

Mecosta County Park Commission Commission Meeting

The January 16, 2024, 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. **Member Absent:** Mrs. Strong. **Others Present:** Jeff Abel - Superintendent, Taylor Jutila - Operations Manager, Mary Hansen - HR Manager and Kathy Maclean - Administrative Clerk.

Approval of Agenda

Hearing no objections, the agenda stood approved as present.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Griffith motioned, seconded by Mr. Lambrix, to approve the minutes of the December 12th Commission meeting. Motion carried.

Election of Officers

The floor was opened for nominations. Mr. Griffith nominated Mr. Stanek for re-appointment of Chairman, supported by Mr. Lambrix. Mr. Vogel moved, seconded by Mr. Hatkowski, to close nominations for Chairman and cast a unanimous ballot for Mr. Stanek. Motion carried.

Mr. Johnson nominated Mr. Griffith for re-appointment of Vice Chairman, supported by Mr. Vogel. Mr. Lambrix moved, seconded by Hatkowski, to close nominations for Vice-Chairman and cast a unanimous ballot for Mr. Griffith. Motion carried.

Mrs. Bradstrom nominated Ms. Miller for re-appointment of Secretary, supported by Mr. Vogel. Mr. Griffith moved, seconded by Johnson, to close nominations for Secretary and cast a unanimous ballot for Ms. Miller. Motion carried.

Rules of Order

Mr. Griffith motioned, seconded by Mr. Hatkowski to follow Roberts Rules of Order and include the ability for the Chairman to vote. Motion carried.

Committee Assignments

The Chairman asked if there were any objections to maintaining the Committee appointments from 2023. Hearing no objections, the Committee appointments will remain the same.

Public Comment: None.

Reports and Updates

Superintendent's Updates

The Superintendent updated the Commission on 15 current and completed projects, including:

Camis Conversion final internal testing is being completed. We anticipate guests having access to create accounts around February 5th and to start accepting reservations of monthly sites on February 12th. Group Camp, Pavilions, and Nightly bookings to begin on the 19th of February. **CPSI Course** results have come back; both Mary and Taylor are now certified.

Buckhorn Creek Dam detour options and tree clearing boundaries will be discussed during the next meeting.

Operations Manager preliminary interviews have been completed and second round interviews are being scheduled.

Goose Round up has been cancelled state-wide due to Avian Influenza. Egg/nest destruction will be attempted at Brower Park and possibly at School Section Lake, if permitted.

MG Electric Meters on 6 campsites were not functioning properly at the end of the 2023 season which have since been replaced.

Deferred Revenue reports have been submitted to the County, camping totaled \$124,440 while vehicle permits totaled \$1,520.

Dragon Trail groomed sections may need to be altered. A portion of section 2 is still pending approval from the USFS prior to it being announced as completed. The ETA of complete trail completion is August 2024.

Incident/Accident Reports None to report.

Correspondence

Sue Bean-Request for Change to FGC Reservation Process. The Commissioners reviewed and discussed the concerns noting that the new reservation system is designed to help insure fairness of access to all park amenities. The Commission postponed deciding if a change in process is needed until the new system has had an opportunity to be utilized. The topic may be reconsidered for future seasons.

John & Carolyn Pasquantonio-WPVRA Annual Report reviewed and discussed. Mr. Griffith motioned, seconded by Mr. Vogel, to recognize the years of dedication the Pasquantonios have provided to the WPVRA. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Committee Actions

Masterplan

School Section Lake-Expansion Update The contractors continue to work onsite as the weather permits. Our contracted engineers are working on a resolution to address improper tree clearing.

Brower Park Shallow Water Launch Update The contractors have installed a crusted stone base for the new ramp; concrete to be poured when the weather permits. Pilings are being driven for the fishing dock that will be completed late winter/early spring.

Finance

Davis Bridge and School Section Trust Fund Grant Updates The Davis Bridge Grant was recommended for funding. The School Section Lake Grant was not recommended with a reallocation of match dollars to be evaluated by the Masterplan Committee.

Non-Seasonal Site Values & Occupancy a per campground revenue evaluation was completed which indicates Brower, School Section and Paris non-seasonal sites return revenue comparable to that generated from a seasonal site. Merrill-Gorrel currently generates more revenue from Seasonal sites due to low nightly occupancy rates.

Financial

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

Approval of Bills - Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, seconded by Ms. Miller, to approve payment of the bills in the amounts of \$23,522.59, \$4,729.21, \$32,806.43 and \$24,276.12. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Public Comment: None.

Other Business: Next Monthly Commission Meeting is scheduled for 5 PM, Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at the Mecosta County Services Building.

Adjourned: 5:45 PM