

MECOSTA COUNTY PARK COMMISSION  
July 8, 2010

The July 8, 2010 meeting was called to order by the Chairman at the Shelter Building in Paris, MI at 7:00 p.m. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Cookingham, Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Howard, Mr. Nichols, Mr. Peek, Mr. Stout, Mrs. Strong, and Mr. Todd. MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Jeffs and Mr. Wayer. Also present: Gary Brown, Erin Bean, Karen Morningstar, Mike Cousineau (Paris Asst. Manager) and members of the public.

*Minutes* June 10, 2010 Board Meeting: Mrs. Strong moved, seconded by Mr. Cookingham to accept the minutes of the June 10, 2010 Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried.

**Email from Jeff Thompkins of Big Dog BBQ:** Superintendent stated some of the list of requests have already been accomplished, such as, signage (provided by Mr. Thompkins), trash cans, the request for facebook – a link has been provided on the website.

**Public Comment:** Frank Spica – stated the trash in the park has been picked up quite a bit and the speeding in Brower Park has toned way down. Boat trailers are no longer allowed to be parked in the overflow area by the train. This causes a safety concern having empty trailers parked on lots and he would like the Board to re-consider. There are no lights in the large launch area and Mr. Spica would like to see a solar light(s) installed

**Reports and Updates:** *4<sup>th</sup> of July Weekend:* An occupancy comparison spreadsheet of 09/10 was distributed and reviewed.

*Goose Removal – Brower Park:* Superintendent reported on the changes of goose removal from last year. A total of 42 geese were removed from Brower.

*Boat Rentals:* Assistant Superintendent distributed and reviewed with the Board a spreadsheet detailing the Boat rental comparison of 2009 and to date 2010

*Extended Season Totals:* Assistant Superintendent presented a spreadsheet detailing a total of 12 guests signed up for the extended season. Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mrs. Strong to not extend the season in light of the numbers that signed up and to refund the deposits. Motion carried.

*Brower Seasonal Review:* Superintendent stated a recommendation from the Rules and Regulations Committee is needed for the August Board meeting.

*Merrill Dock:* Superintendent stated we are waiting for the permit. Nancy Cuncannan of the DNRE inspected the area last Tuesday. Chairman stated the Park Commission will not proceed until we have the permit.

*Incident/Accident:* 7 reports were reviewed. Superintendent discussed with the Board on one incident at Brower Park involving an angry/irate camper. Superintendent directed staff to

handle the incident. Superintendent was directed to take action if necessary, follow up and bring this matter back to the Board next month.

**Correspondence:** One comment card was reviewed.

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

*Adjustments:* Executive Secretary informed the Board of three accounts needing adjustment: 744-\$343.54, 750-\$24 and 783-\$857.61. Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mr. Nichols to transfer \$1225.15 from Contingency to cover the line items as detailed. Motion carried. Mrs. Fitzgerald requested to have the overages for the accounts written out and explained better from now on.

*Approval of Bills:* Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald, 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 the Board approved change.

*Extended Season:* was handled earlier in the meeting.

**Public Comment. Guy White:** Mr. White stated, but would rather see the Board make this decision in July or August for next year to give seasonals time to make their plans. Mr. White would rather see Paris Park open two weeks early in April and close 2 weeks later in the fall. Mr. White stated the extended season option may need to be run for a couple of years before it gets rolling.

#### ***Other Business:***

*Meeting with the County Administrator:* Chairman informed the Board of an upcoming meeting on July 20<sup>th</sup>, scheduled between the County Administrator, Kevin Courtney (County Commissioner), Chairman of the Park Board and the Superintendent regarding the relationship between the County Commission and the Parks Commission .

*Rise and Shine:* Superintendent informed the Board of the Rise and Shine is taking place on July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 a.m. set up for members of the Chamber of Commerce. This will help us to explain who we are, what we do, and show off what we have.

*Fishing Tournament:* Superintendent reported of the Hooking up Heroes fishing tournament taking place at Newagy State Park on the Hardy Pond. This tournament will help handicap veterans know what it is like to fish in a tournament. All proceeds will go to the brain injury association. Superintendent has been assisting Ron Monroe of the DNRE with a partnership for this tournament.

*School Section Logging Project:* Mr. Stout stated the project is at a standstill and wanted to know if we were going to proceed with the primitive campground. Mrs. Howard stated she attended

the School Section Lake Property Owners meeting and commented they were very appreciative of the donation for fish from the Mecosta County Park Commission, however, they are not overly concerned with the primitive campsites planned for School Section, they just want to be informed

*Finance Committee Meeting:* was tentatively set for July 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 2 p.m.

*Rules & Regulations Committee Meeting:* was tentatively scheduled for July 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 1 p.m.

*Masterplan Committee Meeting:* was scheduled for July 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 2:30 p.m.

*Next Meeting Date:* is August 12, 2010 at Merrill Lake Park.

*Adjournment:* Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mrs. Strong to adjourn at 8:12 p.m.  
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Fitzgerald  
Secretary