

Mecosta County Park Commission Commission Meeting

The September 13, 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. Johnson, Mr. Hatkowski, Ms. Miller, Mr. Stanek and Mr. Vogel. **Members Absent:** Mr. Lambrix. **Others Present:** Jeff Abel - Superintendent, Mary Hansen - Assistant Operation Manager and Kathy Maclean - Administrative Clerk.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mr. Griffith to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mr. Farrow to approve the minutes of the August 16th Commission meeting and the September 7th Personnel and Rules & Regulations Committee meetings. Motion carried.

Public Comment: *Vince Mako* asked if there was an update regarding the water supply at Brower's Sunny Acres.

Reports and Updates

Superintendent's Updates

The Superintendent updated the Commission on 7 current and completed projects, including:

Brower Park WiFi New equipment has been installed; it has been recommended that we add a pole or tower at the art barn to raise the equipment and improve the signal strength.

Buckhorn Project Consumers Energy is considering relocating the electrical lines during construction. Final decision will be made once construction plans have been finalized.

Project Meeting has taken place with the County's Buildings and Grounds Committee to evaluate the Parks current capital improvement plans. They have requested an additional presentation be provided at the December 1st County Board meeting.

Parks Closing September 30th include School Section, Merrill-Gorrel and Paris; Brower will close October 9th.

YTD - Park Revenue Report - Paris Park revenue continues to be the major lag on this year's revenue, accounting for 50% of the total revenue dollars lost. The combined total of park revenue categories is currently trailing last year by less than 2%.

Dragon Trail Updates - about 500 feet of trail remains to be completed to connect Newaygo State Park to the Brower Loop minus the two bridges which are still anticipated to arrive and be installed prior to the end of this year's build season. Repairs to two ravine sections on the west side of the river, also, will be completed this year. There are a couple of grant opportunities that are being pursued.

Incident/Accident - 2 reports reviewed and discussed.

Committee Actions

Masterplan

ARPA County Funding Update - The County Board has approved more than \$8.1 million in local project funding which includes \$1.175 million to fund capital improvements in the parks. The specific capital projects include the replacement of the School Section Lake beach bathhouse, playground equipment, generators, Dragon Trail funding and a match for Brower Park electrical upgrades.

Rules & Regulations

Appeal of Eviction - Hubscher/Anderson - The Committee Chairman, Mr. Vogel described the Committee's review process which included a review and discussion of all provided documents and an evaluation of the duration of the eviction. Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mr. Hatkowski that the Commission should accept the Committee's recommendation and uphold the eviction notice and that the term shall remain in effect for the remainder of the 2022 and the entire 2023 calendar years. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Appeal of Eviction - Demorest - The Committee Chairman, Mr. Vogel described the Committee's review process which included a review of all provided documents and an evaluation of the duration of the eviction. Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom that the Commission should accept the Committee's recommendation and uphold the eviction notice and that the term shall remain in effect for the remainder of the 2022 and the entire 2023 calendar years. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Personnel

Part-Time/Year-Round Wage/Retention Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, seconded by Mr. Farrow to increase starting wages to \$16 per hour and eliminate retention pay for part-time/year-round staff in 2023. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Seasonal Administration Position has been replaced in the budget with a part-time/year-round position with virtually the same annual expense.

Re-Structure of Park Commission Organizational Chart proposal was reviewed and discussed. Mr. Griffith motioned, seconded by Mr. Farrow to accept the Committee's recommendation and adopt the re-structure as presented. Motion carried.

Finance

2023 Personnel Budget reviewed and discussed.

2023 Capitals Budget reviewed; the Committee recommends that a picnic table order be added to the Paris Park budgeted expenses. It was noted that the School Section Lake campground expansion project is not funded in the 2023 budget.

2023 Budget Revenue and Expense Review completed and discussed.

2023 Final Budget Review and Approval Mr. Farrow motioned, seconded by Mr. Griffith to approve the final budget as presented with the additional expense of a Paris Park picnic table order. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Seasonal Camper Deposit deadline has passed. A review of Seasonal Campers renewing their sites, requesting a site change and new seasonal camper requests for School Section Lake, Merrill-Gorrel and Paris Parks was completed.

Financial

Financial Report - Revenue & Expenses, Cash Spreadsheet, Year-to-Year - Reports were reviewed and discussed.

Approval of Bills - Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, seconded by Mr. Griffith to approve payment of the bills in the amounts of \$33,479.16, \$21,347.45 and \$31,286.95. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Public Comment: None.

Other Business

Consumers Energy Stakeholders Meeting-Rogers Pond Dam Mr. Stanek will be attending this meeting in the Superintendent's absence.

Next Commission Meeting is scheduled for 5 PM, October 18th, at the Mecosta County Services Bldg.

Adjourned: 5:45 PM