

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, May 13, 2024.

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

Lee Frey, Board President welcomed staff and guests.

Roll Call was as follows:

Germaine Bennett;	Absent
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 15, 2024. Aaron requested that the Board amend the minutes to correct the name of the individual appointed to the Recreation Committee. Lex Calder is the individual who applied and was recommended to the committee in the Board packet. Zach Felger's name was stated verbally in error. Zach was previously appointed to the education committee. Lee Frey moved to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Paul Olivier after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Nick Morchak, Finance Director/Treasurer presented the Department Report for Finance and requested that disbursements #92305 - #92521 for a total of \$1,121,821.12, be approved. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Finance Director, that the funds having been certified as on hand and duly appropriated, that disbursements #92305 - #92521 for a total of \$1,121,821.12, 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:	Frey, Frost, Harvey, Olivier
Voting Nay:	None

Aaron Young, Executive Director shared that two successful events have taken place in the last month. The first being Farm Animal Baby Shower at the MetroParks Farm on May 4, 2024 and the second being Youngstown Flea at Fellows Riverside Gardens on May 12, 2024. Aaron thanked the Community Engagement staff for making these two events possible.

Lee Frey, Board President asked the Board if they wanted to move the balance of the regular meetings to 5:00 pm. Lee Frey moved, to schedule the Board Meetings at 5:00 pm moving forward. The motion was seconded by Paul Olivier after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Aaron Young, Executive Director shared that the State Auditors had recommended that the Board approve the annual fee schedule in one document for ease of auditing. The 2024 Fee Schedule is a summary of fees are currently being charged. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Executive Director,

that the 2024 Fee Schedule be approved. The motion was seconded by Paul Oliver after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Justin Rogers, Director of Planning & Operations presented and requested approval of Resolution R-24-06 Authorizing the Executive Director to apply for NatureWorks Grant Program Funds. The funds will be for a restroom replacement project on the East Golf Hike and Bike Trail. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Director of Planning & Operations, that Resolution R-24-06 Authorizing the Executive Director to apply for NatureWorks Grant Program Funds 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: Frey, Frost, Harvey, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

R-24-06

**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

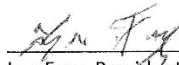
**WHEREAS**, the Mill Creek MetroParks Board of Park Commissioners desires financial assistance under the NatureWorks Grant Program.

**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

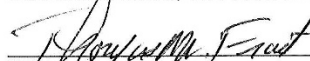
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the MetroParks Executive Director is hereby authorized and directed to execute and file an application with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and to provide all information and documentation required to become eligible for possible funding assistance, and

**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 13<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024.

  
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Lee Frey, President

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Germaine Bennett, Vice President

  
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Tom Frost, Commissioner

  
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Jeff Harvey, Commissioner

  
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Paul Olivier, Commissioner

Justin Rogers, Director of Planning & Operations presented and requested approval of Resolution R-24-07 Authorizing the Executive Director to apply for H2Ohio Wetland Grant Funds. The project will be a second phase of stream and wetland restoration at the Golf Course. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Director of Planning & Operations, that Resolution R-24-07 Authorizing the Executive Director to apply for H2Ohio Wetland Grant Funds 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: Frey, Frost, Harvey, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

R-24-07

**Resolution Authorizing MetroParks Executive Director to Apply for H2Ohio Wetland Grant Program Funds**


**WHEREAS**, the State of Ohio, through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, administers financial assistance for water quality improvements, through the Ohio River Basin H2Ohio Wetland Grant Program.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Park Commissioners of the Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District, operating under Chapter 1545 of the Ohio Revised Code, intends to apply to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for H2Ohio Wetland Grant Program Funds.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the MetroParks Executive Director is hereby authorized to apply, on behalf of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District, to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for H2Ohio Wetland Grant Program Funds, and is authorized to enter into any agreements as may be necessary and appropriate for obtaining this financial assistance, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Park Commissioners of the Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District does agree to obligate the funds required to satisfactorily complete the proposed project and become eligible for reimbursement under the terms and conditions of the Ohio River Basin H2Ohio Wetland Grant Program.

This Resolution passed this 13<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024.

  
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Lee Frey, President

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Germaine Bennett, Vice President

  
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Tom Frost, Commissioner

  
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Jeff Harvey, Commissioner

  
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Paul Olivier, Commissioner

Justin Rogers, Director of Planning & Operations presented the bid tabulations for the FRG Restroom Building Update and recommended that the Board reject all bids due to no bid being received within the 20% bid cap. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Director of Planning & Operations, to reject all bids for the project FRG Restroom Building Update. The motion was seconded by Paul Olivier after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Justin Rogers, Director of Planning & Operations presented the bid tabulations for the 2024 Drive Resurfacing Valley, West Cohasset, and Lily Pond Drives and recommended that Lindy Paving, Inc. be awarded the contract at a grand total amount bid of \$259,601.75. Lee Frey moved, at the request of the Director of Planning & Operations, that Lindy Paving, Inc. be awarded the contract for the 2024 Drive Resurfacing Valley, West Cohasset, and Lily Pond Drives at a grand total amount bid of \$259,601.75. The motion was seconded by Jeff Harvey after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Brian Tolnar, Director of Golf and Recreation presented and requested approval of the following Special Events/Requests to Collect Funds:

1. Special Events:

a. Panerathon on August 25, 2024 within MCP

Lee Frey moved at the request of the Director of Golf and Recreation that the Special Events/Requests to collect Funds 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: Frey, Frost, Harvey, Olivier  
Voting Nay: None

Chris Litton, Development Director presented the MetroParks Foundation deposit report for the period of April 1-30, 2024, at a total of \$11,124.07 for approval. Lee Frey moved at the request of the Director of Development to accept the deposit report for the period of April 1-30, 2024, at a total of \$11,124.07. The motion was seconded by Jeff Harvey, after discussion, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

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

- Janet Bernard stated that she had several questions. Are there any restrictions on the money that is donated to the Park? Are employees trained on the equipment that they are working on, for example the softball batting cages at Wick? Is it true that any race that goes through the Park that closes roads that there is an additional costs? Is there another meeting with Mr. Young other than the Board Meeting? Can the Board explain the printed statement that is included on the sign in sheet that would include being removed from the meeting? Does the MetroParks has any debt? Does the costs for legal counsel come out of the money that tax payers pay to the MetroParks?
- Mickey Drabison stated that he has been attending MetroParks Board meetings for a year now. He asked if there is never a "no" vote?
- Jerry Serbel stated that he missed seeing the deer in the Park. Jerry stated that he does not go to the Park. Jerry asked how the MetroParks got to the 387 deer/square mile number? Jerry asked if the discussed ODNR Grant is for providing food for the animals? Jerry stated that the deer along the golf course looked healthy to him. He questioned the length of the deer

management plan. He fears going to the Park. He does not walk in the Park anymore. He talked about how long the plan is needed for.

- Lana Van Auker stated that she went to a garden center program at the OSU Extension that recommended coexisting with nature. Lana read a prepared statement regarding sharing the world with wildlife, the benefits of contraception and a variety of other topics. She asked how many animals have been killed in the MetroParks with poison?
- Gary Davenport asked to speak noting that he forgot to sign in. Gary spoke regarding the times other MetroParks Boards conduct their meetings.

Commissioner Comments:

- Lee commented that donors can restrict the funds they donate to the MetroParks. Lee further added comment regarding the use on the equipment at the Wick Recreation Area. Megan Hanley, Human Resources and Administrative Services Director commented at Lees request that staff is trained and that outside contractors typically perform more detailed repair or service work as needed. Lee stated the development of the rental fee associated with road races does take into account the closure of rental facilities. Lee indicated that the Board does not meet to the regular Board meeting.
- Tom Frost indicated that some tax-payers' dollars are used for legal fees depending on the situation and the MetroParks role in the lawsuit. Tom also indicated that he has voted no in past. Tom also questioned the status of the new deer survey. Nick Derico, Natural Resource Manager shared that he will be putting the newest deer survey results on the website in the coming weeks. Tom shared that the ODNR grant is for a specific purpose and it does not include deer feeding.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 10, 2023, at 5:00 p.m., in McMahon Hall at the MetroParks Farm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:33 p.m.

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Presiding Officer

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Secretary