

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF MILL CREEK
METROPARKS HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of Mill Creek MetroParks was held on Monday, February 13, 2023.

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

Lee Frey turned control of the meeting over to Aaron Young, Executive Director who entertained nominations for the position of Board President. Tom Frost nominated Lee Frey as President. Paul Olivier seconded the nomination. No other nominations were presented. Tom Frost moved that nominations be closed. The motion was seconded by Jeff Harvey after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Aaron Young, Executive Director turned control of the meeting back over to Lee Frey, President who entertained nominations for the position of Vice-President. Tom Frost nominated Germaine Bennett as Vice-President. Lee Frey seconded the nomination. No other nominations were presented. Tom Frost moved that nominations be closed. The motion was seconded by Lee Frey after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

The Board was presented with the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 9, 2023. 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 #88923 - #89072 for a total of \$1,031,425.38 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 #88923 - #89072 for a total of \$1,031,425.38. The motion was seconded by Jeff Harvey after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Kevin Smith, Finance Director/Treasurer requested to increase appropriations to account 100-1100-5073 Golf Operations Supplies by \$1,845.00. This is grant funding that was received from the Mahoning County Convention & Visitors Bureau for Mill Creek Golf Course Staff to attend the Michigan and New York Golf & Travel Shows in March 2023. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Finance Director/Treasurer, to approve the request to increase appropriations to account 100-1100-5073 Golf Operations Supplies by \$1,845.00. The motion was seconded by Paul Olivier after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Kevin Smith, Finance Director/Treasurer presented Resolution R-23-02 Requesting authorization to make tax advance requests to the Mahoning County Auditor on behalf of the Board as they become available throughout 2023 for approval. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Finance Director/Treasurer, to approve R-23-02 Requesting authorization to make tax advance requests to the Mahoning County Auditor on behalf of the Board as the become available throughout 2023. The motion was seconded by Tom Frost after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

R-23-02

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING AUTHORIZATION
TO MAKE TAX ADVANCE REQUESTS TO
THE MAHONING COUNTY AUDITOR ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD
AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT 2023**

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:

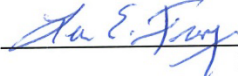
- February 24, 2023 (if sufficient taxes are collected at this time)
- March 03, 2023
- March 10, 2023
- March 17, 2023
- March 24, 2023
- March 31, 2023 (if settlement is not completed by this date)

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 13th day of FEBRUARY, 2023.



Lee Frey, President

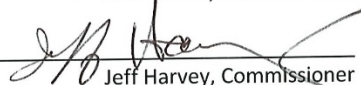
Germaine Bennett, Vice-President



Tom Frost, Commissioner



Paul Olivier, Commissioner



Jeff Harvey, Commissioner

Aaron Young, Executive Director presented the awards that were received by the MetroParks from the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association. The Ford Nature Center Redevelopment received the 2nd place award in the Capital Improvements under \$25 million category and the PGA Hope Golf Program received the 3rd place award in the Sports Programs & Events category.

Aaron Young, Executive Director shared that the MetroParks has been awarded a grant for \$142,647 to fund site improvements to the newly acquired Hawkins Marsh property in Smith Township through the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Fund. The grant is for 75% of the total project cost of \$190,196.

Aaron Young, Executive Director shared that the MetroParks Police Department was recognized for excellence in policy and training by Lexipol, the nation's leading provider of policy, training and wellness support for first responders and public servants.

Aaron Young, Executive Director provided an update on the Mill Creek MetroParks Foundation's review of their organizational status. The Foundation was unanimous in recommending that the Board of Park Commissioners terminate the Eighth Amended and Restated Trust Agreement upon the filing and establishment of the Mill Creek MetroParks Foundation as an Incorporated Non-Profit within the State of Ohio. This change will make it easier for the MetroParks to conduct fundraising activities through the Foundation on a much broader scale. No action was taken as a unanimous decision by the Board is required.

Megan Hanley, HR & Administrative Services Director presented the 2023 Employee Manual Updates for approval. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the HR & Administrative Services Director, that the 2023 Employee Manual Updates 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: Frey, Frost, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay: None

Justin Rogers, Planning & Operations Director requested the Board enter into a design services agreement with Russell + Mills Studios for the development of construction documents for the redevelopment of the Children's Garden at Fellows Riverside Gardens. The fees for these services were included in the 2023 Permanent Budget. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Planning & Operations Director, to enter into a design services agreement with Russell + Mills Studios for the development of construction documents for the redevelopment of the Children's Garden at Fellows Riverside Gardens at a cost of \$155,920. The motion was seconded by Jeff Harvey after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Lee Frey, President opened the discussion on the status of the Citizens Advisory Committees which expired on December 31, 2022. Lee Frey moved, to continue the Citizens Advisory Committees as a way of allowing the public to participate in support of the MetroParks. The motion was seconded by Paul Olivier after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Jeff Harvey requested that the minimum number of Citizen Advisory Committee members be reduced from seven (7) to five (5) to allow for more activity from the committees that did not meet the previous minimum of seven members. Lee Frey moved, change the minimum number of Citizens Advisory Committee members from seven (7) to five (5). The motion was seconded by Jeff Harvey after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Frey, Frost, Harvey, Olivier

Voting Nay: None

Lee Frey, President moved to appoint Bruce McIntosh to the Recreation Citizens Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Tom Frost after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Lee Frey, President moved to appoint Stephen DeCapua to the Finance Citizens Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Jeff Harvey after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Brian Tolnar, PGA Director of Golf & Recreation presented and requested approval of the following special events/requests to raise funds;

1. NEO Trail Club Race at Wick Recreation Area on 09-09-23
2. Pregnancy Help Center Rubber Duck Derby at Yellow Creek Park on 07-22-23
3. Youngstown Flea at Fellows Riverside Gardens on 05-14-23 (Rental + Sales)

Lee Frey moved, at the request of the PGA Director of Golf & Recreation and the Executive Director, that the special events be approved. The motion was seconded by Tom Frost after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Chris Litton, Development Director presented the MetroParks Foundation deposit report for the period of January 1-31, 2023 at a total of \$70,833.74. Lee Frey moved at the request of the Director of Development to accept the deposit report for the period of January 1-31, 2023 at a total of \$70,833.74. The motion was seconded by Paul Olivier, after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Chris Litton, Development Director presented 2023 Annual Development Plan for approval. Lee Frey moved at the request of the Director of Development to approve the 2023 Annual Development Plan. The motion was seconded by Jeff Harvey, after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Nick Derico, Natural Resource Manager gave a presentation on the status of White-tailed Deer in the MetroParks. The presentation outlined the types of surveys that were conducted, the visual damage to the ecology within the MetroParks and finally, results of the surveys that indicate a severe over-population of deer within the MetroParks. Nick shared that he is currently working with the Ohio Division of Wildlife on the development of an active management plan for deer within the MetroParks and would be presenting more on that at the next Board Meeting. In the interim, public input is being sought as part of this active management plan and members of the community can provide input by completing a survey on the MetroParks website. Cards with a QR code and link are also available for distribution.

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

- Bo Marchionte congratulated the Park on current improvements. Bo stated that he is a trail purist and requested that the Board consider keeping the primitive nature of the trails within the Parks.

Commissioners Comments:

- Jeff Harvey stated that the deer population is a big deal. Birds are affected by the overpopulation and noted the Wood Thrush as an example.
- Paul Olivier inquired about the number of deer related accidents and reiterated that we are the only MetroPark in NE Ohio that does not have an active management plan.
- Tom Frost inquired as to the frequency of the white deer.
- Lee Frey thanked Nick Derico for the informative presentation.

Lee Frey, President moved to exit regular session at 7:10 pm and go into executive session for the purpose of purchase or sale of property. The motion was seconded by Tom Frost after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Lee Frey, President moved to exit executive session at 7:20 pm and return to regular session. The motion was seconded by Tom Frost after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Lee Frey, President moved to authorize the executive director to enter into negotiations on behalf of the Board for potential land acquisition. The motion was seconded by Paul Olivier after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., in McMahon Hall at the MetroParks Farm.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:22 p.m.

Presiding Officer

Secretary