

MECOSTA COUNTY PARK COMMISSION  
April 9, 2009

The April 9, 2009 monthly meeting of the Mecosta County Park Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Chairman at the administrative office in Paris, MI.

Members Present: Mr. Cookingham, Mrs. Howard, Mr. Jefths, Mr. Nichols, Mr. Peek, Mr. Stout, , and Mr. Wayer. Members absent: Mrs. Strong, Mrs. Fitzgerald and Mr. Todd. Also present: Gary Brown, Erin Bean, Karen Morningstar.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Chairman noted the additions to the agenda with all members present accepting.

*Minutes of March 12, 2009 Board Meeting:* Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mr. Stout to accept the minutes of the March 12<sup>th</sup> Board meeting with corrections. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** none.

**BROWER CONCESSIONIARRE – Stacey Stilson:** was moved ahead on the agenda. Stacey's proposal of constructing a concession shed (which can be removed from the park in the off season) was reviewed by the Board. The placement of the shed by the Marina Bathhouse was discussed along with providing hardwired electric to the building for her cooler for pop and a small freezer for ice cream and frozen packaged foods. Stacey proposed to operate the stand from 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. and has liability insurance of \$500,000 and \$100,000 for property damage. Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mr. Jefths to have the Superintendent and Asst. Superintendent work out the details along with a written, signed agreement on reimbursement for the electrical costs with the contract being for a trial period of one year and to ensure receipt of proof of insurance. Motion carried.

**REPORTS AND UPDATES:**

**Brower, Tubbs & Haymarsh Opening:** Superintendent reported of the opening all three parks. In 2008 we had 53 seasonals – 2009 proves to be a promising season with 55 total seasonals (four of which signed up for the new prime seasonal sites!). The new camping registration computer program – Campground Master is up and running, has a few bugs to work out, but overall going good.

**Parks Scheduled to Open:** Superintendent stated School Section, Merrill and Paris all open at 8:00 a.m. on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Staff has been busy dealing with a couple of issues including broken water lines.

**Grand Rapids RV shows:** Board reviewed a written report from the Superintendent regarding the show along with verbal comments heard at the show.

**Beachview Lodge Update:** Mr. Stout had nothing to report at this time. The concession stand will operate out of the building this year due to the arrival of the 2009 camping season.

**Front Pond Update:** Mr. Stout reported construction will commence on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.

**County Maps:** Asst. Superintendent reported Kerkstra had indeed placed an ad bringing the total ad sales to \$1175.00 therefore resulting in MCPC's expense of around \$3000 to print the 10,000 maps needed (approx. a two year supply), the advertising budget has \$5000 currently. This cost is still less than we paid last year in conjunction with the CVB. Mr. Cookingham will speak with Voelker tomorrow and Mr. Stout will contact Rod Carlson Masonry to see if they wish to advertise. Chairman stated we are moving in the right direction under our own jurisdiction. Mr. Jefts moved, seconded by Mr. Cookingham to cover the cost of printing 10,000 maps less the advertising. Motion carried.

**Merrill Restrooms:** As discussed last month, the Asst. Maintenance Foreman will begin installing the FRP board on the restroom stalls Tuesday or Wednesday of next week. The plywood will be screwed to the wall and the FRP board will be glued to the plywood.

**Grant Possibilities:** Superintendent discussed the grants have all been submitted and not much has come back yet.

**Youth Workers:** Superintendent was happy to report the strong possibility of this program blooming to success. The original program as proposed by John Calabrese of Michigan Works did not quite fit with what the Superintendent had envisioned, so the Superintendent proposed giving these youths a variety of experience vs. simple training. The age range for this program is 16-24 years of age. Mr. Wayer suggested to not forget about the Community Correction program.

**Admin Office Closing:** at noon tomorrow due to the holiday.

**Incident/Accident Reports:** - one was reviewed. Superintendent will have a copy of the report for the full board next month. Any serious reports will go before the board.

**Boat Rentals:** Superintendent has performed the preliminary research on this revenue potential project and requested to have a Rules & Regulations Committee meeting to hammer out the details. Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mr. Jefts to refer this discussion to the Rules and Regulations Committee. Motion carried. Mrs. Howard asked to have staff provide insurance information, liability including Risk Managements paperwork and information from other parks that offer boat rentals before the meeting.

**Annual Vehicle Stickers:** Superintendent requested to allow the fulltime staff to receive stickers on hang tags like the board members. Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mr. Stout to allow the fulltime staff to receive hang tag stickers, provided they are used by the staff (not their friends and family) and the hang tags will have a photo of the employee placed on the back of the hang tag. Motion carried.

**Museum Artifacts:** Mr. Cookingham reported he is still trying to contact Mr. Karberle and will keep trying.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** none

## FINANCIAL:

*Adjustments:* Superintendent reviewed the Revenue vs. Expenses report. No adjustments were needed.

*Bills:* Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mr. Jefts to allow the transfer of funds from 116 to the 110 account for the payment of bills, including the customary and ordinary bills. Motion carried.

*Financial Report:* was given.

*Set Asides:* indicated no change.

*Request to Purchase Paint/Stain:* Superintendent asked to purchase \$733 worth of paint/stain for the cabins and requested direction on routine purchases over \$500. Chairman stated this board wants to take action on non routine purchases only and the Superintendent has the authority to purchase maintenance items.

*Reservation Program Purchase Request:* Asst. Superintendent requested to purchase 5 Epson Receipt Printers and 5 Logic Control Electronic Cash Drawers for the parks. It was discovered our current cash registers are not compatible with the computer program. These machines could be offered at the County Auction and to the Concession vendors. Mr. Jefts moved, seconded by Mr. Cookingham to allow the purchase as requested in the amount of \$1579.95. Motion carried.

*Projector Purchase Request:* Superintendent requested to purchase a Toshiba Projector to be used for training, PowerPoint presentations, Board meetings and movies at School Section Lake Veterans Park. Mr. Cookingham suggested looking at Staples and checking the price of replacement bulbs. This topic was tabled until the Superintendent can do more research.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

## OTHER BUSINESS:

*Hiking Trail on Consumers Property:* was presented for informational purposes. Mr. Stout found the information to be upsetting. The Supervisor of Big Prairie Township is heading up the proposed trail. Further information is needed.

*Midwest Watercross Tour:* is proposing to have a jet ski racing event at Brower Park in August. This event would be like the Hydroplane Boat races that take place in the fall. They have a sponsor for the event – Stanwood Motor Sports. Chairman commented the proposal reviewed looks hardcore and scary and this is not family camping. Mr. Cookingham stated the power boats are not either. Discussion of the State Police presence in the park during these events followed. After much discussion, Mr. Jefts moved, seconded by Mr. Nichols to refer this matter to the Rules and Regulations Committee. Motion carried. Additional discussion took place on police patrol in the park. Mr. Nichols stated having a Sheriff member in the park is difficult on the individual and their family all summer long and suggested rotating them every

week. Mr. Wayer stated the liability falls on the individual officer if they are not being paid overtime. Mr. Cookingham stated an intermittent drive through the park is good. Applying for grant money to provide overtime pay for these officers who could actually be scheduled to be in the parks would be worth setting up. Superintendent was encouraged to work with Commander Nerbonne to try to obtain grant money.

*Next Meeting:* Is scheduled for May 14, 2009 @ Tubbs Lake State Forest Campground. This meeting will commence at 6:00 p.m. Bring your jackets and mosquito repellent.

*Rules & Regulations Committee Meeting:* was scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00 p.m. Executive Secretary will confirm meeting date and time with Mrs. Strong in the morning.

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Fitzgerald  
Secretary