

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, March 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 February 10, 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 #94651 - #94840 for a total of \$796,471.57, 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 #94651 - #94840 for a total of \$796,471.57, 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 a request to increase appropriations to account 100-3720-5075 MetroParks Farm Materials & Supplies by \$681.60. This was money received from an insurance claim for a public vehicle accident that damaged signs at a bike trail intersection. Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the Finance Director, that the request to increase appropriations to account 100-3720-5075 MetroParks Farm Materials & Supplies by \$681.60, 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

Germaine Bennett moved to exit regular session and go into executive session at 5:05 pm for the purpose of collective bargaining matters and to consider the appointment, employment, discipline, or compensation of public employees. 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 6:01 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

Aaron Young, Executive Director, shared that the MetroParks has received an Ohio Auditor of State Award. The award is presented for excellence in financial reporting in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and compliance with applicable laws for the fiscal year ended 2023. Aaron thanked the Finance Department for a job well done.

Megan Hanley, HR & Administrative Services Director, presented and requested approval of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) union contract for the period of 2025-2027. Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the HR & Administrative Services Director to approve the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) union contract for the period of 2025-2027. 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

Megan Hanley, HR & Administrative Services Director, presented and requested approval of the full time and part time employee pay grades. Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the HR & Administrative Services Director to approve the full time and part time employee pay grades. 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

Nick Derico, Natural Resources Manager, presented and requested approval of a rules and regulations change.

Existing Rule Language:

20.8 SWIMMING, WADING

No person shall swim or wade in any Park District waters unless authorized by Park District officials.

Proposed Rule Language:

20.8 SWIMMING, WADING

No person shall swim or wade in any Park District waters unless authorized by Park District officials. Wading for the purpose of fishing is permitted in streams and rivers, anglers must wear waterproof boots or waders that are appropriately designed for in-stream fishing use and must extend above the current waterline in which they are fishing.

Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the Natural Resources Manager that the proposed rule change 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

Justin Rogers, Director of Planning & Operations, presented the Children's Garden Bid results. Justin requested that the Board reject all three (3) bids for the project entitled "Mill Creek MetroParks Children's Garden at Fellows Riverside Gardens" in accordance with section 153.12 of the Ohio Revised Code. None of the bids were within the 20% bid cap. Germaine Bennett moved at the request of the Director of Planning & Operations to reject all three (3) bids for the project entitled "Mill Creek MetroParks Children's Garden at Fellows Riverside Gardens" in accordance with section 153.12 of the Ohio Revised Code. 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

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

1. Youngstown Ultra Trail Classic @ Wick Recreation Area on 09-06-25

Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the PGA Director of Golf & Recreation, 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: Bennett, Frey, Frost, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay: None

Chris Litton, Development Director presented the MetroParks Foundation donation report for the period of February 1-28, 2024, at a total of \$13,361.77 for approval. Germaine Bennett moved at the request of the Director of Development to accept the donation report for the period of February 1-28, 2024, at a total of \$13,361.77. 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)

- Jerry Serbel stated that he is disappointed with how the Park looks. He believes that there are too many limbs on the ground. The main reason he is in attendance is to speak out against deer hunting. He disagrees with the 10-year term as it relates to hunting.

Commissioner Comments:

- Paul congratulated the Finance Department on their successful 2023 audit.
- Germaine congratulated Megan Hanley & FOP for a successful contract negotiation.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 14, 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 6:16 p.m. There was a motion to adjourn

Presiding Officer

Secretary