

# MECOSTA COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

July 9, 2009

The July 9, 2009 meeting was called to order by the Vice Chairman at the Shelter Building in Paris, MI at 7:00 p.m. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Howard, Mr. Jefts, Mr. Nichols, Mr. Stout, Mrs. Strong, Mr. Todd and Mr. Wayer. MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Cookingham, Mrs. Fitzgerald and Mr. Peek. Also present: Gary Brown, Karen Morningstar, Kelly Rodgers (Brower Manager) and Mike Cousineau (Paris Asst. Manager).

**Minutes:** June 11, 2009 Board Meeting: Mr. Nichols moved, seconded by Mr. Todd to accept the minutes of the June 11, 2009 Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** Don Kermeen - had concerns regarding the lighting in Paris Park. Mr. Kermeen suggested installing an additional mercury light in the center of the park. Mr. Wayer asked if Mr. Kermeen had brought this matter to the attention of the Park Manager or the Superintendent before tonight's meeting. Mr. Kermeen replied no. Superintendent thanked Mr. Kermeen for his comment and he will look into the matter.

**Beverly & Mel Ryan:** stated they are pleased for the most part. The staff is congenial, helpful and the grounds are wonderfully kept, however, the drinking fountain is not working and there is a leak in the ladies bathroom. Mrs. Ryan also reminded the Board of entertainment being brought into the park years ago and she would like to see it return. Superintendent thanked Mrs. Ryan for the comments and apologized for the leak in the bathroom as it was never brought to his attention. As far as the events, the Superintendent commented his objective is to concentrate on the grounds of Paris Park this year and as finances allow, other items will be considered. MCPC has hired a fulltime manager at School Section Lake Park who will focus this winter on scheduling events for Paris Park. At this time the Superintendent mentioned the volunteer efforts of Don & Carla Kermeen along with Karen Bacon, who have helped a lot in the park. Superintendent stated brining was cancelled for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend due to all of the rain received and this will be re-scheduled in the future.

**Reports and Updates:** 4<sup>th</sup> of July Weekend: An occupancy comparison spreadsheet of 08/09 was distributed and reviewed.

**Goose Removal – Brower Park:** Superintendent reported a total of 53 geese were removed from Brower Park on June 24<sup>th</sup> and taken to Reedsburg Dam near Houghton Lake. Superintendent reported he is working with the DNR to band the geese next year to see if any return.

**Boat Rentals:** The boat rental program started July 3<sup>rd</sup> at School Section Lake Veteran's Park. \$13,710.32 of the \$15,000 budget has already been spent and we still have a few outstanding bills such as life jackets. We were off to a slow start, however, we have faith as rentals brought in \$250 over the 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Vending Machines:** as approved at last months meeting, the machines have been installed and Hope Network is doing a good job. The machines are being used, guests appreciate them and all is going good.

**Incident/Accident:** 8 reports were reviewed. Superintendent briefed the Board on one additional incident at Brower Park involving three men smoking marijuana, being caught in the act by a State Policeman (who was camping in the Park), who just happened to be the head of the narcotics unit in Lansing. Evidence was obtained and the individuals were apprehended and escorted to jail by Karen Hart of the Mecosta County Sheriff Department.

Mrs. Strong questioned if tubes and canoes were charged to use the launch at Paris Park. Superintendent stated guest may park in the outer parking lot for free and walk in the park for free, however, the cost to launch a tube is 50¢ and a canoe costs \$1.

**Correspondence:** Two emails were reviewed – 6/30 – Abbott and 7/5 Krombeen. Superintendent also commented on the stinky water (as reported last month at Brower) was found to be coming from the guests camping unit – the filter needed to be changed.

**Financial:** *Revenue vs. Expenses:* were reviewed.

*Adjustments:* none.

*Approval of Bills:* Mr. Todd moved, seconded by Mrs. Howard, 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.

The Executive Secretary gave the financial report.

*Set Aside Accounts:* were reviewed reflecting no change.

***Public Comment.*** Don Kermeen stated Paris Park is the prettiest park in the system. Ron, Mike, Mel and Steve all do a good job. Mel shows ownership, which is nice to see and she explains the rules and these are the reasons why they came here to camp.

Mr. Todd stated his wife puts on musicals and she can play any instrument. Superintendent stated he is willing to try anything once. Mr. Peek also has an interest in instruments and the dulcimer fest. The public was asked if they'd like to see something like this and their comment was "bring it on". Superintendent stated a potluck has taken place with the staff and the seasonals in Paris Park. The Superintendent stated he has asked a lot more out of the entire staff this year.

***Other Business:***

*Riding in Boats:* Superintendent presented the policy as written to be reviewed by the Board and asked if a Rules and Regulations Committee meeting should take place as this subject was brought up last month. Mr. Nichols felt riding the back of boats was against the law, the same as riding in the back of pickup trucks. Executive Secretary was directed to email the policy to Mr. Nichols in the morning and he will check the legality of this matter.

*Farmers Market:* Paris Park management has taken a hold of this project. Superintendent was in contact with: MSU Extension office, Mecosta County Health Department and the Department of Agriculture. The market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. in the front parking lot area. The first market was held last Saturday and had a total of two vendors who were charged \$10 each and the word of mouth is spreading like wildfire.

*Report on Assistant Superintendent:* Superintendent reported the Assistant Superintendent's absence is due to her boyfriend's surgery on his gallbladder. She asked the Superintendent to convey her deepest apologies.

*Superintendent's 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Celebration:* Superintendent was congratulated and presented with a certificate of achievement and everyone enjoyed a cake specially prepared for him by the Brower Manager.

*Next Meeting Date:* is August 13, 2009 at Merrill Lake Park.

***Adjournment:*** Mr. Todd moved, seconded by Mrs. Strong to adjourn at 7:54 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Fitzgerald  
Secretary