

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF MILL CREEK  
METROPARKS HELD MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2022.

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of Mill Creek MetroParks was held on Monday, June 13, 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,	Present
Jeff Harvey;	Present
Paul Olivier;	Present

The Board was presented with the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 9, 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 #86973- #87256 for a total of \$989,859.72 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 #86973- #87256 for a total of \$989,859.72. 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

Kevin Smith, Finance Director/Treasurer presented a request to increase appropriations to account 100-1100-5073 Golf Operations Supplies by \$5,000.00. The Golf Department received a donation for their PGA Hope Program from the Mahoning Valley Hospital Foundation. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Finance Director, to increase appropriations to account 100-1100-5073 Golf Operations Supplies by \$5,000.00. 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

Aaron Young, Executive Director shared that the MetroParks is currently collaborating with the WRTA for the addition of a bus shelter at the NW corner of Glenwood and Kiwatha. This effort is being led by YNDC who has acted as facilitator for the discussions. Once a draft agreement is prepared, Aaron will bring it to the Board for discussion.

Aaron Young, Executive Director presented a revised Eighth Amended and Restated Trust Agreement for the Mill Creek MetroParks Foundation. The revisions include minor grammatical changes and a revised dissolution clause to make clear the trust assets are distributed to the Board of Park Commissioners upon dissolution, not the Foundation Board of Directors. Lee Frey moved, at the recommendation of the Executive Director, that the revised Eighth Amended and Restated Trust Agreement be approved 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

Aaron Young, Executive Director presented Resolution R-22-08 Approval of fees for Mill Creek MetroParks Foundation Trust Officer for approval and submission to the Probate Court for journal entry. Lee Frey moved, at the recommendation of the Executive Director, that Resolution R-22-08 be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Germaine Bennett after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

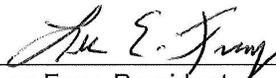
Voting Aye: Bennett, Frey, Frost, Harvey, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

Resolution R-22-08

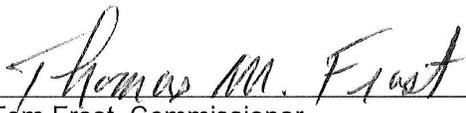
APPROVAL OF FEES FOR MILL CREEK METROPARKS FOUNDATION TRUST OFFICER

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Park Commissioners of Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District that we deem it necessary and in the best public interest to acknowledge the fees of PNC Banks as the newly selected Trust Officer for the Mill Creek MetroParks Foundation, and as outlined in the attached Exhibit A dated February 18, 2022 , and to authorize legal counsel to make application to the Probate Court for approval and to secure Journal Entry of the Probate Court.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, We, the Board of Park Commissioners hereunto set our hand this 13 day of JUNE, 2022.

  
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Lee Frey, President

  
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Germaine Bennett, Vice President

  
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Tom Frost, Commissioner

  
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Jeff Harvey, Commissioner

  
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Paul Olivier, Commissioner

Justin Rogers, Planning & Operations Director presented the bid award recommendation for the East Golf Hike & Bike Trail Parking Lot Improvements. Zero bids were received at the time of bid opening, therefore the project cannot be awarded. Justin shared that the project would be rebid in 2023. Lee moved at the recommendation of the Planning & Operations Director to not award the Project. 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

Justin Rogers, Planning & Operations Director presented the bid award recommendation for the MetroParks Farm Cross Country Course. One bid was received. It is recommended that Gary Moderalli Excavating, Inc. be awarded the contract for the project at the grand total bid amount of \$102,522.50. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Planning & Operations Director, to awarded the contract for the MetroParks Farm Cross Country Course to Gary Moderalli Excavating, Inc. at the grand total bid amount of \$102,522.50. 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

Brian Tolnar, PGA Director of Golf & Recreation presented the following Special Events to the Board for approval. The first is the Youngstown Peace Race on 10-09-22 and the second is the Youngstown YMCP Community Cup Golf Scramble on 08-27-22. Lee Frey moved, at the recommendation of the PGA Director of Golf and Recreation, that the Special Events be approved 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, Frost, Harvey, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

Lee Frey stated that we have received letters from the Mahoning County Commissioners and Representative Michele Lepore-Hagan as well as the Coitsville Township Trustees regarding the William Holmes McGuffey Wildlife Preserve and they claims made by Richard Scarsella of the William Holmes McGuffey Historical Society. Lee believes that both Michele Lepore-Hagan and the Mahoning County Commissioners are politicizing something that should simply be dealing with the truth. Lee believes that the letters were sent sight unseen. Lee requested that they go take a look at the property and let us know what they think after visiting, rather than sending letters without reviewing the issue. Lee read the current agreement for all in attendance. Lee identified that the MetroParks has spent an estimated \$500,000 on maintenance and improvements to the McGuffey Wildlife Preserve since July 25, 1998. Lee noted that the word "pond" is not in the agreement, calling into question its importance. Commissioner Jeff Harvey commented that the property is a Preserve, not a Park and it is currently being maintained as such. Natural succession is happening and is a natural process. Jeff also noted that the word "pond" is not included in the agreement. Lee and Jeff both further identified that the historical designation documentation also does not include or reference a pond. James Alfano, Coitsville Township Trustee spoke on behalf of the Coitsville Trustees and residents of Coitsville Township by asking that Mill Creek MetroParks maintains ownership of the Property, thus having a presence in Coitsville for many years to come. He provided the Board of Park Commissioners with a copy of a resolution passed by the Trustees stating as such. Commissioner Germaine Bennett identified that she visited the McGuffey Wildlife Preserve recently and believes that we are in compliance with our agreement. She identified that several members of the community contacted her to express their support for the MetroParks maintaining ownership of the property. Tom Frost shared that he also visited the McGuffey Wildlife Preserve and viewed its current condition and commended the MetroParks on their efforts. He disagrees that the current condition of a wetland is dangerous as claimed by Richard Scarsella. Tom shared that nature does what it does and the pond is filling in as a function of time and natural processes. Lee identified that due to the William Holmes McGuffey Historical Society not attending the meeting this evening, he will

withhold his motion to return the property to the Historical Society. If and when, the William Holmes McGuffey Historical Society does attend a meeting, he will entertain introduction of the motion.

Chris Litton, Development Director shared the MetroParks Foundation deposit report for the period of May 1-31, 2022 at a total of \$200,600. Lee Frey moved to accept the deposit report for the period of May 1-31, 2022 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

Chris also announced a partnership with Noble Creatures Brewery in Youngstown who will donate 10% of the sales of the MetroParks inspired beer to the Mill Creek MetroParks Foundation. The first beer is titled Parapet and has an image of the Parapet Bridge on the can.

Public Comments to the Board: (see sign-in sheet)

- Celeste Sinestro stated the continued opposition to the East Golf Hike & Bike Trail Parking Lot with an entrance onto Pinewood Drive in lieu of SR 224. She claimed that no notice was given to the residents on the street. She is concerned about the traffic that will be brought to the street. She believes that there is currently already adequate parking on SR 224 and Shields Road. Does not believe there is anything that could be done to persuade them.

Commissioners Comments:

- Jeff Harvey shared that he will always support Administrations actions on how to maintain the property, particularly in the event that a motion be introduced to return the property to the William Holmes McGuffey Historical Society and they decline.
- Lee Frey commented on claims of the MetroParks regarding discrimination. Nine million dollars has been invested in capital improvements within the City of Youngstown since 2015. Lee recommends that prior to writing letters to the editor individuals should contact the MetroParks and get both sides of a story.
- Melinda Rulli noted that she did not sign in to speak but offered comments on how the MetroParks could be more careful with the optics of issues. She believes that positive press is better than negative press and that all should be better informed. She went on to say that more information needs to be shared.
- Lee Frey commented that we are completely transparent and all information is available for viewing. Individuals can always request a meeting with Mr. Young.
- Tom Frost commented about the passion the Board and Visitors have for the MetroParks. People have supported through the MetroParks through philanthropy.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 11, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., at McMahan Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:55 p.m.

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Presiding Officer

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Secretary