

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, February 10, 2025.

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

Germaine Bennett, 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 January 13, 2025. Germaine accepted the minutes into the record as written.

Nick Morchak, Finance Director/Treasurer presented the Department Report for Finance and requested that disbursements #94514 - #94650 for a total of \$1,201,280.48, 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 #94514 - #94650 for a total of \$1,201,280.48, be approved. The motion was seconded by Tom Frost and after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Nick Morchak, Finance Director/Treasurer presented and requested approval of Resolution R-25-03 requesting authorization to make tax advance requests to the Mahoning County Auditor as they become available throughout 2025. Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the Finance Director, that Resolution R-25-03 requesting authorization to make tax advance requests to the Mahoning County Auditor as they become available throughout 2025, be approved. 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, Frey, Frost, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay:	None

RESOLUTION REQUESTING AUTHORIZATION
TO MAKE TAX ADVANCE REQUESTS TO
THE MAHONING COUNTY AUDITOR ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD
AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT 2025

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 21, 2025 (if sufficient taxes are collected at this time)
- February 28, 2025
- March 7, 2025
- March 14, 2025
- March 21, 2025
- March 28, 2025 (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 10th day of FEBRUARY, 2025.



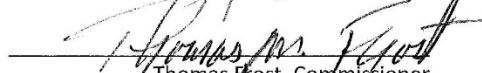
Germaine Bennett, President



Paul Olivier, Vice-President



Lee Frey, Commissioner



Thomas Frost, Commissioner



Jeff Harvey, Commissioner

Germaine Bennett moved to exit regular session and go into executive session at 5:05 pm for the purpose of pending or imminent court action. 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, Frey, Frost, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay: None

Germaine Bennett moved to exit executive session and return to regular session at 5:53 pm. The motion was seconded by Tom Frost and after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Germaine Bennett moved to authorize the Executive Director under the advisement of legal counsel to pay the costs & legal fees associated with the legal decision awarded to the defendants in the Bikeway Phase III legal cases. The motion was seconded by Lee Frey and after discussion including the confirmation of the return of approximately \$3.4 million as a result of the project not moving forward, 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 provided an update on the status of the remediation and repair work associated with a water sprinkler head break recently experienced at the Davis Center. The geothermal unit that controls heat in the watch tower failed causing a sprinkler head to freeze and break and flood the tower as well as portions of the lower-level auditorium and museum. We are currently working with a restoration company and insurance claims adjuster to determine costs of repair. After the costs are determined, we will need to enter into agreements with various contractors for the repairs. Aaron requested authorization to enter into the necessary agreements with contractors to complete the repairs within the limits of the insurance funds received as part of the claim for the related damage. Germaine Bennett moved to authorize the Executive Director to enter into the necessary agreements with contractors to complete the repairs within the limits of the insurance funds received as part of the claim for the related damage as part of this emergency. 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, Frey, Frost, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay: None

Aaron Young, Executive Director, shared that the 2024 Annual Report is complete and on the MetroParks website for viewing. A hard copy was available for viewing by the Board.

Aaron Young, Executive Director, presented the 2024 Citizens Advisory Committee policy for discussion. Germaine Bennett moved to continue with the Citizens Advisory Committees in 2025. The motion was seconded by Tom Frost and after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Megan Hanley, HR & Administrative Services Director, presented the 2024 Employee Year End Report.

Megan Hanley, HR & Administrative Services Director, presented and requested approval of the 2025 Employee Pass. Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the HR & Administrative Services Director to approve the 2025 Employee Pass. 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, Frey, Frost, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay: None

Justin Rogers, Director of Planning & Operations, presented and requested that the Executive Director be authorized to enter into a temporary construction easement with ODOT as part of the MAH-680-4.75 Bridge Project. Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the Planning & Operations Director that the Executive Director be authorized to enter into a temporary construction easement with ODOT as part of the MAH-680-4.75 Bridge Project. The motion was seconded by Lee Frey and 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, Director of Planning & Operations, presented and requested approval of Resolution R-25-02; Request of Funds from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Designation of Projects for Ohio Parks Districts Roadwork Fund FY 2026-2027 through the Ohio Parks & Recreation Association (OPRA). Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the Director of Planning & Operations, that of Resolution R-25-02; Request of Funds from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Designation of Projects for Ohio Parks Districts Roadwork Fund FY 2026-2027 through the Ohio Parks & Recreation Association (OPRA), 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, Frey, Frost, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay: None

R-25-02

Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District

RE: Request of Funds from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Designation of Projects for Ohio Parks Districts Roadwork Fund FY 2026-2027 through the Ohio Parks & Recreation Association (OPRA).

WHEREAS, the Board of Park Commissioners (the Board) for the Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District has need for improvement of public park roadways owned and maintained by the Park District in Mahoning County; and

WHEREAS, the Park District was created according to Ohio Revised Code 1545, owns or holds at a minimum a 15-year lease of eligible parkland for roadwork funding, and has adequate, available resources for the construction and maintenance of requested park road improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Park Districts Roadwork Fund is provided by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for such purposes as authorized by Ohio Revised Code 5511.06, is subject to the Park District Guidance To ODOT's Metropark Program as prescribed by ODOT, and is coordinated by the Ohio Parks & Recreation Association (OPRA); and

WHEREAS, the Board is cognizant of the requirements for receiving such funds, and agrees to comply with the OPRA Policy, as clarified at the Meeting on December 7, 2010, that the park districts are prohibited from accumulating more than 3 Bienniums (six years) of UNUSED funds.

WHEREAS, Section II, paragraph 1A, of the Annual Agreement between ODOT and OPRA requires a two-year list of priority projects for the Metroparks Program to be submitted to ODOT for Department-wide posting and distribution. In order to comply with this provision, each Metropark is required to submit their two-year list of priority projects to OPRA; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Park Commissioners of the Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District requests the designated allocation from the Ohio Parks Districts Roadwork Fund along with any remaining balance of funds in accordance with the following stipulations:

1. Funds can be used for materials and labor necessary for construction or reconstruction of park drives, park roads, new or replacement bridges, park access roads and parking lots. The funds also may be used for the purchase and hauling of materials for the improvement, repair and maintenance of park drives, park roads, park access roads, and parking lots, and rental of labor and equipment. Force account labor costs (charges by park district employees or associates) are ineligible. Ineligible costs include bikeways and items such as shelter houses, wells, pumps, restrooms facilities, park buildings, etc. All projects must be associated with public vehicular access to be eligible for funding. Funds may be used for eligible construction costs, including construction engineering (i.e., testing and inspection) of "LET" projects.


2. The Park District will pay all costs incurred over the appropriated allocation and, also, for all costs associated with design, environmental studies and documents, and right-of-way activities. Any deviation from the guidelines regarding environmental studies or roadway design requires the written approval of ODOT.

3. Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District has designated the Executive Director as the contact person for the local arrangements and to sign all documentation on behalf of the Board of Park Commissioners.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, We, the Board of Park Commissioners hereunto set our hand this 10th day of FEBRUARY, 2025.



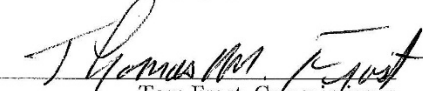
Germaine Bennett, President



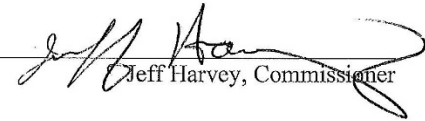
Paul Olivier, Vice President



Lee Frey, Commissioner



Tom Frost, Commissioner

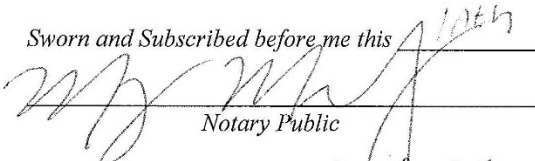


Jeff Harvey, Commissioner



MEGAN MILLICH
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF OHIO
Comm. Expires
04-02-2025

Sworn and Subscribed before me this 10th day of February, 2025.



Notary Public

My Commission Expires on April 2nd, 2025.

Brian Tolnar, PGA Director of Golf & Recreation, presented the 2024 Golf & Recreation Year in Review Report. This information is also included in the 2024 Annual Report.

Brian Tolnar, PGA Director of Golf & Recreation, presented and requested that the following special events be approved;

1. Rock Steady Boxing VSN Boardman's Walk for Parkinsons on 04-27-25 @ East Golf Hike & Bike Trail.
2. YSU Hosted HS & College Cross Country Meets on 09-20-25 @ the MetroParks Farm
3. YSU Hosted HS & College Cross Country Meets on 09-27-25 @ the MetroParks Farm

Germaine Bennett 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 donation report for the period of January 1-31, 2024, at a total of \$30,590.28 for approval. Germaine Bennett moved at the request of the Director of Development to accept the donation report for the period of January 1-31, 2024, at a total of \$30,590.28. 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

Chris Litton, Development Director presented the 2025 Annual Development Plan for approval. Germaine Bennett moved at the request of the Director of Development that the 2025 Annual Development Plan, 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, Frey, Frost, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay: None

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

- Germaine Bennet summarized the purpose and intent of the public comment period. Cards are available for the respective department directors if there are more detailed inquiries.
- John Pierog shared that of the people he spoke with about why they go to the Park most indicated they go for the respite and relaxation. He fears that their reasoning for going to the park may be impacted due to the hunting. He wants the Park returned to a comfortable place.
- Jerry Serbel stated that he is against the hunting of the deer within the Park. He stated that he doesn't see any deer within the Park.
- Mike Drabison declined to speak after signing in.
- Lana Van Auker read a prepared statement about wildlife in the Park.
- Christine Flak was not in attendance after signing in.

Commissioner Comments:

- Paul Olivier thanked Brian for his report and we should share those numbers with the Chamber of Commerce.
- Germaine Bennett thanked the Directors for all of their work and reports.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 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 6:37 p.m. There was a motion to adjourn

Presiding Officer

Secretary