

MECOSTA COUNTY PARK COMMISSION
September 20, 2011

The September 20, 2011 meeting was held at the Family Group Camp within School Section Lake Veteran's Park in Mecosta, MI. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mr. Molnar, Mr. Norton, Dr. Perialas, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Stout, Mr. O'Neil, Mr. Vogel and Mr. Wheeler. MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Jeffs. Also present: Gary Brown, Erin Bean, Karen Morningstar and various members of the public.

MINUTES

Minutes of the August 16, 2011 Board meeting: Dr. Perialas moved, seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to accept the minutes of the August 16, 2011 board meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Minutes of the August 23, 2011 Finance Committee Meeting, August 26, 2011 Masterplan Committee Meeting, August 26, 2011 Finance Committee Meeting, September 1, 2011 Finance Committee Meeting and September 7, 2011 Rules and Regulations Committee Meetings: Mr. Stanek moved, seconded by Mr. Vogel to approve the minutes of August 23, 2011 Finance Committee Meeting, August 26, 2011 Masterplan Committee Meeting, August 26, 2011 Finance Committee Meeting, September 1, 2011 Finance Committee Meeting and September 7, 2011 Rules and Regulations Committee Meetings as presented. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marybeth St. Onge-Beemer wished to discuss the \$300 increase to the Full Hook Up Sites at Paris Park. Marybeth St. Onge-Beemer acknowledged even with the increase – this is still a great deal, she understands the reasons for the increase. The group she represents would like to see some trees and limbs cut to make some sites more usable and increase television reception. Marybeth further added a lack of communication is taking place between the Commission, visitors, Administration and the Paris Park Manager. It was requested to have the meeting dates, times and locations posted at the parks. At this time the paperwork for the Paris Park Concerns was reviewed.

Terry Locke requested to have the bathrooms painted and a season vehicle sticker included with the seasonal camper rates. Mr. Locke also stated he was having electrical issues and requested training for the Maintenance personnel.

Marybeth St. Onge-Beemer added for a \$300 increase, the guests should get something for it – trees cut, grass and the bathrooms painted.

Mr. Stanek stated he has walked through Paris and has seen the concerns. This Board will work to take care of guests.

Elaine Grace camps at School Section and thanked the Board for the sand delivered to Brower and cautioned an area where the sand under the sidewalk is washing out. School Section also needs sand.

Kathy Bowman expressed concern with cigarette butts on the beach at School Section and requested to ban smoking on the beach or add receptacles. Chairman stated he would donate clay tiles that could be filled with sand. Legislation is currently pending on banning smoking in State Parks.

Dr. Perialas alerted the Board with the passing of the new ORV law in Mecosta County, this could affect the Parks in the future and we need to check into this matter.

Terry Locke asked if the Board has ever considered charging a \$100 fee to guests to leave their camping units in the park over the winter. Superintendent will investigate this issue with the insurance company.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

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

Parks to Close on 9/25: Superintendent reported School Section, Merrill and Paris Parks were scheduled to close on September 25, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. Brower will close on October 23, 2011.

Incident/Accident Reports: 18 Incident Accident Reports were reviewed. Superintendent added theft has been a big issue this year.

Basketball Court at Merrill Update: The Basketball Court has been installed and was heavily used over Labor Day weekend.

Hand Soap in Restrooms Update: Dispensers were installed and used for the Labor Day weekend. Only one issue of finding soap being dispensed on the floor without incident occurred. Park staff requested to have dispensers installed in the back of the restrooms and Park Offices.

Ben Green requested to have more than one hand dryer installed at School Section.

CORRESPONDENCE

Two letters regarding the seasonal sites at Brower (Bakhuyzen and Abbott) were reviewed. One letter complementing the staff of Brower Park (Bakale) and a thank you note from Jerrilyn Strong for the flowers for the mother's funeral were also reviewed.

FINANCIAL

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

Adjustments: Mindy Saxton (County Finance Officer) requested to amend the Budget to clean up several accounts. Mr. Stanek moved, seconded by Mr. Vogel to adjust the Budget the 2011 Budget as requested. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Approval of Bills: Mr. Wheeler moved, seconded by Dr. Perialas for the transfer of funds (to cover Accounts Payable from the 508 account at the and for the approval of the bills including customary and ordinary bills. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Financial Report: The Executive Secretary gave the financial report.

Bid Out Engineer: Chairman stated a spec sheet needs to be devised for the Bathhouse at School Section Lake Park adding 10 showers with a breezeway and re-model of the existing building. Mr. Wheeler moved, seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to prepare a spec sheet for the engineers. Motion carried. Superintendent informed the members present of the County Purchasing Policy.

2012 Budget Package: Mr. Stanek reviewed the entire package with the full Board. Fulltime staff wages were proposed to increase 1%. Capital Improvements were also reviewed. Mrs. Fitzgerald moved, seconded by Mr. Wheeler to approve the 2012 Budget Package as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Barb Ruter stated Paris Park is the only campground next to the White Pine Trail and suggested to advertise with the Trail and offer group campsites at Paris. Chairman stated a new Marketing Committee will be established tonight and this topic will be referred to them.

Dave Lange requested to have the quiet time begin at 11:00 p.m. vs. 10:00 p.m. for Friday and Saturday nights. Mr. Lange further added two staff needs to be on duty on Friday and Saturday nights. Superintendent stated this issue has already been addressed.

Fran Locke requested updated rules and to bring back fishing in Paris Ponds.

Assistant Superintendent requested to put the Rules on the Website. Mr. Vogel moved, seconded by Mr. Molnar to allow the staff to put the Rules and Regulations on the Website. Motion carried.

Kathy Bowman asked if the Tongues to the Road policy is going to be abolished. Chairman stated the change will go before the County Commission for the 2012 season.

OTHER BUSINESS

Masterplan Committee Meeting: was scheduled for September 29, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.

Union Committee Meeting: will be scheduled when Mr. Jefts returns from vacation.

Paris Seasonal Concerns: was addressed earlier in the meeting.

Outside Refrigeration Policy: was reviewed by Mr. Vogel as follows:

All outside refrigeration equipment must be in proper working condition. Outside refrigeration equipment must be no larger than 5.5 cubic feet and not to exceed 36" in height. No more than two outside refrigeration devices per lot will be allowed. Outside refrigeration equipment includes, but is not limited to: electric pop coolers, refrigerators, freezers, ice makers and electric coolers. Dr. Perialas moved, seconded by Mr. Stanek to recommend to the County Commission the Rule as presented. Motion carried.

Warning/Eviction Letters: Superintendent explained the difference in the letters and added the letters would not be handed out without the approval of himself or the Assistant Superintendent. Mr. Stanek moved, seconded by Mr. Molnar to approve the letters as drafted. Motion carried. Dr. Perialas requested to have the incident report attached to the letter and to also send a copy to the County Commission and County Controller.

Brower Park Seasonal Lottery: Board members were informed of the Brower Park Seasonal Lottery which will take place on Saturday, September 24th at 9:00 a.m. Changing of seasonal sites was discussed; the Commission members will look into different options for next year.

Artworks Proposal: Superintendent informed the Board of a proposal from Artworks to advertise and perform demonstrations in the parks. Superintendent requested further information. Mr. Wheeler stated he received a letter from Artworks requesting to place a flyer on our bulletin boards. The new Marketing Committee will also take a look at this subject.

Marketing Committee: Members were established by the Chairman as: Dr. Perialas-Chairman, Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Stanek and Mr. Molnar. A meeting date for the Marketing Committee will be added to the October Agenda.

Year-End Dinner: An announcement was made regarding our Annual Year-End Staff Appreciation Dinner, which will take place on Wednesday, September 28th at the Family Group Camp. Social hour begins at 6:00 p.m. with the dinner following at 7:00 p.m. Mr. O'Neil questioned going out of County to purchase steaks. Executive Secretary informed the Board, Birds was the low quote on steaks of the 6 vendors contacted. It was suggested to also contact Hometown Market in Barryton, Denslows Market and Fates for additional pricing.

Internet: Mr. Molnar asked if Paris Park had internet yet. Superintendent stated Mr. Bob Baldwin suffered a heart attack and this project is on hold for awhile.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Fitzgerald
Secretary