

## MECOSTA COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

June 11, 2009

The June 11, 2009 meeting was called to order by the Chairman at Brower County Park in Stanwood, MI at 7:00 p.m. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Cookingham, Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Howard, Mr. Jeffs, Mr. Nichols, Mr. Peek, Mr. Stout, Mr. Todd and Mr. Wayer. MEMBERS ABSENT: Mrs. Strong. Also present: Gary Brown, Erin Bean, Karen Morningstar and Don French (Brower Asst. Manager).

*Minutes* May 14, 2009 Board Meeting: Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to accept the minutes of the May 14, 2009 Board Meeting with corrections. Motion carried.

June 3, 2009 Rules & Regulations Committee Meeting: Mr. Wayer moved, seconded by Mr. Cookingham to accept the minutes of the June 3, 2009 Rules & Regulations Committee Meeting as presented. Motion carried.

*Public Comment.* Kim Breuker, Kim Mastenbrook, Nancy Van Duine and Elaine Abbott, expressed displeasure regarding changing campsites they have occupied for over 30 years to Prime Seasonal Lots. They missed the lottery and did not hear about the Prime Seasonal Lots until sometime in January. The group feels they are being pushed to make a decision on another place to go to camp. Mr. Cookingham informed the group of the fact the Lottery rules are mandated by Consumers Energy due to our lease. The Board chooses the sites. The group stated they cannot camp by each other or have their families come camp by them. The reason for the Prime Seasonal sites was strictly revenue. This Board operates on user fees and some funds received from grants, no tax money comes from the County, State or Federal level. Nancy VanDuinen informed the Board, the small boat launch is uneven and the cement slab needs to be longer. Superintendent stated this project would have to go through the DEQ and takes months to get resolved. The group of ladies also stated some of the boating signs have been taken down and they'd like to see them put back up due to youths fishing in areas near the boat launch and the fishing line can get caught up in the boat motors. Superintendent stated new signs are already being made. Mrs. Abbott asked if the goose round up will be happening this year? Assistant Superintendent stated yes, on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Abbott offered to assist with this project. Superintendent stated the Park Commission is trying to deal with all of the complaints, set rules immediately rather than wait another year and hopes to have all of the issues addressed prior to the fall Lottery date. Rules will be enforced.

**Mark Aben (A guest in the park of William Proos):** stated he sympathizes with the ladies and loves the reservations and asked to have the Park Commission re-consider tiki torches as bug abatement. Reservations are getting more families out to camp and it is wonderful – helping people who don't have a lot of money.

Mr. Stout stated he has toured River Ridge and visited with groups of guests who didn't know we offer Prime Seasonal lots for \$2800 and heard nothing negative about Brower Park.

Chairman suggested it would be best to wait one full year as a test to see how the Prime Seasonal sites perform. As a Board we must look ahead, listen to guests, and take action. Our goal is to bring people back to Brower and we will continue to make changes.

At this time, the Chairman wanted to celebrate the birthdays of the Superintendent and Executive Secretary. Members present enjoyed a cake prepared by the Brower Park Manager.

### REPORTS AND UPDATES

*Memorial Day Campsites Occupied:* Report was given to the Board. None of the parks were 100% full.

*Boat Race @ Brower:* Superintendent informed the Board the first annual proposed jet ski race at Brower was cancelled due to the approval for the event coming too late to obtain permits. This event will possibly happen next year.

*Boat Rentals:* Mr. Wayer and the Superintendent reviewed the minutes and paperwork with the Board.

Superintendent reviewed the boats approved for purchase, leaving approx. \$4100.00 in the approved account to cover accessories and a rescue boat. After hearing this discussion, several Board members cautioned using the word “rescue”. Discussion followed on an appropriate name to call this type of boat. After much discussion, the Board agreed to call the boat a “safety boat”. Mr. Wayer moved, seconded by Mrs. Howard to change the word “rescue” to “safety” in the minutes of the Rules and Regulations meeting dated June 3, 2009. Motion carried. Discussion followed on taking the drivers license from boat renters and the Board was assured this would not happen and documents will be changed to reflect this change. Documents reviewed reflected time differences of 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. and these changes will also be made. Mr. Jefts stated something stating the condition of the boat prior to the rental as well as afterwards should be documented also.

*Davis Bridge:* There have been questions about the hours of operation and fees for this park. Superintendent clarified, the gates were opened just prior to Walleye Season when the water level of the Muskegon allowed boaters to access the ramp safely. Signs are posted in the park explaining the fees. If a guest has a current annual vehicle and annual boat sticker, they may enter the park and use the launch for no additional fee. If the guest does not have the annual stickers, they must pay a \$5 fee for using the park and an additional \$5 for using the launch. Mr. Todd stated guests can go across the river and use the launch at River Ridge for a total of \$5.

*Electrical Request for School House:* Superintendent stated the electrical issue is a big problem. The electrical has been cobbled and is a mess. MMAHS found the problem and it does need to be upgraded. The electrical inspector will complete the work by hooking up the electric.

*Youth Workers:* Superintendent reported the placement of the following Youth Workers in the Parks: Brower – 2, Paris – 2, Merrill – 0 and Admin – 1. Some Managers would rather have the Youth workers than hired staff. The program is going well. Mr. Wayer requested to keep track of Youth Workers hours when they are assisting with the boats at School Section.

*Incident/Accident Reports:* 17 reports were reviewed.

*Correspondence:* DNR withdrew from renting the office at the Administrative location. The DNR however, will keep using the 7 stall garage and the Superintendent is currently trying to work out the use of the dumpster. Noreen Kehr graciously donated \$100 for the fish stocking in the ponds. Dave & Cindy Edwards requested soap dispensers to be installed in the restrooms. Superintendent was directed to send a letter of response to Mr. & Mrs. Edwards indicating vandalism and safety hazards of slip and fall accidents due to soap on the floor.

## FINANCIAL

*Revenue vs. Expenses* were reviewed.

*Adjustments:* none.

*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 all of the bills, including customary and ordinary, as presented. Motion carried by roll call vote. Mr. Todd commented the tank pumping bill was a rather large one.

The Executive Secretary gave the financial report. Set Aside accounts were reviewed.

***PUBLIC COMMENT:***

Mrs. Howard requested information regarding the use of remote control cars in Merrill Lake Park. Superintendent stated policy allows the use in designated areas. The designated area for Merrill is in the open field by the ball diamond and clarified no use is allowed on any roads.

Mr. Todd: wanted to know when the tree cutting will take place at School Section. Superintendent stated in the fall after all guests have left the park.

***OTHER BUSINESS:***

*Drink Vending Machine Proposal:* Assistant Superintendent reported Dr. Pepper Snapple Group requested to place vending machines (pop, water and Arizona juices) in the parks. Hope Network will fill the machines and offered 25% of the proceeds to the Park Commission. Checks will arrive monthly. Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent both recommend Merrill and Paris parks only. Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mr. Jelts to accept the offer of Hope Network and allow machines to be placed in Merrill Lake Park and Paris Park. Motion carried.

*Purchasing Policy:* Superintendent informed the Board of the very upset owner of Lakeside Motorsports over the purchase of paddle boats from Paddle King. A copy of the Mecosta County Purchasing Policy, which we will follow was available for review.

Reminder: next meeting on July 9, 2009 @ Paris Park.

*Adjournment:* Mr. Todd moved, seconded by Mr. Wayer to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Fitzgerald  
Secretary