

MECOSTA COUNTY PARK COMMISSION
October 14, 2010

The October 14, 2010 meeting was held at the Administrative Office in Paris, MI. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Cookingham, Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Howard, Mr. Nichols, Mr. Peek, Mr. Stout, Mr. Todd and Mr. Wayer. MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Jefts and Mrs. Strong. Also present: Gary Brown, Erin Bean and Karen Morningstar.

MINUTES

Minutes of the September 9, 2010 Board meeting: Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mrs. Howard to accept the minutes of the September 9, 2010 board meeting with correction. Motion carried.

Minutes of the September 27, 2010 Finance Committee Meeting: Mr. Todd moved, seconded by Mr. Nichols to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2010 Finance Committee meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Minutes of the October 11, 2010 Finance Committee Meeting: Mr. Nichols moved, seconded by Mr. Cookingham to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2010 Finance Committee meeting with correction. Motion carried. Chairman stated Mr. Jefts had a good idea to block reservation dates at a discounted rate for weekdays:

Available Monday – Thursday only:

Brower: 3 Nights - \$55 or 4 nights - \$75
School Section: 3 Nights - \$52 or 4 nights - \$70
Merrill: 3 Nights - \$47 or 4 nights - \$63
Paris: 3 Nights - \$42 or 4 nights - \$56

Assistant Superintendent distributed spreadsheets indicating the campsites occupied by non-seasonal guests indicating the lack of guests during the week.

Mr. Cookingham stated the Committee is recommending a Davis Bridge \$5 daily use fee vs. purchasing a daily vehicle and daily boat

Mr. Cookingham advised the Board the County of Mecosta has approved a 2.5% increase for all casual part time, non-union and elected officials and the Finance Committee does not object to offering the same increase for Park Commission non-union fulltime staff.

Minutes of the October 11, 2010 Masterplan Committee Meeting: Mrs. Howard moved, seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2010 Masterplan Committee Meeting as with correction. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paris Seasonal guests (Doug & Shirley Sanders) were present to express their dissatisfaction with the increase in rates for Paris Full Hook Up Sites and no increase for non-full hook up sites for the 2011 camping season.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

End of Season Closings: Superintendent reported School Section Lake Veteran's Park, Merrill Lake Park and Paris Parks are now all closed for the season.

Brower Seasonal Lottery: Superintendent distributed correspondence praising the lottery process this year. 2011 lottery signed up 58 seasonals (2010 had 60).

Replace Managers Residence at Merrill Lake Park: Mrs. Fitzgerald stated the Masterplan Committee took a tour of the trailer on August 12th which needs to be replaced with either another trailer or a stick built home. A stick built cabin would cost around \$39,000 for a 700 square foot building, two bedrooms and one bath. Superintendent stated research has indicated a trailer is going to cost around \$18-20,000.00. Chairman felt the cabin could be constructed for less than 39,000. Mrs. Fitzgerald stated a stick built cabin would be sturdy, have longevity and maintenance costs would be low. Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to direct the Superintendent to come back to the Board with a figure of less than \$39,000 for a stick built cabin along with the time frame for construction with a price comparison for a replacement trailer. Motion carried.

Beachview Lodge: Mrs. Fitzgerald commented the building was proposed as a family or group weekly rental and maintenance on the building needs to be done regardless. Mrs. Fitzgerald added a new building would have to be constructed for the concession stand on the North side of the building and this expense should be figured into the total cost for the Beachview Lodge. Mr. Stout stated this discussion has all been brought up before and added nothing should be done until Tom Ruelle is contacted. Mr. Wayer stated the costs to get the building up to par and the payback time needs to be considered.

Morton Historical Society: Superintendent stated we are continuing to work with MMAHS and that some long standing members of the Society have left the organization.

3 Day Reservations: Mr. Cookingham stated the intent is to help with finances. Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mr. Todd to implement the 3 day minimum for reservations. Mr. Todd asked if the 3 day minimum would include weekends. Mr. Cookingham stated it would include all parks all of the time. Discussion followed. Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mr. Todd to withdraw the motion. Chairman requested all Board members to put their thinking cap on and come up with a way to increase revenue.

Incident/Accident Reports: 6 Incident Accident Reports were reviewed (5 were at Brower). Tree trimming and removal was discussed.

CORRESPONDENCE – reviewed earlier.

FINANCIAL

Revenue vs. Expenses: Superintendent reviewed the Revenue vs. Expenses Report. Mr. Wayer questioned the increase in revenue. Superintendent explained it was due to the increase in fees.

Adjustments: Executive Secretary requested to transfer \$7,705.08 from Contingency to cover line items 727-\$101.83, 742 - \$681.52, 743-\$629.62, 744 - \$96.26, 747 - \$1,040, 748 - \$366.40, 778 - \$626.46, 862 - \$48.72, 880 - \$7.96, 932 - \$1,451.04, 957 - \$219.00 and 969-\$2,436.27. After review and discussion, Mr. Todd moved, seconded by Mr. Cookingham to transfer \$7,705.08 from Contingency to cover the amounts as requested. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

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 customary and ordinary bills. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Financial Report: The Executive Secretary gave the financial report. Mr. Wayer requested one year worth of the financial report be put together for the joint meeting with the County on October 28th.

Set Asides: were reviewed.

Boat and Bike Rental Rates: Finance Committee has reviewed the current rates and recommends no change.

Budget Update: Finance Committee has been working to put together the package to be finalized by the next Board meeting. Executive Secretary was directed to contact the Finance Committee members and schedule another meeting date after the 22nd of October and before November 3rd.

PUBLIC COMMENT - none.

OTHER BUSINESS

Joint Meeting Reminder: A joint meeting between the County of Mecosta and the Mecosta County Park Commission has been scheduled for October 28, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mr. Nichols to have Scott Hunter of Baird, Cotter & Bishop present at this joint meeting and to pay his travel and expenses. Motion carried with Mrs. Howard abstaining.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Fitzgerald moved, seconded by Mr. Cookingham to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 pm.