

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, September 9, 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 August 12, 2024. Germaine Bennett accepted the minutes into the record as written.

Nick Morchak, Finance Director/Treasurer presented the Department Report for Finance and requested that disbursements #93363 - #93590 for a total of \$1,144,173.71, 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 #93363 - #93590 for a total of \$1,144,173.71, 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

Nick Morchak, Finance Director presented and requested approval of Resolution R-24-11 Accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor. Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the Executive Director, that of Resolution R-24-11 Accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor, 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



SCHEDULE A  
SUMMARY OF AMOUNTS REQUIRED FROM GENERAL PROPERTY TAX  
APPROVED BY BUDGET COMMISSION AND COUNTY AUDITOR'S  
ESTIMATED TAX RATES

Fund	Amount Approved by Budget Commission Inside 10 Mill Limitation	Amount To Be Derived from Levies Outside 10 Mill Limitation	County Auditor's Estimate of Tax to be Levied Inside 10 Mill Limit	County Auditor's Estimate of Tax to be Levied Outside 10 Mill Limit
General Fund		8,418,702		2.00
Total		\$ 8,418,702		2.00

**SCHEDULE B  
CURRENT PROPERTY VALUES AND  
LEVIES OUTSIDE 10 MILL LIMITATION, EXCLUSIVE OF DEBT LEVIES  
(see attached)**

And be it further

*RESOLVED*, That the Secretary of this Board be and is hereby directed to certify a copy of this Resolution to the County Auditor of said County.

Mr./Ms. PAUL DENNER seconded the Resolution and the roll being called upon its adoption the vote resulted as follows:

Mr./Ms. *Bernard Denner*  
Mr./Ms. *J. H. Hays*  
Mr./Ms. *R. C. D.*  
Mr./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

Adopted the 9<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.

*M. J. Shaw*  
Finance Director of the Board of Park Commissioners of  
Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District  
Mahoning County, Ohio

**CERTIFICATE OF COPY  
ORIGINAL ON FILE**

The State of Ohio, Mahoning County, ss.

I, Aaron C. Young, Secretary of the Board of Park Commissioners of Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District in said County, and in whose custody the Files and Records of said Board are required by the laws of the State of Ohio to be kept, do hereby certify that the foregoing is taken and copied from the original RESOLUTION R-24-11

now on file with said Board, that the foregoing has been compared by me with said original document, and that the same is a true and correct copy thereof.

WITNESS my signature this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.

  
Executive Director of the Board of Park Commissioners of  
Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District  
Mahoning County, Ohio

A copy of this resolution must be certified to the Mahoning County Auditor within the time prescribed by section 5705.34 of the Ohio Revised Code, or at such a later date as may be approved by the Board of tax appeals.

Filed \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

Ralph T Meacham, CPA, County Auditor

By Manuel E. Santiago

Deputy Auditor

**MILL CREEK METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT**

**Rate Resolution Worksheet**

**Tax Year 2023**

**Calendar Year 2024**

	Residential and Agricultural	Commercial and Other	Personal Property Public Utility	Personal Property	Total
01/01/24 Valuation	4,779,478,920	1,171,779,030	395,381,870	0	6,346,639,820
Subtotal	4,779,478,920	1,171,779,030	395,381,870	0	6,346,639,820
Subtotal divided by 1,000	4,779,479	1,171,779	395,382	0	6,346,640
Rate Other (in)	0	0	0	0	0
Rate Other (in)	0	0	0	0	0
Rate Other (in)	0	0	0	0	0
Rate 01 Mill Creek Metropolitan Cur Exp TY30	1.037361 4,958,045	1.423037 1,667,485	1.750000 691,919	1.750000 0	7,317,449
Rate 16 Mill Creek Metropolitan Cur Exp TY30	0.157829 754,340	0.211701 248,067	0.250000 98,846	0.250000 0	1,101,253
Rate Other (out)	0	0	0	0	0
Rate Other (out)	0	0	0	0	0
Rate Other (out)	0	0	0	0	0
Rate Other (out)	0	0	0	0	0
Rate Other (out)	0	0	0	0	0
Rate Other (out)	0	0	0	0	0
Tax Total	5,712,385	1,915,552	790,765	0	8,418,702
Tax Total IN	0	0	0	0	0
Tax Total OUT	5,712,385	1,915,552	790,765	0	8,418,702
Check Total	5,712,385	1,915,552	790,765	0	8,418,702
Rate total IN	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	
Rate Total OUT	1.195190	1.634738	2.000000	2.000000	
Total Rate	1.195190	1.634738	2.000000	2.000000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,418,702</b>				

Mill\_Creek



Aaron Young, Executive Director thanked everyone for coming to the cross-country course ribbon cutting that was held on Friday, September 6, 2024. The course is now open and available for both meet rental and daily training use.

Justin Rogers, Director of Planning & Operations presented and requested approval of Resolution R-24-12 Authorizing the Executive Director to apply for Ohio EPA 319 Grant Funds. Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the Director of Planning & Operations, that Resolution R-24-12 Authorizing the Executive Director to apply for Ohio EPA 319 Grant Funds, 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

R-24-12

**Resolution Authorizing MetroParks Executive Director to Apply for  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) Section 319 Grant Program Funds**

**WHEREAS**, the State of Ohio through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), administers financial assistance for environmental protection, restoration, and rehabilitation, through the Section 319 Grant Program, and

**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 Environmental Protection Agency for Section 319 Grant Program funds.


**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 Environmental Protection Agency and to provide all information and documentation required to become eligible for possible funding assistance, and is further authorized to enter into any agreements as may be necessary and appropriate for obtaining this financial 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 OEPA Section 319 Grant Program.

This Resolution passed this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lee Frey, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Germaine Bennett, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Frost, Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Harvey, Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Olivier, Commissioner



Megan Hanley, HR & Administrative Services Director presented and requested appointment of Dwight Ramsey to the Finance Citizens Advisory Committee. Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the HR & Administrative Services Director, that Dwight Ramsey be appointed to the Finance Citizens Advisory Committee, 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 Derico, Natural Resources Manager presented and requested approval of a updated memorandum of understanding for the Ohio EPA Phase II Program coordination with the Mahoning County Board of Commissioners. Germaine Bennett moved, at the request of the Natural Resources Manager, that the memorandum of understanding regarding the Ohio EPA Phase II Program coordination with the Mahoning County Board of Commissioners 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

Nick Derico, Natural Resources Manager presented an update on the the USDA rabies vaccination testing within the MetroParks. Nick shared that USDA will be doing some live trapping of the raccoons in order to take blood samples to determine if the vaccination program is being effective. The raccoons will be released after the blood sample is taken. No action was needed by the Board.

Chris Litton, Development Director presented the MetroParks Foundation deposit report for the period of August 1-31, 2024, at a total of \$26,743.95 for approval. Germaine Bennett moved at the request of the Director of Development to accept the deposit report for the period of August 1-31, 2024, at a total of \$26,743.95. 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)

- Lisa Bond asked about the attack on the woman near Daffodil Meadows this past week and if any methods are being used to improve safety. Lisa read a prepared statement inclusive of a quote from Mark Twain. Lisa questioned the need for an archery camp and suggested a link to violence.
- Janet Bernard asked to view or for a printed copy of the sign in sheet from last meeting. She would also like printed copies of the minutes and inquired how to get those. She questioned the cost of a cross-country meet at the Farm. She also asked how the raccoons would be marked after testing. She also questioned why the amounts differ on one check number that was written for a mower. She referenced the recent court hearing related to the removal of Board members and questioned the number of lawn mowers purchased.
- Marianne Whitehouse stated that she is the widow of former MCMP Naturalist Bill Whitehouse who passed away on September 11, 2023 at the age of 87 years old. She stated the issues surrounding Bill's death. She stated that Bill became very depressed. Marianne is celebrating this week because she can go on and be happy living the rest of her life at age 86. She stated that Bill was always upset about the grass being cut behind FNC. Bill would be very happy that the meadow is there and that she is happy about the Bill Whitehouse Nature Trail. Bill loved talking to who entered the Ford Nature Center. Marianne thanked the Park for the trail.
- Jerry Serbel stated that he had teeth removed which is what his face is swelled. He is here to protect the deer. He lives across from the Park. He is against the killing of the deer. He thinks the park should be shut down when the bow hunting is going on. He questions why people are allowed to walk around while the hunting is going on. He thinks that the Park should plant

vegetation for the deer. He is sure that grant money is available to do the planting. He will continue to support the deer until he dies.

- Michael Drabison stated that he would do a verbal recap of the past year regarding the deer management plan. He stated that the Park believed that the deer were sick and needed removed. He stated that no white deer had been born in 2023 & 2024. He referenced numbers of a deer study. He questioned the results of the survey and asked where did the deer go? He stated that the meat was not provided to food banks as proposed. He stated he was called a liar by the Park. He questioned the location of the American Flag and that it should be to their left.
- Ray Thomas indicated that he would not be making any further comments and that he would be sitting back to see if the Park would act on their comments or answer their questions.
- Lana Van Auker stated that she is Sawmill Creek Lana. She stated that archery is ok but not the killing animals as Lisa Bond stated. Lana read a prepared statement regarding the protection of animals. Cruelty to animals is not right. She referenced statements of the humane society. She questioned the use of pesticides and their negative impacts. She referenced photographs that she took of the animals that were hunted. She further referenced a quote from Steve Irwin.
- Randy Dolak spoke that he is an animal lover. He stated that there is an issue with a draining pipe on the Calvary Run trail. He questioned if there is any interest in having the Historical Society investigate the purpose.
- Kathy Maine questioned if Aaron is listening while he is typing. She stated that she gets nervous before speaking. She stated that on June 29, 2024 at 1:00 pm walk-in the path between Shields and SR 224 that someone fell 12 feet. She wanted to know what happened to the man that fell. She wanted to know the condition of the man who fell. She believes as a taxpayer that they should know what happened. Germaine explained that the Board allows the public to make comments and ask questions before they respond.

#### Commissioner Comments

- Germaine Bennett asked Chief Randy Campana to provide as much of an update as he could on the incident that happened this week. Randy provided a brief update of the issue as well as a brief description of the alleged suspect and stated that the investigation is still on going.
- Jeff Harvey asked how long it takes Police to respond to an issue. Chief Campana indicates that it varies depending on location but the response time was around four (4) minutes to the incident that he just addressed.
- Germaine Bennett stated that the Board is attempting to answer the questions that were posed to the Board.
- Nick Derico provided some clarifying remarks to the Board about the methods used by USDA in the raccoon testing.
- Paul Olivier thanked the group for their inquiries and urged visitors to contact Administration with their questions instead of waiting to attend a meeting to get inquiries answered.

There being no further business, Germaine Bennett moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:49 pm. 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

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 21, 2024, at 5:00 p.m., in McMahon Hall at the MetroParks Farm.

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Presiding Officer

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Secretary