

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF MILL CREEK
METROPARKS

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of Mill Creek MetroParks was held on Monday, November 25, 2024.

The meeting opened at 5:00 p.m., with recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance.

Germaine Bennett, Board Vice-President welcomed staff and guests.

Roll Call was as follows:

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

The Board was presented with the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 9, 2024. Germaine accepted the minutes into the record as written.

The Board was presented with the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 21, 2024. Germaine accepted the minutes into the record as written.

Nick Morchak, Finance Director/Treasurer presented the Department Report for Finance and requested that disbursements #93789 - #94103 for a total of \$1,523,037.33, be approved. Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the Finance Director, that the funds having been certified as on hand and duly appropriated, that disbursements #93789 - #94103 for a total of \$1,523,037.33, 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, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay:	None

Nick Morchak, Finance/Treasurer presented a request to close a 2021 Purchase Order and move the remaining funds to a 2024 Purchase Order. The 2021 Purchase Order was used for Exhibit Construction at Ford Nature Center. We received the final pay application and after payment there will be \$34,193 left on that Purchase Order. We are requesting to move the remaining fund balance to a 2024 Purchase Order to be used for the Children's Garden. Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the Finance Director, that the request to close a 2021 Purchase Order and move the remaining funds to a 2024 Purchase Order, 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, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay:	None

Aaron Young, Executive Director shared that the audits of 2022 and 2023 have been complete with no findings. Aaron thanked Nick and his team for their work in supporting the auditors during the audit. Aaron also shared that the process that the MetroParks Foundation was undertaking to change its structure has been completed with full approval of the Mahoning County Probate Court. A copy of the Agreed Judgment Entry was provided.

Justin Rogers, Director of Planning & Operations presented a proposed easement from Ohio Edison that would impact areas adjacent to local roadways near the Bikeway and requested that the Board authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and enter in to and easement with Ohio Edison. Germaine Bennett moved at the request of the Director of Planning & Operations to authorize the Executive Director to

negotiate and enter into and easement with Ohio Edison. The motion was seconded by Jeff Harvey, after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Randy Campana, Chief of Police presented and requested approval of the Lexipol Policy Updates for November 2024. Germaine Bennett moved to approve the request as presented by the Chief of Police. The motion was seconded by Paul Olivier after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Brian Tolnar, PGA Director of Golf & Recreation presented and requested approval of the following special events:

1. Canfield Girls Basketball Par 3 Golf Outing on 08-07-25 @ WRA Par-3
2. Greatest Golfer of the Valley Golf Tournament on 08-08-25 @ MCMP GC North & South
3. Chaney High School Alumni Golf Outing on 08-16-25 @ MCMP GC North & South

Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the 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, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay: None

Chris Litton, Development Director presented the MetroParks Foundation deposit report for the period of October 1-31, 2024, at a total of \$124,942.82 for approval. Germaine Bennett moved at the request of the Director of Development to accept the deposit report for the period of October 1-31, 2024, at a total of \$124,942.82. The motion was seconded by Paul Olivier, after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

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

- Lana Van Auker wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving. She read a prepared statement regarding the fertility program at the University of Cincinnati. She mentioned the gassing of geese and trapping of otters. She noted that animal cruelty is not acceptable. She believes trapping and arrows are torture. She continued reading regarding the status of current ecosystems and their impacts associated with pesticides. She stated that a war is going on in Mill Creek Park with the animals. She read further statements regarding wildlife.
- Jerry Serbel wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving. He stated that he will abide by the Board's meeting rules. He is against deer hunting. He stated that he is afraid of being in the Park. He stated that he is proud of the Mayor of Youngstown for not allowing hunting in the City. He does not believe that the Board has provided any information.

Commissioner Comments:

- Jeff wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Germaine Bennett moved to exit regular session and go into executive session at 5:25 pm for the purpose of pending or imminent court action. The motion was seconded by Jeff Harvey, after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennet, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay: None

Germaine Bennett moved to exit executive session and return to regular session at 6:17 pm. The motion was seconded by Jeff Harvey after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennet, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay: None

Germaine Bennett moved to accept the local courts decision regarding the bikeway. The motion was seconded by Paul Olivier after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Voting Aye: Bennet, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay: None

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 9, 2024, at 5:00 p.m., in Rossi Auditorium within the Davis Center located at Fellows Riverside Gardens.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:18 p.m. There was a motion to adjourn

Presiding Officer

Secretary