

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, January 13, 2025.

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

Germaine Bennett turned control of the meeting over to Aaron Young, Executive Director. Aaron opened the floor up for nominations for the position of President. Jeff Harvey nominated Germaine Bennett for President. The nomination was seconded by Paul Olivier and after discussion including no additional nominations, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Aaron Young, Executive Director turned control of the meeting over to Germaine Bennett, Board President.

Germaine Bennett opened the floor for nominations for Vice President. Jeff Harvey nominated Paul Olivier as Vice-President. The nomination was seconded by Germaine Bennett and after discussion including no additional nominations, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

The Board was presented with the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 9, 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 #94361 - #94513 for a total of \$1,153,234.62, 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 #94361 - #94513 for a total of \$1,153,234.62, be approved. The motion was seconded by Paul Olivier and after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Austin Brooks, Staff Accountant presented the 2024 fourth quarter credit card report. No Board action was needed. Germaine Bennett thanked Austin for the report.

Quarterly Credit Card Report

Finance Department

Last updated: January 6th, 2025

Prepared by: Austin Brooks, Staff Accountant



Farmer's Visa

Number of Cards Issued: 1

Number of Cards Active: 1

Name of Employee	Expiration Date	Credit Limit
Mill Creek Metro Parks	1/2027	\$ 5,000.00

Sam's Club Credit Card

Number of Cards Issued: 8

Number of Cards Active: 7

Name of Employee	Expiration Date	Credit Limit
Aaron Young	1/2028	Shared \$13,000
Brian Tolnar	1/2028	Shared \$13,000
Jaime Yohman	1/2028	Shared \$13,000
Megan Millich	1/2028	Shared \$13,000
Nicholas Morchak	1/2028	Shared \$13,000
Operations Manager	1/2028	Shared \$13,000
Randall A. Campana	1/2028	Shared \$13,000

Chase Purchase Cards

Number of Cards Issued: 47

Number of Cards Active: 21

Name of Employee	Expiration Date	Credit Limit
Aaron C. Young	04/2027	\$ 10,000.00
Annette L. Vasko	04/2027	\$ 10,000.00
Brian Moff	07/2027	\$ 5,000.00
Brian Tolnar	04/2027	\$ 20,000.00
Christopher Litton	04/2027	\$ 10,000.00
Cindy Fernback	11/2025	\$ 5,000.00
Colleen Davis	03/2027	\$ 5,000.00
Corey Buck	04/2027	\$ 5,000.00
Eric Simone	11/2025	\$ 5,000.00
Jaime Yohman	04/2027	\$ 20,000.00
James E. Hunt Jr.	04/2027	\$ 20,000.00
Jason M. Clark	04/2027	\$ 10,000.00
Jessica Jablonski	06/2027	\$ 20,000.00
Joe Tucker	09/2026	\$ 10,000.00
Justin Rogers	04/2027	\$ 20,000.00
Lance Bailey	04/2027	\$ 10,000.00
Lynn Zocolo	07/2027	\$ 5,000.00
Megan Millich	04/2027	\$ 60,000.00
Michael Sprake	01/2026	\$ 5,000.00
Nicholas Morchak	05/2027	\$ 20,000.00
Randall A. Campana	04/2027	\$ 10,000.00

Home Depot

Number of Cards Issued: 4

Number of Cards Active: 4

Name of Employee	Expiration Date	Credit Limit
Annette Vasko	No Expiration	Shared \$16,900
Brian Moff	No Expiration	Shared \$16,900
Brian Tolnar	No Expiration	Shared \$16,900
David Donaldson	No Expiration	Shared \$16,900
James Hunt	No Expiration	Shared \$16,900
Joe Tucker	No Expiration	Shared \$16,900
Justin Coburn	No Expiration	Shared \$16,900
Kenneth Dow	No Expiration	Shared \$16,900
Nick Morchak	No Expiration	Shared \$16,900
Lance Bailey	No Expiration	Shared \$16,900
Michael Sprake	No Expiration	Shared \$16,900
Stacie Butler	No Expiration	Shared \$16,900
Thomas Ross	No Expiration	Shared \$16,900

Tractor Supply Co.

Number of Cards Issued: 1

Number of Cards Active: 1

Name of Employee	Expiration Date	Credit Limit
Mill Creek Metro Parks	No Expiration	\$ 5,000.00

Walmart

Number of Cards Issued: 2

Number of Cards Active: 1

Name of Employee	Expiration Date	Credit Limit
Mill Creek Metro Parks	No Expiration	\$ 2,400.00

Lowe's

Number of Cards Issued: 1

Number of Cards Active: 1

Name of Employee	Expiration Date	Credit Limit
Mill Creek Metro Parks	No Expiration	\$ 6,000.00

Credit Rewards Redeemed

Credit Card Account	Date Used	Used For	Amount
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Germaine Bennett moved to exit regular session and go into executive session at 5:05 pm for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, discipline, or compensation of public employees. The motion was seconded by Jeff Harvey and 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 5:28 pm. The motion was seconded by Paul Olivier and after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Aaron Young, Executive Director introduced Joe Tucker, Operations Manager. Joe takes over for Randy Malleske who retired. Jason Brown, Operations Supervisor takes over for Joe Tucker at Fellows Riverside Gardens.

Aaron Young, Executive Director recommended that Cynthia Wollet, CPA be reappointed to the MetroParks Foundation for a three-year term expiring on 02-28-28. Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the Executive Director, that Cynthia Wollet, CPA be reappointed to the MetroParks Foundation

for a three-year term expiring on 02-28-28. The motion was seconded by Jeff Harvey and after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Jaime Yohman, Community Engagement Director provided a report on the status of the 2024 community engagement efforts inclusive of education programs and events to facility rentals.

Community Engagement Summary

Education & Visitor Services 2024

Prepared By: Jaime Yohman, Community Engagement Director

Date: 01-6-2025



In 2024, education programs consisted of 448 total programs with 11,392 total participants for the year. These programs included general public programs, field trips, interpretive tours, and summer nature camps. Revenue generated within education equals \$61,351.00 for the year. As a further breakdown, education held 346 general public programs with 5,977 participants, 102 field trips from 45 schools and 5,415 participants with 60% from Mahoning County, 24% from Trumbull County, 10% from Columbiana County, and 6% from other counties. Interpretive tours consisted of 20 total for the year with 378 participants. Three weeks of summer nature camps were held with 45 participants. A total of 4 special events were held within the year which included Farm Animal Baby Shower at the MetroParks Farm, Bug Day at Ford Nature Center, Pumpkin Walk at Fellows Riverside Gardens, and Christmas at Lanterman's Mill producing an estimated 10,000 in total attendance.

In addition, 58 total education videos were posted to social media producing 169,075 views.

The table below shows the breakdown of the numbers reported above.

EDUCATION	2024
General Public Programs	346
General Public Program Participants	5,977
Field Trips	102
Field Trip Participants	5,415
Revenue	\$61,351.00
Event attendance - Approximate <i>(not included in GRAND TOTAL PARTICIPANTS because it is estimated)</i>	10,000
Interpretive Tours	20
Tour Participants	378
Nature Camps Participants/3 weeks	45
Social Media Videos	58
Social Media Video Views Total	169,075
GRAND TOTAL PARTICIPANTS <i>(includes Field Trips, Interpretive Tours, Nature Camp, General Public Programming. Excludes special events as it is estimated)</i>	11,392
GRAND TOTAL PROGRAMS	448

In a 2-year period, education programming increased by 49% with a 90% increase in participants within those programs and a revenue increase of 215%. The table below shows the breakdown of the numbers reported.

Category	2022	2023	% change	2023	2024	% change	2022	2024	% change
Grand Total All Programs	300	347	16% increase	347	447	35% increase	300	447	49% increase
Grand Total All Participants	5,990	7,068	18% increase	7,068	11,392	61% increase	5,990	11,392	90% increase
Youth	2,500	3,029	21% increase	3,029	5,568	84% increase	2,500	5,568	123% increase
Adult	2,915	3,529	21% increase	3,529	5,245	49% increase	2,915	5,245	80% increase
Volunteer	575	510	11% decrease	510	579	14% increase	575	579	1% increase
Field Trips/Interpretive Tours	56	61	9% increase	61	102	67% increase	56	102	82% increase
Participants	2,494	2,829	13% increase	2,829	5,415	91% increase	2,494	5,415	117% increase
General Public Programming	230	272	18% increase	272	346	27% increase	230	346	50% increase
Participants	3,208	3,870	21% increase	3,870	5,977	85% increase	3,208	5,977	77% increase
Revenue	\$19,488	\$36,657	88% increase	\$36,657	\$61,351	67% increase	\$19,488	\$61,351	215% increase
<i>(figures from Emerge)</i>									

Event estimates are not included in Grand Totals

In 2024, the Davis Center saw approximately 143,000 visitors for the year. Fellows Riverside Gardens and the Davis Center brought in 449 total rentals producing \$391,000.00 in revenue. Facilities rented consisted of 118 in the Rossi Auditorium, 4 in the Radius Room, 53 in the Garden Café, 87 in the Kidston Classroom, 126 in the Kidston Pavilion, and 61 in the Gazebo. Rental bookings consisted of 145 receptions, 6 bereavements, 8 showers, 13 company events, 70 pre-bridal suites, 20 group meetings, and 187 ceremonies.

Fellows Riverside Gardens hosted four events bringing in approximately 23,000 in attendance. These events included Flea at Fellows, Pumpkin Walk at Twilight, Pumpkin Carving, and Winter Celebration/Winter Nights. Kravitz's Banquet and Café Service brought in \$48,000.00 in revenue.

The table below shows the breakdown of the numbers reported above.

FELLOWS RIVERSIDE GARDENS/DAVIS CENTER	2024
Davis Center Traffic (through 12/31/24)	143,000
Total Event Attendance	9,025
Flea at Fellows	4,700
Pumpkin Walk at Twilight	4,000
Pumpkin Carving	325
Winter Celebration	14,000
Total Rentals	449
Rossi Auditorium	118
Radius Room	4
Garden Café	53

Kidston Classroom	87
Kidston Pavilion	126
Gazebo	61
Revenue	\$391,000.00
Kravitz Banquet and Café Service Revenue	\$48,000.00

The percentage of availability at Fellows Riverside Gardens/Davis Center on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays during the months of April – November 2024 are as follows:

Rossi Auditorium - 90% booked, 10% availability
 Garden Café - 53% booked, 47% availability
 Outdoor ceremonies - 60% booked, 40% availability

Justin Rogers, Director of Planning & Operations provided a presentation on the planned 2025 Capital Improvements. The presentation will be uploaded to the MetroParks website for anyone to view.



MILL CREEK
METROPARKS

MetroParks Board Meeting
2025 Capital Improvement Projects

Justin Rogers, RLA
Planning & Operations Director

Last Edited: 1.12.25

millcreekmetroparks.org

Randy Campana, Chief of Police provided a report on the Law Enforcement Trust Fund. No Board action was required.

2025 Budget - Income & Expense Summary Sheet

Finance Department
 Last updated: January 6th, 2025
 Prepared by: Nick Morchak, Finance Director/Treasurer



	General Fund (100)	Special Revenue Funds			Ford Center Redev. (809)	Total All Funds	
		Unclaimed Funds (200)	Replacement Reserve (701)	Law Enforce. Asst. Fund (702)			
Carryover							
Unencumbered Cash Balance	3,512,740.73	3,904.18	518,652.05	20,316.50	-	4,055,613.46	71%
Prior Year Encumbrances	1,582,309.63	-	110,253.10	-	-	1,692,562.73	29%
Total Carryover	\$ 5,095,050.36	\$ 3,904.18	\$ 628,905.15	\$ 20,316.50	\$ -	\$ 5,748,176.19	100%
Estimated Revenue							
General Property Tax	7,608,702.00	-	-	-	-	7,608,702.00	46%
Intergovernmental Revenues	810,000.00	-	-	-	-	810,000.00	5%
Local Government Fund	410,000.00	-	-	-	-	410,000.00	2%
Park Activities	3,318,632.00	100.00	-	500.00	-	3,319,232.00	20%
Gas Well Income	-	-	35,000.00	-	-	35,000.00	0%
Grant Revenues	-	-	1,195,680.88	-	-	1,195,680.88	7%
Transfer from General Fund	-	-	300,000.00	-	-	300,000.00	2%
Third Party Funding	2,329,000.00	-	-	-	470,214.52	2,799,214.52	17%
Total Estimated Revenue	\$ 14,476,334.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 1,530,680.88	\$ 500.00	\$ 470,214.52	\$ 16,477,829.40	100%
Total Carryover & Estimated Revenues	\$ 19,571,384.36	\$ 4,004.18	\$ 2,159,586.03	\$ 20,816.50	\$ 470,214.52	\$ 22,226,005.59	
Appropriations							
Transfer to Fund 701 - Replace. Resrv.	300,000.00	-	-	-	-	300,000.00	2%
Park Operations - Mat. & Supplies	5,034,267.00	-	-	-	470,214.52	5,504,481.52	29%
Park Operations - Salaries & Wages	7,125,612.73	-	-	-	-	7,125,612.73	37%
Capital Equipment	585,864.00	-	-	-	-	585,864.00	3%
Capital Improvements	3,927,000.00	-	1,669,313.88	-	-	5,596,313.88	29%
Total 2025 Appropriations	\$ 16,972,743.73	\$ -	\$ 1,669,313.88	\$ -	\$ 470,214.52	\$ 19,112,272.13	100%
Outstanding Purchase Orders (2024)	1,582,309.63	-	110,253.10	-	-	1,692,562.73	
Total Expenditures	\$ 18,555,053.36	\$ -	\$ 1,779,566.98	\$ -	\$ 470,214.52	\$ 20,804,834.86	
Projected Ending Fund Balance	\$ 1,016,331.00	\$ 4,004.18	\$ 380,019.05	\$ 20,816.50	\$ -	\$ 1,421,170.73	

Nick Morchak Finance Director/Treasurer presented and requested that the 2025 Permanent Budget with total carryover & estimated revenues of \$22,276,674.94 be approved. Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the Finance Director, that the 2025 Permanent Budget, with total carryover & estimated revenues of \$22,276,674.94 be approved. The motion was seconded by Paul Olivier and after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

2025 Budget - Income & Expense Summary Sheet

Finance Department
 Last updated: January 8th, 2025
 Prepared by: Nick Morchak, Finance Director/Treasurer



	General Fund (100)	Special Revenue Funds			Ford Center Redev. (809)	Total All Funds	
		Unclaimed Funds (200)	Replacement Reserve (701)	Law Enforce. Asst. Fund (702)			
Carryover							
Unencumbered Cash Balance	3,568,081.40	3,904.18	518,652.05	20,316.50	-	4,110,954.13	71%
Prior Year Encumbrances	1,582,638.31	-	110,253.10	-	-	1,692,891.41	29%
Total Carryover	\$ 5,150,719.71	\$ 3,904.18	\$ 628,905.15	\$ 20,316.50	\$ -	\$ 5,803,845.54	100%
Estimated Revenue							
General Property Tax	7,608,702.00	-	-	-	-	7,608,702.00	46%
Intergovernmental Revenues	810,000.00	-	-	-	-	810,000.00	5%
Local Government Fund	410,000.00	-	-	-	-	410,000.00	2%
Park Activities	3,318,632.00	100.00	-	500.00	-	3,319,232.00	20%
Gas Well Income	-	-	35,000.00	-	-	35,000.00	0%
Grant Revenues	-	-	1,190,680.88	-	-	1,190,680.88	7%
Transfer from General Fund	-	-	300,000.00	-	-	300,000.00	2%
Third Party Funding	2,329,000.00	-	-	-	470,214.52	2,799,214.52	17%
Total Estimated Revenue	\$ 14,476,334.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 1,525,680.88	\$ 500.00	\$ 470,214.52	\$ 16,472,829.40	100%
Total Carryover & Estimated Revenues	\$ 19,627,053.71	\$ 4,004.18	\$ 2,154,586.03	\$ 20,816.50	\$ 470,214.52	\$ 22,276,674.94	
Appropriations							
Transfer to Fund 701 - Replace. Resrv.	300,000.00	-	-	-	-	300,000.00	2%
Park Operations - Mat. & Supplies	5,034,267.00	-	-	-	470,214.52	5,504,481.52	29%
Park Operations - Salaries & Wages	7,125,612.73	-	-	-	-	7,125,612.73	37%
Capital Equipment	585,864.00	-	-	-	-	585,864.00	3%
Capital Improvements	3,947,000.00	-	1,649,313.88	-	-	5,596,313.88	29%
Total 2025 Appropriations	\$ 16,992,743.73	\$ -	\$ 1,649,313.88	\$ -	\$ 470,214.52	\$ 19,112,272.13	100%
Outstanding Purchase Orders (2024)	1,582,638.31	-	110,253.10	-	-	1,692,891.41	
Total Expenditures	\$ 18,575,382.04	\$ -	\$ 1,759,566.98	\$ -	\$ 470,214.52	\$ 20,805,163.54	
Projected Ending Fund Balance	\$ 1,051,671.67	\$ 4,004.18	\$ 395,019.05	\$ 20,816.50	\$ -	\$ 1,471,511.40	

Aaron Young, Executive Director presented and requested that the following special events be approved;

1. The Youngstown Flea/ Market for Makers Father's Day Edition on 06-15-25 @ Wick Rec. Area
2. Mill Creek Distance Classic Marathon on 03-23-25 @ Wick Rec. Area

Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the Executive Director, that special events 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, Harvey, Olivier
 Voting Nay: None

Chris Litton, Development Director presented the MetroParks Foundation deposit report for the period of December 1-31, 2024, at a total of \$10,994.30 for approval. Germaine Bennett moved at the request of the Director of Development to accept the deposit report for the period of December 1-31, 2024, at a total of \$10,994.30. 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 and requested approval of Resolution R-25-01 Acknowledgement of Grants, Donations, or Trusts for the period of October 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. Germaine Bennett moved at the request of the Director of Development to approve Resolution R-25-01 Acknowledgement of Grants, Donations, or Trusts for the period of October 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. 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

Resolution R-25-01

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GRANTS, DONATIONS, OR TRUSTS


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 grants, donations or trusts submitted to the Park District for the period of October 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024 as detailed on the summary marked Exhibit A, and authorize legal counsel to make application to the Probate Court pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 1545.11 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 13th day of January, 2025.


Germaine Bennett, Commissioner

Lee Frey, Commissioner

Tom Frost, Commissioner


Jeff Harvey, Commissioner


Paul Olivier, Commissioner

4th Qrt. 2024 Donation Log			
Mill Creek MetroParks Foundation			
Tom & Katie Shipka	\$100.00	General Endowment	10/1/2024
Yellow Brick Place	\$50.00	General Endowment	10/2/2024
Jay Sloan & Herman Guy	\$250.00	General Endowment	10/2/2024
Dermmer Family Revocable Trust	\$50.00	General Endowment	10/2/2024
F.O. E. Ladies Auxiliary #213	\$50.00	FRG Endowment	10/2/2024
Thomas & Deborah Beasley	\$25.00	General Endowment	10/3/2024
William & Joann Reese	\$25.00	General Endowment	10/3/2024
Sigma Club	\$100.00	General Endowment	10/4/2024
Robert & Joan Cunningham	\$20.00	General Endowment	10/7/2024
Mark & Marilyn Wollet	\$25.00	FRG Endowment	10/7/2024
Dennis John Berry	\$500.00	Yellow Creek Park End.	10/8/2024
Ruth A. Cole	\$50.00	FRG Endowment	10/9/2024
American Junior Golf Foundation	\$1,646.29	Golf Course Endowment	10/10/2024
Rebecca Murray	\$50.00	FRG Endowment	10/12/2024
Peter & Karen Morabito	\$100.00	FRG Endowment	10/17/2024
Nile & Judith Walter	\$100.00	FRG Endowment	10/21/2024
Karen Davis	\$50.00	FRG Endowment	10/23/2024
Paul & Lynne Horacek	\$50.00	FRG Endowment	10/24/2024
Lisa Costello	\$100.00	FRG Endowment	10/5/2024
Barbara Rees	\$50.00	FRG Endowment	10/5/2024
Natalie Eusebio	\$20.00	FRG Endowment	10/5/2024
Brian Rudge	\$200.00	FRG Endowment	10/6/2024
Julie Price	\$100.00	FRG Endowment	10/7/2024
Taylor Baker	\$50.00	FRG Endowment	10/7/2024
James Laughlin	\$500.00	FRG Endowment	10/7/2024
Kay Krochta	\$150.00	FRG Endowment	10/11/2024
Judith Sheetz	\$100.00	FRG Endowment	10/13/2024
Dolores F. Igel	\$250.00	General Endowment	11/4/2024
Community Foundation Mahn. Valley	\$25,000.00	Children's Garden	9/11/2024
Kirsten Riede	\$50.00	Tree Short Term	10/2/2024
Premier Wealth	\$1,000.00	Children's Garden	10/3/2024
Stephanie Dougherty	\$50.00	Tree Short Term	10/6/2024
John Evans	\$2,500.00	General Short Term	10/9/2024
Jim Rafeedie	\$50.00	Tree Short Term	10/11/2024
August Merola	\$1,500.00	Children's Garden	10/30/2024
Huntington National Bank	\$50,000.00	Children's Garden	10/23/2024
Mill Creek MetroParks	\$23,108.95	FRG Short Term	10/24/2024
Commerce Title Agency	\$5,922.58	General Short-Term	10/15/2024
William Brenner	\$10,000.00	Children's Garden	10/22/2024
Stanley Socha	\$1,000.00	Adopt-A-Trail	10/31/2024
Tom Shipka	\$100.00	General Endowment	11/1/2024
Chris Litton	\$25.00	Ford Nature Center End.	11/16/2024
Helene Mavar	\$50.00	Ford Nature Center End.	11/17/2024
Trudy Agostinelli	\$100.00	Ford Nature Center End.	11/17/2024
Denise Bayer	\$200.00	Ford Nature Center End.	11/19/2024
Donna Rhodeback	\$50.00	Ford Nature Center End.	11/19/2024
Daniel O'Neill	\$100.00	Ford Nature Center End.	11/20/2024

Erin Ulrich	\$50.00	Ford Nature Center End.	11/20/2024
Deborah Hnat	\$100.00	Ford Nature Center End.	11/21/2024
Carrigan Hayes	\$100.00	Ford Nature Center End.	11/22/2024
Kelene Mavar	\$75.00	Ford Nature Center End.	11/23/2024
Brianna DeSanto	\$10.00	Ford Nature Center End.	11/23/2024
Kimberly Richardson	\$30.00	Ford Nature Center End.	11/23/2024
Joan Esson	\$25.00	Ford Nature Center End.	11/24/2024
Wendy Johnson	\$100.00	Ford Nature Center End.	11/24/2024
Joan Cech	\$50.00	Ford Nature Center End.	11/25/2024
Stephen Marshall	\$50.00	Ford Nature Center End.	11/25/2024
Cathi & Howard Friend	\$100.00	FRG Endowment	10/25/2024
Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens	\$128.99	FRG Endowment	11/6/2024
Anonymous	\$140.00	Ford Nature Center End.	11/25/2024
Elizabeth Sanders	\$250.00	Ford Nature Center End.	11/26/2024
Linda Delaney	\$290.00	General Short Term	11/10/2024
Farmers Trust	\$100.00	General Short Term	11/13/2024
John A. DiPizzo, Jr. Family FDN	\$10,000.00	Children's Garden	11/25/2024
Jeff & Nancy Foltz	\$25.00	General Short Term	10/2/2024
Tom & Katie Shipka	\$100.00	General Endowment	12/1/2024
Lorinda Vinson	\$50.00	Ford Nature Center End.	12/1/2024
Lynda Wilson	\$75.00	Ford Nature Center End.	12/3/2024
Jennifer Eskra	\$500.00	Trail Endowment	12/8/2024
Susan Burwig	\$5,000.00	Rose Garden End.	12/18/2024
Virginia Dinello	\$25.00	Ford Nature Center End.	11/24/2024
Margaret Tinkey	\$25.00	Ford Nature Center End.	11/23/2024
Fidelity Charitable (E. Beeghly)	\$1,000.00	Rose Garden End.	12/13/2024
David & Susan Silvasy	\$100.00	Ford Nature Center End.	12/9/2024
Phyllis Nuzzie	\$20.00	Ford Nature Center End.	12/16/2024
Anthony & Pauline Pellegrini	\$25.00	Ford Nature Center End.	12/4/2024
DeSalvo Construction	\$150.00	FRG Endowment	12/11/2024
Thomas & Margaret Boyarko	\$100.00	Children's Garden	12/1/2024
Susan Sokolov	\$500.00	Tree Short Term	12/3/2024
Sam Miller	\$2,500.00	General Short Term	12/14/2024
Janet Williams	\$25.00	General Short Term	12/18/2024
Peter Nalepa	\$25.00	General Short Term	12/28/2024
Paul McConnell	\$50.00	General Short Term	12/29/2024
Scott Lanz	\$500.00	General Short Term	12/31/2024
Jane Johnson	\$100.00	General Short Term	12/31/2024
Kate Kaiser	\$50.00	Tree Short Term	12/31/2024
The Blackbaud Giving Fund	\$74.30	General Short Term	12/20/2024
Total	\$148,186.11		

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

- Catherine Doslovic read a prepared statement about a several recent accounts of firefighters rescuing deer that have fallen through the ice on various waterbodies. She stated that this is in stark contrast to Mill Creek MetroParks.
- Jerry Serbel stated that he is a resident of Youngstown. He loves the Park but is afraid to go through the Park. He referenced recent articles quoting him. He read a prepared statement about Volney Rogers and the wildlife within the Park. The Park helped him heal.
- Christine Flak directed the Board's attention to the scheduling of the executive session. She inquired about the need for the Vickers Nature Preserve Facility. The Board recommended that Christine talk with Justin Rogers, Director of Planning & Operations. She questioned if the Board has a policy on attendance.
- Mickey Drabison signed in but declined to speak.

Commissioner Comments:

- Jeff read a prepared statement on his watching of OSU's symposium on white-tailed deer.

The Ohio State University Environmental Professionals Network
Held a symposium called "Oh Deer" The first week in December.

Here's some of they're findings

75 Communities in Ohio have Archery and Controlled hunts to limit
they're deer populations.

These 75 communities have held deer hunts for

Anywhere from 2 to 30 years

With the average being 12.43 years.

It's a slow process to reduce deer populations.

A total of 450 deer control seasons have been held by the 75
communities over the years.

Here are the safety results for 450 deer control programs:

Citizens shot- 0

Vehicles shot- 0

Cats shot- 2

Dogs shot- 2

Houses shot- 3

Complaint of hunter field dressing deer- 5

Hunter cited for not following rules- 32

Hunter banned from hunting- 57

Complaint of hunter being seen by the public- 77

Archery and controlled hunting are proven safe methods for deer hunting.

Percentage of hunters issues during any one year:

Hunter attempting to sue a community- 0%

Hunter injured fall from a tree stand- 0.13%

Deer observed with an arrow- 0.43%

Hunter trespassing- 0.61%

Deer died on someone else's property- 0.87%

Hunter hunting on property without permission- 0.91%

Only 2 communities in Ohio are using contraception

Clifton near Cincinnati

South Euclid near Cleveland.

Both these communities also are using lethal methods in other areas.

The symposium is on line if you want to watch it.

- Paul commented that we may need to consider potential supply chain issues related to the fires in California.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 10, 2024, at 5:00 p.m., in McMahon Hall located at the MetroParks Farm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:14 p.m. There was a motion to adjourn

Presiding Officer

Secretary