

Mecosta County Park Commission Commission Meeting

The February 20, 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 (arrived 5:04), Mr. Griffith, Mr. Hatkowski, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Miller, Mr. Stanek, Mrs. Strong and Mr. Vogel. **Member Absent:** Mr. Lambrix. **Others Present:** Jeff Abel - Superintendent, Taylor Jutila - Operations Director, Mary Hansen - HR Manager, Jose Santiago - 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 Mrs. Bradstrom, to approve the minutes of the January 16th Park Commission Meeting and the February 1st Masterplan Meeting. Motion carried.

Public Hearing (5:05 PM) School Section Lake - DNR Trust Fund Grant Application

The Superintendent provided a brief review of the engineered design and plans for School Section Lake Restroom and Playground Renovation and shared a brief history of prior submissions for a Spark Grant and Trust Fund Grant, in both cases the project scored well but did not gain funding.

Public Comment: *Kris Karcher* asked if there are excess grant funds would we use them on other projects? Though it is unlikely that there will be excess funds, all grant funds would be used only on the grant project, with the possibility of a scope item being enhanced if funding was to be directed. *Lori Kanouse* inquired if the project would provide universal accessibility and was informed that the design was created with input from ADA organizations. Mr. Griffith motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom, to pursue County BOC approval to defer the expenditure of \$430,000 in County BOC pledged funds toward the listed improvements and to seek a resolution of approval for the re-submission of the School Section Bathhouse/Playground renovation project through the DNR Trust Fund grant program. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Reports and Updates

Superintendent's Updates

The Superintendent updated the Commission on 14 current and completed projects, including:

School Section Firepits and Picnic Tables for the new campsites have arrived and were transported to the park for assembly and installation.

Ground Water Discharge Inspection of Merrill-Gorrel, Paris and Brower. Two representatives from EGLE completed an interview, requested meter readings sample for audit and made a site visit to each of the parks. No immediate actions or changes were requested, however there may be follow-up actions or additional tracking requirements implemented in the future.

Electric Panel Replacements at School Section's concessions and Brower's Sunny Acres bathhouse have been installed. These were the last components to complete the generator installation project.

Brower Park Shallow Channel Project continues to move forward. The fishing pier is almost completely installed, concrete was poured for the new boat ramp, and the bulkhead for the Kayak/Canoe Launch installation was completed.

School Section Campsite Addition Project is moving forward. Most of the core infrastructure is in place including septic piping, water piping, and underground electrical lines. The detailed components are beginning to be placed; grounds restoration on the campsites, roads and parking areas completed, electrical pedestals, water spickets, well pressure tanks, and dump station.

Camping Reservations for the Family Group Camp, Pavilions and Nightly Campsites and Cabins opened on Monday. The process was fairly smooth, balancing is still in process.

Dragon Trail has a new groomed sections map that includes winter trail etiquette. Also, reviewed was the newly developed mileage chart for the east side of the trail.

Incident/Accident Reports Davis Bridge incident reviewed and discussed.

Committee Actions

Masterplan

Davis Bridge Trust Fund Grant Administration & Engineering Proposal Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mr. Griffith to accept the Masterplan committee's recommendation to move forward with the Prein & Newhof proposal at a cost of \$43,200. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

School Section Lake Bathhouse/Playground Renovation – DNR Trust Fund Grant Application discussed previously in meeting.

Millage Proposal Evaluation The Commissioners discussed the state of Paris Park and reviewed the continuing decline of the fish hatchery grounds. A significant influx of dollars is needed for rehabilitation. A Paris Park Sub-Committee of Mr. Hatkowski, Mr. Griffith, Mrs. Bradstrom and Mr. Vogel has been created to evaluate funding options.

School Section - Administration of new campsites Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mr. Hatkowski, to lower the seasonal camper percentage of the park to 50% inclusive of the new campsites and to delay making any of the new campsites available to seasonal camping until they are better established. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Finance

Buckhorn Creek Dam Removal Some groundwork and updates to our small bridge are needed to create a detour while the dam removal and grounds restoration work is being completed; early cost estimates are \$3,000-\$5,000. Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, seconded by Mr. Griffith, to authorize the Superintendent to make the required improvements. Motion carried.

Personnel

Operations Manager- Jose Santiago was introduced and welcomed to the Commission.

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 \$125,941.60, 28,004.65, \$37,934.45 and \$922.66. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Public Comment: None.

Other Business: Next Monthly Commission Meeting is scheduled for 5 PM, Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at the Mecosta County Services Building.

Adjourned: 6:00 PM