

MECOSTA COUNTY PARK COMMISSION
September 10, 2009

The September 10, 2009 meeting was held at the Picnic Grove Shelter in Mecosta, MI. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Cookingham, Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Howard (arrived at 7:06 pm), Mr. Peek, Mr. Stout, Mrs. Strong, Mr. Todd and Mr. Wayer. MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Jeffs and Mr. Nichols. Also present: Gary Brown, Erin Bean.

MINUTES

Minutes of the August 13, 2009 Board meeting: Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mrs. Strong to accept the minutes of the August 13, 2009 board meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Minutes of the August 20, 2009 Finance Committee Meeting: Mr Cookingham moved, seconded by Mrs. Strong to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2009 Finance Committee Meeting as presented and to discuss the recommendations when scheduled later on the agenda. Motion carried.

Minutes of the August 26, 2009 Masterplan Committee Meeting: Mrs. Fitzgerald moved, seconded by Mrs. Strong to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2009 Masterplan Committee meeting as presented. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Roger Showalter discussed the ban on firewood and explained his frustration that swings had not been replaced as had been promised.

Mary Hovey discussed frustration with the parks choosing to cut down trees and limbs upon opening day of the season.

Sharon Philip discussed the problems with the weeds at Gorrel Lake's Beach.

Julie Green complimented Laura Odette and Tim Schroeder on a great season and also questioned responsibilities of the Night Ranger.

Frank Spica commended the Brower Park staff and provided suggestions for better communicating Art Barn activities. Mr. Spica also commented on the number of speeders in the campgrounds and thanked the Board for positive changes at Brower Park.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Labor Day Weekend Update: Campsites Occupied for Labor Day weekend were presented by the Superintendent and reviewed by the Board.

RAP Grant Award: Superintendent reviewed letter from Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority informing the Park Commission of the award of \$1557.00 for the safety boat purchase.

Steve Perialas Property/Card's Nest: Mr. Perialas requested that the Park Commission pay ½ of the fee to register the Mutual Agreement Lease at the Register of Deed's office. Mrs. Strong moved, seconded by Mr. Cookingham to decline payment for ½ of the fee at the Register of Deed's office. Discussion followed. Motion carried with a vote of 5 yeas, 3 nays.

Incident/Accident Reports: Incident Accident Reports were reviewed. Discussion followed regarding one report, which occurred at School Section Lake Veteran's Park. Superintendent was directed to send a letter and take a firm stand explaining that any future obscene behavior will result in eviction from the park system.

CORRESPONDENCE - none

FINANCIAL

Revenue vs. Expenses: Superintendent reviewed the Revenue vs. Expenses Report.

Adjustments: Superintendent requested to transfer \$7,079.14 from Contingency to cover line items 727, 747, 748, 751, 780, 835 and 958. After review and discussion, Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mr. Todd to transfer \$7,079.14 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 approval of the customary and ordinary bills. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Financial Report: The Assistant Superintendent gave the financial report.

2010 Rates: Mrs. Fitzgerald moved, seconded by Mr. Cookingham to approve a recommendation from the Finance Committee to extend current rates through the 2010 season for Seasonal Camping, Family Group Camp and Picnic Reservations. Nightly camping will increase \$1.00 at Brower, School Section, Merrill and Paris Parks. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Peg Zuidersma discussed the need for more adequate restroom facilities and the need for soap in the restrooms.

Mr. Philip informed the Park Commission of a stump that he would like to have removed on Lot 108 at Gorrel Lake.

Mr. Showalter questioned the Park Commission's decision to spend money on boat rentals.

OTHER BUSINESS

Campfire in a Bag: A request was made to sell clean cedar made with scraps from the production of log furniture. The request was discussed. Mr. Todd moved, seconded by Mrs. Strong to have the Superintendent complete more research and report the information at the October Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously by role call vote.

Rules and Regulations Committee: A Rules and Regulations Committee Meeting was set for Friday, September 18th at 2:00 pm.

Finance Committee: A Finance Committee Meeting was set for Thursday, September 17th at 3:00 pm.

Year-End Dinner: An announcement was made regarding our Annual Year-End Manager Appreciation Dinner, which will take place on Wednesday at the Family Group Camp.

Brower Park Seasonal Lottery: Mr. Cookingham, Mr. Peek and Mr. Stout volunteered to attend the Brower Park Seasonal Lottery on Saturday, September 26th

Per Diem donation to Merrill Lake Memorial Fishing Dock: The Park Commission discussed the possibility of donating a per diem to the project at Merrill Lake Park. It was decided each Board Member could volunteer a contribution if they so choose.

Portable Hot Tub use at Brower Park: Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mr. Stout to eliminate the use of the portable hot tub at Brower Park. Motion carried unanimously by role call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Cookingham moved, seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 pm.