

MECOSTA COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

April 8, 2010

The April 8, 2010 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. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Howard, Mr. Jefts, Mr. Nichols, Mr. Peek, Mr. Stout, Mr. Todd, and Mr. Wayer. Members absent: Mrs. Strong. Also present: Gary Brown, Erin Bean, and Karen Morningstar.

Minutes of March 11, 2010 Board Meeting: Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to accept the minutes of the March 11th Board meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Minutes of March 15, 2010 Rules and Regulations Committee Meeting: Mr. Wayer moved, seconded by Mrs. Howard to accept the minutes of the March 15th Rules and Regulations Committee meeting as presented. Motion carried. Mr. Jefts questioned the requirement of two employees to lift any item weighing over 50 pounds. Much discussion followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: none.

REPORTS AND UPDATES:

Finance Committee Meeting: Mr. Cookingham stated the Finance Committee met at 6:00 p.m. tonight to discuss the possibility of extending the season at School Section, Paris and Merrill. The Finance Committee recommends this proposal and suggested a fee of \$200 to extend the camping season to October 23, 2010 and 75 sites are needed throughout the system to break even for the projected costs incurred. Rules and Regulations Committee will need to review the proposal and discuss matters further. . Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mr. Nichols to recommend extending the 2010 camping season for School Section, Merrill and Paris Parks until October 23, 2010, provided 75 sites register for a fee of \$200.00 per site. Motion carried unanimously. A Rules and Regulations Committee meeting will be scheduled at the end of tonight's meeting. Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mr. Todd to accept the minutes from the April 8, 2010 Finance Committee as presented. Motion carried.

Brower, Tubbs & Haymarsh are Open: Superintendent reported of the opening all three parks. Everything seems to be overall going good.

Parks Scheduled to Open: Superintendent stated School Section, Merrill and Paris all open at 8:00 a.m. on April 23rd.

Grand Rapids Ultimate Sport Show: Superintendent reported the Maintenance Foreman and himself attended the event and handed out 800 packets of information. This show was better than last year and good contacts were made. A new booth was constructed for the event.

April 29th MMAHS: The date for the bidding process to begin was changed from March to April 29th for the School House.

Front Pond Railing Update: Dave Murray – FSU Welding professor has informed the Superintendent the railing should be installed by the next Board meeting.

Boat Ramp - SS: Superintendent met with Ron Monroe of the DNRE on Monday, who is very knowledgeable on boat ramps. Elevations and measurements were recorded. Superintendent suggested having the Masterplan Committee take a further look at this project.

Boat Rental Financial Status: Superintendent suggested the Board look over the boat information for the next months meeting. This item will be added to the next agenda.

Merrill Fishing Dock: Superintendent reported the grant was submitted to the Fremont Area Community Foundation, who rejected it due to the area of location. The Fremont Area Community Foundation forwarded the application to the Mecosta County Community Foundation who had a different deadline of April 1st and we should have an answer at the end of this month or the beginning of next month.

Davis Bridge Erosion Control: Superintendent suggested to have the Masterplan Committee take a look at this project. Mrs. Howard would rather move forward to ensure completion before Memorial Day. Superintendent was asked if the plans are already approved by the DNRE? Superintendent stated not yet. The original plans were steered away from during the construction of the park due to the problems rip rap causes fisherman. Mrs. Howard moved, seconded by Mr. Wayer to have the Superintendent proceed with erosion control methods as the Superintendent sees fit in conjunction with the DNRE and all parties involved and to make every effort and intent to have the project completed before Memorial Day. Motion carried unanimously.

Hope Network: Superintendent asked if the Board was interested in continuing with the program for Paris and Merrill parks. Hope Network has not been forthcoming on information. No funds have been received, yet a check has been promised. Mr. Wayer asked what was anticipated for revenue. Superintendent stated he would like to see around \$150 for the cost of electric. Chairman would like to see 7up or Hope Network provide financial statements before we agree to anything for this year. Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to give Hope Network one week to supply MCPC with the information requested and a check. Motion carried unanimously.

Incident/Accident Reports: -none.

CORRESPONDENCE: a letter from Mr. Tim Gill was reviewed. Mr. Gill is requesting the Board to change the eviction policy to better protect the staff and guests of Brower Park. Rules and Regulations will look into this matter.

Mr. Bob Patterson requested permission to reserve the Stage area of Paris Park and to be allowed to serve beer and wine at his event. Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mr. Wayer to continue with current policy. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL:

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

Bills: Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mr. Todd 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. Mr. Cookingham commented on the four checks that were voided due to a printer jam.

Financial Report: Executive Secretary gave the Financial Report.

Set Asides: indicated no change.

Stump Grinding Update: Superintendent informed the Board Brower is 100% complete. Merrill follows at 80% with School Section bringing up the rear at 65%. All stumps are on track for completion by April 15th.

Gator Bids: Three bids were received, two for \$6070.00; however another bid from Weingartz of Cedar Springs came in for \$5793.00. The additional parts needed were bid for \$614.00 from Voelker and \$681.00 from Weingartz. Voelker has also inspected the Gator we wish to trade in and offered \$1695.00 for this trade in. Weingartz has not inspected the trade in. Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to contact Weingartz regarding the trade in value and if their bottom line is less than Voelker to go with the low bid, otherwise bring this issue back to the Board. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Lake Weed Control @ Merrill: Norm Zion of Aquatic Nuisance Control was contacted and we were given a price of \$3200 to treat the swim area. Asst. Superintendent stated Norm Zion plans on treating mid June. Research has shown other possible ways to control weeds. Mrs. Fitzgerald stated we do not have enough information. Mechanical harvesting can still be done without a permit. Superintendent was directed to bring more information back to the Board.

DVD by Ray Pointer: was viewed.

Next Meeting: Is scheduled for May 13, 2010 @ the Administrative Office with a Picnic from 6:00-7:00.

Rules & Regulations Committee Meeting: Mr. Wayer moved, seconded by Mr. Jefts to add drawings and plans for any enabling patio up to 8'X20' are to be approved by the Superintendent to the rules to be approved by the County Commission. Chairman stated 8'X20' is very large. Motion carried unanimously. Superintendent will check with other parks and get back with the Board.

Mooring Posts – Mr. Wayer moved, seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald, to reserve closest 75% of the mooring posts from the beach to the cabins at School Section Lake Veteran's Park for camping guests and the other 25% will be available for first come, first serve and to post the area with signage. Motion carried unanimously.

35#-50# Weight Lifting Limit: Mr. Wayer moved, seconded by Mr. Stout to establish all employees be able to lift at least 35# and anything 50# or more, requiring two people. Motion carried (Fitzgerald, Howard, Nichols, Stout and Wayer affirm with Cookingham, Jefts and Todd opposing.) Mr. Jefts inquired about the County's guidelines regarding lifting and was informed the County has no policy in place.

Masterplan Committee Meeting Date & Time: Issues for the boat ramp, fishing dock needs to be discussed. Mrs. Fitzgerald will schedule a meeting the last week of April and notify the members and staff.

Rules and Regulations Committee Meeting: was scheduled for April 27th @ 2:00 pm. Executive Secretary will notify Mrs. Strong.

Discover Mecosta County Magazine: was made available to anyone who wanted a copy.

Superintendent commented the key to business is to keep campers happy and the majority of them have informed him they love what we are doing.

Mrs. Howard stated the County of Mecosta has approved funds for the "Pure Michigan" campaign. Parts of this add will be about the Mecosta County Parks.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Fitzgerald
Secretary