

Mecosta County Park Commission Commission Meeting

The October 18, 2022, Commission Meeting of the Mecosta County Park Commission was called to order at Mecosta County Services Building at 5:00 PM by the Commission Chairman, Mr. Stanek.

Roll Call

Members Present: Mrs. Bradstrom, Mr. Farrow, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Hatkowski, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Lambrix, Ms. Miller, Mr. Stanek and Mr. Vogel. **Members Absent:** None. **Others Present:** Jeff Abel - Superintendent, Mary Hansen - Assistant Operation Manager and Kathy Maclean - Administrative Clerk.

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, seconded by Mr. Vogel to approve the agenda with the additions of vehicle permits, picnic tables and park models. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mr. Farrow to approve the minutes of the September 13th Finance Committee and Commission meetings. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Regional Pass Proposal Nick Smith, Newaygo County Parks Director, reviewed the proposed Regional Recreation Pass Agreement. The Pass would permit holders entry into any property owned/operated by either Park Commission, including 4 of the trailheads on the Dagon Trail. Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, seconded by Mr. Lambrix to support partnering with Newaygo County Parks and Recreation Commission to provide a joint vehicle permit option to our park visitors with each Commission offering the 2023 Regional Pass for sale at all Park Commissions' Modern Campgrounds, Park Administration Offices and Davis Bridge. Motion carried. Ms. Miller motioned, seconded by Mr. Hatkowski that the cost of the Regional Pass be set at \$60 with both Commission sharing equally in the proceeds. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Reports and Updates

Superintendent's Updates

The Superintendent updated the Commission on 13 current and completed projects, including:

TC Energy Grant application, to benefit the Dragon Trail, has been submitted.

Hydro-Boat Races at Brower went well; video is available on our Facebook page.

Park Radio Programming Crouch Communications is scheduled to visit our office to complete some radio programming and repairs.

School Section Tree Work to be completed by Cook's. An estimated dozen dead trees are scheduled to be removed.

Brower Street Lights need repairs, an electrician has been contacted.

Capital Project Meetings have been ongoing in preparation for the anticipated Spark grant opportunities that could benefit the School Section Beach Bathhouse and the Paris Hatchery Building projects.

Davis Bridge Trust Fund Grant scope has been modified to reflect only the portion of the park that would be covered by the trust fund grant. As there are other potential funding sources, we are hopeful that we will be able to reintroduce the full scope of the project at a later date.

YTD - Park Revenue Report - The combined total of park revenue categories is currently trailing last year by less than 3%. Paris Park's total revenue losses accounting for half of the decline.

Dragon Trail Updates - The 2 bridges between Newaygo State Park and the Brower Park Loop are anticipated to be installed within the week. Newaygo County has received a \$15,000 Ice Mountain Grant. User data shows that both Brower Park north and the Brower Park Loop are seeing the most traffic.

Incident/Accident - 3 reports reviewed and discussed.

Correspondence

Hardy Pond Project Update A Consumers Energy Hardy Dam project update has been received regarding the planned duration of the future construction.

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Grant of \$100,000 has been provided to the Muskegon River Watershed for the Buckhorn project. The project's final engineering report may be completed by the end of 2022.

Committee Actions

Masterplan

School Section Campground Expansion Update Morton Township has wider campsite width requirements than the State of Michigan; one site will be eliminated from the planned design.

Brower Park - Boat Launch Project Update Bid and construction documents will be available shortly; we are anticipating being able to go out for bid by the end of October. Work is scheduled to be completed pre-Memorial Day weekend.

Davis Bridge - Trust Fund Grant Project Update modified scope cost and illustration reviewed.

Finance

Paris Park-Effects of Battery Plant discussed status of 2023 site availability for transient and seasonal camping. Reviewed revenue by site.

Park Model sample offering was reviewed and discussed; requires further exploration and discussion regarding cost/benefit.

2023 Vehicle Permit Design Mr. Griffith motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to approve the 2023 permit designs as recommended and presented by the Superintendent. Motion carried.

Picnic Table quotes were discussed. Mr. Griffith motioned, seconded by Mr. Farrow to move forward with the purchase of 66 picnic tables with the smaller (1 5/8") gauge piping. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Financial

Financial Report - Revenue & Expenses, Cash Spreadsheet, Year-to-Year - Reports were reviewed and discussed. A historical camp store revenue analysis was provided by Mr. Stanek,

with 2023 having the highest sales per open hour in the 5-year history School Section has been operating the store.

Approval of Bills - Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, seconded by Mr. Lambrix to approve payment of the bills in the amounts of \$4,367.36, \$18,457.47, \$18,233.05, \$120,311.03 and \$18,615.41.

Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Public Comment: None.

Other Business

Personnel Manual Updates & Job Postings Personnel meeting to be scheduled once the proposed job descriptions and Personnel Manual updates are available for discussion and consideration.

Zoom Meetings Mr. Johnson motioned, seconded by Mr. Lambrix to support the Commission's return to in-person only Commission meeting starting November 2022. Motion carried.

Next Commission Meeting is scheduled for 5 PM, November 15th, at the Mecosta County Services Bldg.

Adjourned: 6:18 PM