

MECOSTA COUNTY PARK COMMISSION  
March 15, 2016

The March, 2016 meeting was called to order by the Chairman at the Mecosta County Administration Building in Paris, Michigan, at 6:00 p.m. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Vargo, Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mr. Maxwell, Mr. O'Neil, Mr. Peralas, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Stratton, Mr. Vogel, MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Johnson and Mr. Wheeler  
Also present: Jeff Abel – Superintendent, Karen Morningstar – Operations Manager, Kathy Maclean – Administrative Clerk and Don Hamilton of Lapham Associates.

## Roll Call

### Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Stanek moved, seconded by Mr. Vogel to approve the Agenda with two recommended additions. Motion carried.

### Minutes:

Mr. O'Neil motioned, seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to approve the minutes of the February 23rd Board Meeting, February 26<sup>th</sup> Millage Committee Meeting and March 4<sup>th</sup> Millage Meeting as presented. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** Jim Chapman, representative from Boy Scout Troup 114 shared his concern with the Boy Scout lock being cut at the WPVRA. Board requested the Troup look at the cabin roof and provide a plan of improvement. Mr. Chapman discussed possible removal of the wood shed. Mr. Chapman provided a verbal history of the land as being designated to the youth of Mecosta County. The Scouts would like to continue to use the land as described. History was discussed regarding The County Board of Supervisors allocation of the land. Building code regarding the cabin was questioned regarding the safety and condition of the structure. Aaron & Michele from the County Building and Zoning department were recommended to analyze the structure. Mr. Chapman stated the Scouts use the property around 12 times a year and that it is open to any youth organization if approval from the Park Commission is obtained.

## Reports & Updates

### Superintendent's Updates

#### *Current Projects Status:*

Roof Replacement Project  
School Section Bathhouse Update  
Brower & Davis Bridge update from Consumer  
DNR Release of Buildings Update  
Itinio-Reservation Software Update  
Logging Completed at SS & Brower Park  
Concessions Contracts Update  
WPVRA Timber Sale  
Website Update  
Tubing Operation Update

Wi-Fi Update

Transaction Fee Schedule Review

*New Issues:*

Big Country Auction Proposal

*Completed issues/Items:*

2016 Campground Licenses Finalized

Cabin Furniture Replacement - 65 sets of bunks and 26 dressers received from Ferris

Fire extinguisher inspection 2016 completed

Presentation-Mecosta County Development Corporation

Incident/Accident Reports: 1 Incident reported.

Correspondence: None

## Committee Actions

### *Finance*

Goose Roundup proposal reviewed. MCPC would pay the DNR fee plus company charges. The company provides the dogs, crates, on shore equipment, and personnel; MCPC to provide up to 3 boats and drivers to locate and push geese. Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mr. Vogel that we hire Goose Control of West Michigan. Motion carried with unanimous roll call vote.

### *Masterplan*

Merrill-Gorrel Grant Recommendation/Resolution - Mr. Perialas moved, seconded by Mr. Maxwell to recommend to the County Board of Commissioners to approve and submit the application for the 2016 DNR Passport Recreation Grant for Merrill-Gorrel drainage and road improvements. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

FSSLVP Update - A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow. The Superintendent will attend with various Park Board members to be provided with a project update.

Skyweb Brower-WIFI Proposal was reviewed and discussed. Mr. Stanek motioned, Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded that we approve moving forward with Skyweb and refer a fee rate schedule to the Finance Committee, pending the approval of Consumer Energy, Mecosta Township and the County Administrator. Discussion period was held. Roll call vote, Yeas - Mrs. Vargo, Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mr. Perialas and Mr. Stanek. Nays - Mr. O'Neil, Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Stratton and Mr. Wheeler. Motion denied.

### *Personnel*

Returning Staff - Spreadsheet was reviewed. 18 Positions are available for new employees.

### *Rules & Regulations*

Amendment to County Board - Item is on the March 17th County Board of Commissioners agenda for review and recommended approval.

### *Millage Committee*

Logos - millage logos were revealed

**Update - Ballot Language Masterplan Amendment** - Millage ballot language and the Amendment to the Parks Masterplan were approved during the previous meeting of the County Board of Commissioners.

**Upcoming Schedule** - Grant application requests were submitted to the County Board for review and approval of resolutions, tasks list were developed, calendar of meetings schedule is being developed.

**Additional Updates** - Hatchery building structure is sound; the formal report will be received soon. School Section conceptual engineering plan development is on-going.

**Free weekends** - The Commission discussed offering free daily vehicle entry into the parks a couple of times each season. This would allow local residents the opportunity to visit the parks and experience the amenities available. Mr. Stratton suggested establishing a cut-off time during the afternoon. Mr. Perialas motioned, Mr. Maxwell supported permitting the Superintendent, in conjunction with the Finance & Masterplan Committees, to offer 2 weekends of free daily vehicle entry. Motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

### ***Financial***

**Financial Report - Revenue & Expenses** was reviewed.

**Contractual Obligations** spreadsheet was reviewed.

**Approval of Bills** Mr. O'Neil motioned, seconded by Mr. Stanek to approve the bills, in the amounts of:

Pre-Approved: \$5501.96

Customary & Ordinary \$26038.31

Board Meeting Bills: \$4885.14

Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

**Public Comment:** None

### **Other Business:**

Administration Office closing at noon on March 25<sup>th</sup> in observation of Good Friday.

Park Open Dates: April 29<sup>th</sup> – Brower, May 6<sup>th</sup> – School Section, Merrill/Gorrel, Paris.

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for 6 PM, April 19<sup>th</sup> @ the Admin Office Building in Paris.

Finance Meeting scheduled for 5 PM, April 19<sup>th</sup> @ the Admin Office Building in Paris.

Personnel Meeting scheduled for Noon, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Masterplan Meeting TBD after April 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Meeting adjourned:** 8:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Fitzgerald  
Secretary