

## **Mecosta County Park Commission Board Meeting**

The June 20, 2017 Board Meeting of the Mecosta County Park Commission was called to order at the Administration Office in Paris, MI at 6:00 PM by Chairman O'Neil.

### **Roll Call**

Members Present: Mr. O'Neil, Mrs. O'Neal, Mr. Perialas, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Stratton, Mrs. Vargo, Mr. Vogel and Mr. Wheeler. Members Absent: Mrs. Fitzgerald and Mr. Johnson. Others Present: Jeff Abel - Superintendent and Kathy Maclean - Administrative Clerk.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Perialas motioned, seconded by Mr. Stratton to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Stratton motioned, seconded by Mrs. Vargo to approve the Minutes of the May 16th Park Board Meeting with correction. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None

### **Reports and Updates**

#### **Superintendent's Update**

The Superintendent updated the Commissioners on the progress of 11 current projects including:

**Fire Pit Grills** - Cadillac Culvert has completed and delivered 25 fire pits with grills. Mr. Stanek has verify the Wisconsin company we originally contracted with for the grills, and paid \$2615 to, is still in business. The Superintendent will follow up with the Prosecuting Attorney.

**Community Open House** - was, again, an enormous success; in addition, provided excellent publicity for the parks.

**Walleye at Paris** - 5,000 walleye have been stocked in the lower pond.

**Invasive Species Research** - The North County Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area will be touring all the parks and doing an invasive species research study. They have been given a grant to do this research and then create a plan of action on how to best deal with each invasive species within the region.

**Brower Trail Update** - TransCanada had a corporate marketing group out to Brower in early June to complete a walk, videos, a photo shoot and interview. We have proposed a new overlook location with a much bigger "WOW" factor, however the location is not on our lease. Consumers has noted that if we can collaborate with the Dragon Trail and make this overlook part of the Dragon Trail as well as a "Brower Park Overlook Trail." This will allow us to build the overlook outside of our leased area, however will be delayed until approval of the Dragon Trail is achieved.

**Incident/ Accident Reports:** Twelve reports were reviewed.

**Memorial Day Occupancy Report:** Year-over-year holiday occupancy was reviewed; every park continues to trend in a positive direction.

**Seasonal Camper Report:** Three-year history of seasonal campers in each park was reviewed; each year has seen an increase, with 25 more seasonal campers in 2017 than 2016.

**Correspondence:** None

## Committee Actions

### Finance

**Tubing Operation Status** - Trailer and supplies have been received, river signs are being completed and installed. Tubing fees need to be established and a final waiver approved. A meeting with Sawmill Canoe Livery ownership has confirmed that business is for sale and that this will be their last season of operation.

**Establishment Tubing Fees** - Mr. Stanek moved, seconded by Mrs. Vargo to accept the Superintendent's recommended tubing fees of \$10/person with tube, \$7/person for transportation to Green Township launch and \$12/person for transportation to Hersey. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

**2016 Year End Audit Report** – The 2016 county audit was completed with no remedial actions being required from the parks department. The parks new fund balance to begin the 2017 season is listed at \$715,532. This is an increase of \$107,830 from the 2015 year-end balance.

### Masterplan

**Wi-Fi Update Brower Park** - The broadcast tower from Skyweb has not yet been installed within the park. Casair has advised that they are scheduled to have a new tower available in Stanwood around September of this year, which could be a potential permanent solution for Wi-Fi signal to the park.

**Goose Round-Up** – Nine geese were removed from the Brower Park, 4 additional adults flew away, no additional babies have been seen in the park, meaning that the round-up is complete for this season.

**Ground Water Discharge Permit Renewal** – Brower Park's renewal application is in process and due by July 1<sup>st</sup>, The School Section permit is being completed by Lapham as part of the septic project, Merrill-Gorrel will be due next, followed by the Paris Park renewal application.

### Personnel

**Seasonal Staffing** - Currently the parks are fully staffed, however one Brower Park office ranger position will be opening next week.

### Rules & Regulations

**Tubing Waiver Policy** - Tubing waiver was reviewed by Commissioners. Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mrs. Vargo that the waiver be approved, pending final review by the County's Assistant Prosecuting Attorney. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

## Financial

**Financial Report - Revenue & Expenses, Cash Spreadsheet and Year to Year Comparison** - A new Year-to-Year Comparison report was presented, which compares line item balances to the prior two years for the same time period. The Park Commission members have found this very useful and request this report become a permanent addition to the financial review.

**Approval of Bills** - Mr. Stratton motioned seconded by Mr. Vogel to approve the bills in the amount of \$19,263.66, \$14,493.51, \$14,511.63 and \$13,636.49. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

**Public Comment:** Mary Leon - seasonal campers at Paris Park would like additional options to purchase vehicle entrance passes for their guests.

**Other Business:** Meet & Greet sessions to be scheduled in each of the parks.

Next Park Board Meeting is July 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM

The following Committee meetings have been scheduled:

Master Plan at 2:30 PM on July 10<sup>th</sup>

Rules & Regulations at 4:00 PM on July 10<sup>th</sup>

Finance at 4:00 PM on for July 12<sup>th</sup>

**Adjournment:** 7:15 PM