

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF MILL CREEK
METROPARKS HELD MONDAY, MAY 8, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of Mill Creek MetroParks was held on Monday, May 8, 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;	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 April 10, 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 #89514 - #89729 for a total of \$900,839.69 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 #89514 - #89729 for a total of \$900,839.69. 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 requested 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 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 Young, Executive Director thanked everyone who helped prepare for the reopening of the Ford Nature Center on Saturday April 22, 2023. The improvements were all very well received by all who attended.

Aaron Young, Executive Director requested that the Board terminate the Eighth Amended and Restated Trust Agreement that establishes the MetroParks Foundation upon filing with the State as an incorporated non-profit under the same name; Mill Creek MetroParks Foundation. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Executive Director, to terminate the Eighth Amended and Restated Trust Agreement that establishes the MetroParks Foundation upon filing with the State as an incorporated non-profit under the same name; Mill Creek MetroParks Foundation. 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

Randy Campana, Chief of Police presented the Ohio Law Enforcement Updates for approval. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Chief of Police, to approve the Ohio Law Enforcement Updates. 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 presented Resolution R-23-06 Application for ODNR NatureWorks Program Funding for approval. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Planning & Operations Director, to approve Resolution R-23-06 Application for ODNR NatureWorks Program Funding. 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

Resolution Authorizing MetroParks Executive Director to Apply for NatureWorks Grant Program Funds

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, administers financial assistance for public recreation purposes, through the State of Ohio NatureWorks grant program, and

WHEREAS, the Mill Creek MetroParks Board of Park Commissioners desires financial assistance under the NatureWorks Grant Program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mill Creek MetroParks Board of Park Commissioners that the Board of Park Commissioners approves filing this application for financial assistance, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MetroParks Executive Director is hereby authorized and directed to execute and file an application with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and to provide all information and documentation required to become eligible for possible funding assistance, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Mill Creek MetroParks Board of Park Commissioners does agree to obligate the funds required to satisfactorily complete the proposed project and become eligible for reimbursement under the terms of the NatureWorks Grant Program.

This Resolution passed this 8th day of May 2023.



Cindy Ellis
Notary Public
In and For the State of Ohio
Recorded in Mahoning County
My Commission Expires
June 16, 2024

Lee E. Frey
Lee Frey, President

Germaine Bennett
Germaine Bennett, Vice President

Tom Frost
Tom Frost, Commissioner

Jeff Harvey
Jeff Harvey, Commissioner

Paul Olivier
Paul Olivier, Commissioner

I, the undersigned, hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of resolution adopted by the Mill Creek MetroParks Board of Park Commissioners held on the 8th day in the month of May, 2023, and that I am a duly authorized to execute this certificate.

Cindy Ellis
signature

Notary Public
title

Nick Derico, Natural Resource Manager presented and requested approval of the USDA TVR Program for 2023. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Natural Resource Manager to approve the USDA TVR Program for 2023 as presented. The motion was seconded by Germaine Bennett, after lengthy discussion that included the following:

Voting Aye: Bennett, 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. Panerathon on 08-27-23 from 10:00 am to Noon in Mill Creek Park

Lee Frey moved, at the request of the PGA Director of Golf & Recreation, that the special events 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

Chris Litton, Development Director presented the MetroParks Foundation deposit report for the period of April 1-30, 2023, at a total of \$62,037.84. Lee Frey moved at the request of the Director of Development to accept the deposit report for the period of April 1-30, 2023, at a total of \$62,037.84. 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

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

- Nancy Brundage wanted to thank the Park for the FNC and the way that it was done. It is so beautiful. Nancy thanked the Park for the paved trail at the facility. Nancy has had people call her and asked her to thank the Park for the trails and helping to save the Park by culling the deer.
- Richard Scarsella provided the Board with a copy of aerial photographs that were dated from 1938 to 2000 showing a pond on the property. He believes that there is precedence maintaining water features within the MetroParks. He is requesting that the McGuffey Family Pond be restored.
- Jerry Serbel lives at 2318 Bears Den Road. Nothing has been done to the area adjacent to him on the West side. He would like the creek and ravine in that area clean up. He is talking about the property across the street from Dogwood Avenue.
- Elaine Hoskins lives close to the Park and would like to have her questions answered. She wants to know how many deer will be killed. She believes the survey is old. How will the Park know when to stop the active management/killing the deer. She doesn't think that it is right to sharpshoot during the night and questions the ethics of the practice. She wants to know who is paying for it.
- Sue Kuderca sent two videos to the Park Board regarding sharpshooters that were brought into to do a deer cull. Citizens mounted cameras within the Park and taped the activities that show not all deer were killed immediately. She believes the activities to be unethical and believes sharpshooting should not be permitted.
- Pearl Sinistro claims that the Board makes decisions that they do not agree with. She believes baiting for the deer to be shot is poaching and should not be allowed. Does not agree with the deer kill. Pinewood drive will be nothing but trouble and accidents and hopes that no one will be hurt or killed.
- Melinda Rulli's name was on the sign in sheet but she was not in attendance.
- Celeste Sinistro is opposed to the killing of any animal within the Park. People love the animals. She is against the deer hunt and believes it is inhumane. She believes that we should inform the

children of the activities that kill the animals within the Park. Pinewood drive improvements were a bad idea. She blames Director Young for the work.

- Mike Drabison asked what the budget for the deer management program was and how many deer will be killed. If the white deer is shot, what will happen? He claims that the management program will cost between \$400-600. He claims that the Parks are planning to build an event center and apply for a liquor license.
- Lana Van Aucker lives near Sawmill Creek and claims that 52% of deer shot with a bow do not die. She thanked the City of Youngstown for not supporting the management of deer. She believes the Preserves are places for safety for the animals. Deer contraception in the US is legal. She believes that we should experiment with it since we are at the Experimental Farm. She wants no hunting at Sawmill Creek. She quoted both Jane Goodall and David Attenborough.
- Diane Morse Nemeth representing the Coitsville Township Concerned Citizens. She wants the pond and dock restored at the William Holmes McGuffey Wildlife Preserve. She believes that the condition hurts property values. They would like the property turned over to ODNR or a joint management as a State Nature Preserve. She believes the Park is not maintaining the facility. She provided the Board with a copy of a signed letter from Coitsville Township Area Concerned Citizens
- Lex Calder spoke about his education and his love for the trees within the Parks. He stated that there are no apex predators in this area which has led us to this problem. There is no secondary succession within the Parks. The long term health of the forest is the most important part.
- Shawn O' Toole asked who the Board is responsible to? Asked if we have taxation without representation.

Commissioners Comments:

- Lee asked Nick to answer some of the questions that were asked by the individuals who spoke up. Nick mentioned that we have a budget of \$50,000 for the first year and hope to take approximately 50-100 deer the first year via targeted removals in MCP and approximately 20 in Yellow Creek. Butchering fees are \$111 for each deer and the balance of fees depends upon efficiency and time expended by USDA.
- Jeff asked how many times USDA will be in the Park under the current budget. Nick stated roughly 4-5 days/nights.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 12, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., in McMahon Hall at the MetroParks Farm.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:54 p.m.

Presiding Officer

Secretary