

MECOSTA COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

June 9, 2011

The June 9, 2011 meeting was called to order by the Chairman at Brower County Park in Stanwood, MI at 7:00 p.m. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mr. Jefts, Mr. Molnar, Mr. Norton, Mr. O'Neil, Dr. Perialas, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Stout, Mr. Vogel and Mr. Wheeler. MEMBERS ABSENT: none. Also present: Gary Brown, Erin Bean, Karen Morningstar, Don French (Brower Park Manager), Mark Maples (Brower Park Asst. Manager) and members of the public.

Welcome New Members! Members and staff introduced themselves.

Election of a Vice Chairman: Mrs. Fitzgerald nominated Mr. Jefts seconded by Mr. Wheeler. Dr. Perialas moved to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Mr. Jefts. Motion carried.

Committee Appointments: A new committee member sheet was presented and one change was made.

Minutes: May 12, 2011 Board Meeting: Mr. Jefts moved, seconded by Dr. Perialas to accept the minutes of the May 12, 2011 Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Public Comment. Al Shank – asked when the roads were going to be brined? Superintendent explained normally it is tradition to brine just before the holidays. For Memorial Day this year, rain was in the forecast so no brine was purchased. Mr. Shank would like to see soap in the bathrooms. Superintendent stated the Board has looked at this matter in the past and not supplied soap due to liability. Chairman stated this is a new Board and they should look at this issue again. Mr. Shank next questioned tongues to the road policy. Chairman added the policy has been in place for many years due to movement for fire protection. Chairman directed the Superintendent to add this item to the next Rules and Regulations Committee meeting. Mr. Shank stated our dumpsters at Brower are too small. Brower Manager informed the members present the dumpsters look different than the ones Dent supplied last year, however, they are the same size.

Larry VanDuinen: asked why the small boat launch was not repaired. Chairman explained he was planning on completing the repairs himself and tried four times to perform the work and was unsuccessful due to either ice or high water. Mr. VanDuinen also would like to see something done with the pot holes. Superintendent stated grading is being done and fill is needed.

Frank Spica: questioned if a light was going to be put in the boat ramp area. Superintendent stated he has a bid on the project.

Nancy VanDuinen: stated she loves Brower Park, however, the bathrooms need updating. Chairman informed the public he has directed the Superintendent to put together a prioritized list of what needs repair/replacing.

Chairman stated all of the comments were greatly appreciated.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Memorial Day Campsites Occupied: Superintendent reviewed the report with the Board. Mr. Stanek questioned how Mecosta County Parks' occupancy was compared to other parks? Superintendent stated other parks were up and some were down. It seems the parks that charge the least, were doing the best. State Parks were doing well due to the passport to recreation program purchase with the license plates.

Merrill House: Superintendent informed the Board a new home was constructed and is about 95% complete for the Merrill Lake Park Manager to replace the trailer.

Gorrel Beach: Guests donated just under \$1000 to purchase permits, 50 yards of washed sand and stump grinding.

School Section Lake Veterans Park Concession Proposal: Chris Ferguson was present to discuss the proposed 5 year contract. Mr. Stanek questioned the length of the previous contract. Ms. Ferguson stated she has received a one year contract and a three year contract in the past. Chairman forwarded this topic to the Masterplan Committee.

Incident/Accident Reports: 17 reports were reviewed.

One report included an eviction request. Dr. Perialas moved, seconded by Mr. Stanek to direct the Superintendent to draft a letter of “on notice” notification to all parties involved, stating this is the last infraction or all will be removed from the park for the balance of the year or at the Board discretion. If any more instanced occur with this guest, then they will be evicted. Discussion followed. Chairman would like the Committee to draft a form letter. Dr. Perialas amended his motion to include the appropriate letter, Mr. Stanek seconded. Motion carried. Superintendent is authorized to evict for a weekend, Board is authorized to evict for up to one year.

Correspondence: One letter was reviewed requesting pets to be allowed in Brower Park. Dr. Perialas added we do have two parks that allow pets.

FINANCIAL

Chairman addressed the Board regarding the County taking over the check writing, audit and Financial Statements. A three hour meeting took place earlier this week with Mr. Bullock, Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Jefts, Admin staff and himself and we now think we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Another meeting was suggested to get the new Board members acquainted on June 24th from 9:00 a.m. – noon. Several members stated they could not attend the June 24th meeting date. Another date of June 20th from 9:00 a.m. – noon was proposed. This meeting should be insightful and is the first time ever proposed.

Revenue vs. Expenses & Adjustments: Superintendent added these spreadsheets reflect information and deposits one full week more than last year and in reality, we are not experiencing more revenue than last year. Mr. Jefts moved, seconded by Mr. Stanek to transfer \$83.68 from Contingency to Conference Expense to balance. Motion carried.

Approval of Bills: Mr. Jefts moved, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, for the transfer of funds (to cover Accounts Payable) from the 508 account at the County for the approval of all of the bills listed at \$24,160.18 plus customary and ordinary, as presented. Motion carried by roll call vote.

The Finance Chairman gave the financial report including the set aside accounts.

Battery Back-ups: The Computer Technician has informed the Superintendent of the need for a new computer battery backup device. A quote was received for \$936.50 to replace the current commercial grade unit. Mr. Jefts suggested installing a auto start generator. Dr. Perialas added both are needed. Board felt the Superintendent did not need approval and added the Board is in favor of purchasing the Battery Back up as quoted.

New Meeting Date: due to accounting issues, it was suggested to change the Park Commission Board meeting date. After discussion, Mr. Jefts, moved, seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to move the Board meetings to the 3rd Tuesday of every month beginning at 7:00 p.m. unless other time is specified for certain meetings beginning in July. Motion carried. Change will be posted.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Frank Spica asked if brine would be applied before the 4th of July. Superintendent stated if needed.

Al Shank: asked for a place to park the boat trailers. Superintendent informed him, Consumers is looking at cutting trees in the near future and he will ask to designate an area for boat parking. Mr. Shank also requested mooring posts.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Resolutions: Cookingham, Nichols, Peek and Wayer: were read by the Chairman.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: **Mr. John Cookingham** has faithfully served the Mecosta County Park Commission for a total of 18 years. **Mr. John Cookingham** has served 7 years as Chairman, 3 years as Vice Chairman and served on several Mecosta County Park Commission sub-committees.

WHEREAS: **Mr. John Cookingham** has, during his appointment with this Commission, given freely and unselfishly of his time, experience, and varied expertise, which have contributed significantly to the development, improvement and continued operations of the Mecosta County Parks, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Mecosta County Park Commission and Superintendent of said Commission does hereby express sincere gratitude for the faithful and dedicated contributions which **Mr. John Cookingham** has made and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this resolution be made a permanent part of the proceedings of this commission and that a true copy be given to **Mr. John Cookingham** as a record of his exemplary service.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: **Mr. Ronald C. Nichols** has faithfully served the Mecosta County Park Commission for a total of 22 years. **Mr. Ronald C. Nichols** has served 3 years as Chairman, 1 year as Vice Chairman and served on several Mecosta County Park Commission sub-committees.

WHEREAS: **Mr. Ronald C. Nichols** has, during his appointment with this Commission, given freely and unselfishly of his time, experience, and varied expertise, which have contributed significantly to the development, improvement and continued operations of the Mecosta County Parks, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Mecosta County Park Commission and Superintendent of said Commission does hereby express sincere gratitude for the faithful and dedicated contributions which **Mr. Ronald C. Nichols** has made and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this resolution be made a permanent part of the proceedings of this commission and that a true copy be given to

Mr. Ronald C. Nichols as a record of his exemplary service.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: **Mr. James Peek** has faithfully served the Mecosta County Park Commission for a total of 33 years. **Mr. James Peek** has served 7 years as Chairman, 7 years as Vice Chairman and 1 year as Secretary and served on several Mecosta County Park Commission sub-committees.

WHEREAS: **Mr. James Peek** has, during his appointment with this Commission, given freely and unselfishly of his time, experience, and varied expertise, which have contributed significantly to the development, improvement and continued operations of the Mecosta County Parks, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Mecosta County Park Commission and Superintendent of said Commission does hereby express sincere gratitude for the faithful and dedicated contributions which **Mr. James Peek** has made and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this resolution be made a permanent part of the proceedings of this commission and that a true copy be given to **Mr. James Peek** as a record of his exemplary service.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: **Mr. Henry □ Hank □ Wayer** has faithfully served the Mecosta County Park Commission for a total of 13 years. **Mr. Henry □ Hank □ Wayer** has served 3 years as Chairman, 3 years as Vice Chairman and served on several Mecosta County Park Commission sub-committees.

WHEREAS: **Mr. Henry □ Hank □ Wayer** has, during his appointment with this Commission, given freely and unselfishly of his time, experience, and varied expertise, which have contributed significantly to the development, improvement and continued operations of the Mecosta County Parks, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Mecosta County Park Commission and Superintendent of said Commission does hereby express sincere gratitude for the faithful and dedicated contributions which **Mr. Henry □ Hank □ Wayer** has made and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this resolution be made a permanent part of the proceedings of this commission and that a true copy be given to **Mr. Henry □ Hank □ Wayer** as a record of his exemplary service.

Mr. Jefts moved, seconded by Dr. Perialas to adopt all four resolutions. Motion carried unanimously.

Masterplan Committee Meeting Date & Time: Mr. Jefts suggested setting all three meetings (Masterplan, Rules & Regulations, and Finance) at the Orientation meeting with the County.

Reminder: next meeting on July 19, 2011 @ Paris Park.

Campground Master Reports through May were distributed.

Adjournment: 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Fitzgerald
Secretary