

MECOSTA COUNTY PARK COMMISSION
January 8, 2009

The JANUARY 8, 2009 meeting was called to order by the Superintendent at the Administrative office in Paris, MI, at 7:00 p.m. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Cookingham, Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Howard, Mr. Jefts, Mr. Nichols, Mr. Peek, Mr. Stout, Mr. Todd and Mr. Wayer. MEMBERS ABSENT: Mrs. Krueger. Also present: Gary Brown, Erin Bean and Karen Morningstar.

Mr. Cookingham informed the Board of Mrs. Krueger's conflict with the meeting dates and times and cannot serve on this board. Mrs. Howard stated the County Commission will take action to correct this matter at their next scheduled meeting.

Minutes: December 11, 2008 Board Meeting: Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mr. Peek to accept the minutes of the December 11, 2008 Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Election of Officers: Superintendent opened the floor for nominations for:

Chairperson. Mr. Stout nominated Mr. Peek, Mr. Wayer seconded. Mr. Stout moved, seconded by Mr. Wayer to close nominations for Chairperson and cast a unanimous ballot for Mr. Peek. Motion carried. Superintendent turned the meeting over to the Chairperson, Mr. Peek.

Chairperson opened the floor for nominations for **Vice Chairperson.** Mr. Nichols nominated Mr. Stout, Mr. Cookingham seconded. Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mrs. Howard to close nominations for Vice Chairperson and cast a unanimous ballot for Mr. Stout. Motion carried.

Chairperson opened the floor for nominations for **Secretary.** Mr. Cookingham nominated Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mr. Nichols seconded. Mr. Jefts moved, seconded by Mr. Todd to close nominations and to cast a unanimous ballot for Mrs. Fitzgerald for Secretary. Motion carried.

Roberts Rules of Order: Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mr. Wayer to follow Roberts Rules of Order and amend these rules to allow the Chairperson to vote and take part in discussion with the Chair having the last vote. Motion carried.

Committees for 2009: Each Board member was asked to fill out the Committee worksheet and return the worksheet tonight to the Chairperson. The Chairman nominated: Mr. Cookingham to Chair the Finance committee and also appointed: Mr. Jefts, Mr. Nichols and Mr. Todd to the Finance Committee. The Chairperson will review the remaining Committee vacancies and post members and Chairpersons for each committee as he chooses. A letter of the Committee appointments will be sent to each Board member.

Public Comment: Chairman stated a hearing on the Masterplan needs to take place and suggested to host the meeting at the Administrative Office on February 3, 2009 @ 4:00 p.m.

Correspondence: Four emails and the Assistant Superintendent expressed one verbal comment from a guest of Brower Park. After review the Board moved directly into the Brower Reservations and Premium Sites.

Reports and Updates: Brower Reservations – Superintendent presented a package of the Brower Reservation Rules and reviewed the details with the Board. FERC mandates no more than 31 nights pre/post season and no more than 21 nights prime camping season and states the camping unit must move off of the site. Chairman stated we need to look at all of the options and remain in the black. Guests at Brower come in two waves; those that arrive to camp pre and post season and a different set of guests that camp during the main camping season. The other Consumers Energy campgrounds all accept reservations. Superintendent discussed the statistics of Brower Park including the shuffle and how it works. Storage of units was discussed. These rules designed for Brower were set with FERC in mind. Mr. Jefts stated the camping unit set for storage should be the one the guest plans on camping in and not swapped out for another one. Storage begins on opening day ends the Sunday before Memorial Day for pre season and starts again the Sunday of Labor Day weekend and continues thru the closing of the park. Mr. Jefts suggested to have guest able to reserve no more than two weekends in a row without having to include days in between.

Brower Premium Sites: Premium Prime Seasonal sites will be for the time period of the Friday before Memorial Day and run through Labor Day for a suggested price of \$2800.00. With the lottery already taking place, Superintendent suggested to have these sites on a first come first serve basis beginning on April 3rd due to where we are starting now to get up and running this year. Mr. Jefts asked about the negative impact regarding these changes. Superintendent clarified the prime seasonal lots do not have to move and those guests that do not choose a prime lot will be made to move their camping units after 21 nights and these new sites will be offered to current seasonal also. 18 sites were chosen as the prime premium sites to stay within the number of allowed seasonal sites as set by Consumers Powers. Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mr. Stout to accept the Brower Park Reservations and Premium Prime Seasonal Sites at \$2800. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Wayer suggested to the Superintendent to be very clear and communicate very well when discussing these topics with guests.

Beach view Lodge: No updates at this time due to Ed Burch not returning phone calls.

GLPTI: Superintendent stated a new training session has been offered by GLPTI and suggested to send the Brower Manager in lieu of the training in West Virginia next year. This training is more specialized and is a certificate program vs. a variety of class topics. The cost would be \$774.58 provided he can find a room mate. Mr. Wayer questioned why last month the Superintendent did not recommend GLPTI and now is. Superintendent explained this training is very different from the ones attended in the past. Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mr. Jefts to approve the

Brower Manager to attend the training. Motion carried with Wayer and Fitzgerald opposing.

Incident/Accident Reports: none.

Financial: Revenue vs. Expenses was reviewed.

Adjustments: Mr. Jefts moved, seconded by Mr. Cookingham to approve the adjustments as presented for budget purposes: create a new revenue account 605.13 BOAT RENTAL with \$1360 projected revenue and 717.40 MERS HCSP \$360.00 and insert \$1000 into 729.40. Motion carried.

Approval of Bills: Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mr. Todd, for the transfer of funds (to cover Accounts Payable) from the 508 account at the County to our 110 account at Chemical Bank and for the approval of the bills including the customary & ordinary bills. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

The Executive Secretary gave the financial report.

Set aside accounts were reviewed detailing the beginning balances for the 2009 season.

Reports and Updates:

Toilet Paper Bids: Superintendent requested to go out for Toilet Paper Bids and presented and reviewed specs. Mr. Todd moved, seconded by Mr. Nichols to send out the bid specs. Motion carried.

Ice Bids: Superintendent requested to go out for Ice Bids and presented and reviewed specs. Mr. Stout moved, seconded by Mr. Cookingham to send out the bid specs. Motion carried.

Bridge and Railing Around Pond Update: Superintendent stated with the concrete work approved, a chair rail is needed around the ponds for safety. Superintendent has met with Mr. Dave Murray of FSU welding department who was very excited about the project. FSU will provide the labor and we will supply the materials. Mr. Murray suggested a guard rail type fence vs. the chair rail and will meet with the Superintendent and Mr. Stout to determine the exact construction in the Spring.

The Bridge project was also discussed with Mr. Murray who loves the idea. Again FSU will supply the labor and we will supply the materials for the project. Mr. Murray feels this is a great opportunity and learning experience for his students. Superintendent hit a road block though with the DNR until he received a phone call from Paul Yauk with the master planning section of the DNR who will get the project cleared and he is 100% on board and will do everything (non financially) to help us. Mr. Yauk also informed the Superintendent of a resource in Calhoun County who has a County Bridge Park. These individuals have six bridges in this park and an additional six in storage waiting for a home. Superintendent stated this is of historical significance. Mr. Nichols commented of a photo of the old rail road trestle.

Superintendent stated the trail remains the rail road right of way and the state can take back over the trail for the rail road at any time. Any bridge placed must meet approval.

SSLVP Tree Cutting Bids: At this time the bids were supposed to be opened for the tree cutting and Mr. Ken Ford was contacted last Friday to ensure he was ready and he confirmed, however, he is not present at this meeting. A five minute break was taken at 8:45 p.m. to allow the Superintendent to try to reach Mr. Ford by phone. Superintendent returned to the meeting reporting Mr. Ford did not answer the phone and his voice mailbox is full or not working. Superintendent was directed to call a special board meeting if necessary after he hears news from Mr. Ford.

Public Comment: none.

Other Business:

Items from the Old Museum: Mr. Cookingham stated he was approached by an individual who now lives in Traverse City who owns the items from the old museum and asked if we wanted any of the items. Mr. Cookingham will let the individual know we are interested in any and all items available.

Friends of the Paris Fish Hatchery: Superintendent informed the Board of a meeting that took place earlier today with Post Commander Andrea Nerbonne, who is interested in starting a Friends of the Paris Fish Hatchery group. This is worth checking out. Mr. Jeffs suggested to check with the County Administrator to determine if this fits with the County.

Mrs. Strong's Resolution: Chairman placed the Resolution on hold pending action from the County Board regarding Mrs. Krueger's replacement.

New Drain Commissioner Representative: Jackie Fitzgerald was welcomed to the Board as the New Mecosta County Drain Commissioner. Mrs. Fitzgerald was informed this board has wrestled with tough issues, yet this is a good board to serve on.

Adjournment: Mr. Todd moved, seconded by Mr. Cookingham to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Fitzgerald
Secretary