Frey as President. The nomination 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

Aaron turned control of the meeting over to Lee Frey, Board President who opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice-President. Paul Olivier nominated Germaine Bennett as Vice-President. The nomination was seconded by Lee Frey, after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

The Board was presented with the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 10, 2022. Lee Frey accepted the minutes into the record as written.

Kevin Smith, Finance Director/Treasurer presented the Department Report for Finance and requested that disbursements #86202- #86323 for a total of \$693,267.94 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 #86202- #86323 for a total of \$693,267.94 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, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay:	None

Kevin Smith, Finance Director/Treasurer presented a request to increase appropriations to account 100-3303-5097 Annual Drive Improvements by \$198,491.50. The awarded contractor was unable to complete the drive improvements project in 2021 and elected to terminate the contract. This will allow us to rebid the project in 2022 to solicit contractors to perform the needed drive improvements. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Finance Director, to increase appropriations to account 100-3303-5097 Annual Drive Improvements by \$198,491.50. 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 presented resolution R-22-02 Requesting authorization to make tax advance requests to the Mahoning County Auditor on behalf of the Board as they become available throughout 2022. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Finance Director, to approve Resolution R-22-02 as presented. 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

**R-22-02**

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING AUTHORIZATION  
TO MAKE TAX ADVANCE REQUESTS TO  
THE MAHONING COUNTY AUDITOR ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD  
AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT 2022**

**WHEREAS**, per ORC 321.34, the Mahoning County Auditor has procedures available to request Real Property Tax Collection advances for Mill Creek MetroParks, and

**WHEREAS**, the Treasurer of the MetroParks will request advances on the dates listed below:

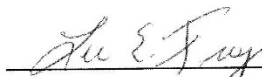
- February 18, 2022 (if sufficient taxes are collected at this time)
- February 25, 2022
- March 4, 2022
- March 11, 2022
- March 18, 2022
- March 25, 2022 (if settlement is not completed by this date)

and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Park Commissioners of Mill Creek MetroParks authorizes the Treasurer to make this request, and authorizes the Treasurer to receive advances when funds are available throughout the calendar year, and

**WHEREAS**, the Treasurer of the MetroParks will provide the Mahoning County Auditor a copy of this resolution by noon the Monday before the advance is scheduled.


**IN WITNESS THEREOF**, We, the Board of Park Commissioners hereunto set our hand this 14<sup>TH</sup> day of FEBRUARY, 2022.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lee Frey, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Germaine Bennett, Vice-President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Frost, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Olivier, Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Harvey, Commissioner

Kevin Smith, Finance Director/Treasurer presented resolution R-22-03 Requesting approval of the OPERS Fringe Benefit Pick-Up Plan. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Finance Director, to approve Resolution R-22-03 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, Harvey, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

#### **Resolution R-22-03**

#### **FRINGE BENEFIT PICK-UP PLAN**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Park Commissioners of Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District that the Board of Park Commissioners will pick up (assume and pay) the statutorily required contribution to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System for the position of Executive Director of the Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 414(h)(2).

WHEREAS, pursuant to federal and Ohio laws, the Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District may offset future salary increases and "pick-up" (assume and pay) the contributions statutorily required by such covered employees to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) and such individuals will not be required to pay federal and state income taxes on such contributions; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MILL CREEK METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT, THAT:

**SECTION 1:** Effective, February 14, 2022 the full amount of the statutorily required employee contributions to OPERS shall be picked up and paid as a fringe benefit by the Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District for the position of Executive Director as further noted in Section 2 herein. The "pick-up" shall be an offset against future salary increases. This "pick-up" by the Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District shall be designated as public employee contributions and shall be in lieu of contributions to OPERS made by the position of Executive Director. The position of Executive Director shall not have the option of choosing to receive the statutorily required contribution to OPERS directly instead of having it "picked-up" by the Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District or shall they be excluded from the "pick-up." The Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District shall, in reporting and making remittance to OPERS, report that the public employees contribution for the position of Executive Director, subject to this "pick-up" has been made as provided by the statute. Therefore, contributions, although

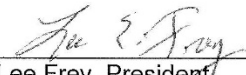
designated as employee contributions, are employer-paid, and the position of Executive Director does not have the option to receive the contributions directly. All contributions are paid by the employer directly to the plan.

**Section 2:** The “pick-up” by the Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District provide by this resolution shall only apply to the position of Executive Director of the Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District which is position that is a contributing member of OPERS.

**Section 3:** Under the fringe-benefit method of employer pick up, salary is not modified; however, the employer will pay the employees’ statutorily required contribution to OPERS.

**Section 4:** The Treasurer/Finance Director are hereby authorized and directed to implement the provisions of this ordinance to institute the “pick-up” of the statutorily required contributions to OPERS for those persons reflected in Section 2 herein so as to enable them to have their employee contributions paid by their employer.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, We, the Board of Park Commissioners hereunto set our hand this 14<sup>th</sup> day of FEBRUARY, 2022.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lee Frey, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Germaine Bennett, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Frost, Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Harvey, Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Olivier, Commissioner

Aaron Young, Executive Director congratulated Brian Tolnar, PGA Director of Golf & Recreation for being named the 2021 National Retailer of the Year in the Public Category by the National PGA.

Aaron Young, Executive Director shared with the Board that the MetroParks received first place in the Sports Programs and Events Category for the AJGA Junior All Star Golf Tournament, from the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association as part of the 2021 Awards of Excellence Winners.

Aaron Young, Executive Director shared with the Board that winter maintenance in the form of snow plowing is beginning to be performed on the MetroParks Bikeway in an effort to accommodate users in addition to current cross-country skiers. The goal is to have approximately half of the 10' wide paved surface be plowed for walkers, runners, etc. while the other half and the adjacent berm will remain

unplowed for use by cross country skiers. Snow removal will take place when we receive snow in excess of 3".

Katina Landgraff, HR Generalist presented the 2022 Employee Manual Updates for approval. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the HR Generalist, that the 2022 Employee Manual Updates 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, Harvey, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

Katina Landgraff, HR Generalist presented the 2022 Employee Pass for approval. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the HR Generalist, that the 2022 Employee Pass 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, Harvey, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

Randy Campana, Police Chief, presented the 2022 Police Policy Updates for approval. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Police Chief, that the 2022 Police Policy Updates 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, Harvey, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

Aaron Young, Executive Director presented a summary of the current status of the Citizens Advisory Committees as requested by the Board. Lee Frey moved, that the Citizens Advisory Committees be renewed for the year 2022. The motion was seconded by Germaine Bennett, after discussion and comments by various members of the Committees who were in attendance, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Brian Tolnar, PGA Director of Golf and Recreation presented the 2022 Golf Rates for approval. Lee Frey moved, at the recommendation of the PGA Director of Golf and Recreation, that the 2022 Golf Rates 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, Harvey, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

Brian Tolnar, PGA Director of Golf and Recreation presented the Special Events to the Board for approval. The special events include the Greatest Golfer of the Valley golf tournament on 08-13-22. Lee Frey moved, at the recommendation of the PGA Director of Golf and Recreation, that the presented Special Event 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, Harvey, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

Brian Tolnar, PGA Director of Golf and Recreation presented the Special Events to the Board for approval. The special events include the Mill Creek Distance Classic on 03-27-22. Lee Frey moved, at the recommendation of the PGA Director of Golf and Recreation, that the presented Special Event 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, Harvey, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

Aaron Young, Executive Director presented a request to collect funds on MetroParks property from Huntington National Bank Night at the Races Event to benefit cancer research on 05-20-22. Lee Frey moved, at the recommendation of the Executive Director, that the presented Huntington National Bank Night at the Races Event to benefit cancer research on 05-20-22 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

Chris Litton, Development Director shared the MetroParks Foundation deposit report for the period of January 1-31, 2021 at a total of \$104,873.15. Lee Frey moved to accept the deposit report for the period of January 1-31, 2021 as presented. 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

Chris Litton, Development Director presented the 2022 Annual Development Plan for approval. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Development Director, that the 2022 Annual Development Plan 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, Harvey, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

Public Comments to the Board:

- Susie Biersdorfer: A member of Treez Please presented a Board with an informational piece to reinstitute a tree nursery as part of its efforts.
- Lynn Anderson: Congratulated the MetroParks on being proactive with pest management. Recommended that the park consult with various professional on the establishment of a tree nursery on MetroParks property. Focus on planting trees, not cutting trees. Plant trees on east side of Newport. Jeff Harvey inquired as to who would work in the nursery? Lynn stated that nurseries are running out of trees.

Commissioners Comments:

- None

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 14, 2022, at 6 p.m., at McMahon Hall.

Lee Frey moved to exit regular session and go into executive session for the purpose of pending or imminent court action. 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

Lee Frey moved to exit executive session and return to 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, Harvey, Olivier

Voting Nay:     None

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:06 p.m.

---

Presiding Officer

---

Secretary