

Mecosta County Park Commission Board Meeting

The December 19th, 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 the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Stratton.

Roll Call

Members Present: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mr. Johnson, Mrs. O'Neal, Mr. Peralas, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Stratton, Mr. Vogel and Mr. Wheeler. **Members Absent:** Mr. O'Neil and Mrs. Vargo. **Others Present:** Jeff Abel – Superintendent and Erin Bean - Operations Manager.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Peralas motioned, seconded by Mr. Vogel to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve the Minutes of the November 28th Park Commission Meeting and the December 14th Rules & Regulations Committee Meeting. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Reports and Updates

Superintendent's Update -The Superintendent updated the Commission on 11 current and completed projects, including:

Haymarsh Logging Update - Has resumed with 2 crews on site. Cutting and hauling seems to be going much faster than last year. We are hopeful that they will get the project completed earlier in the spring and keep the property cleaner than last year. Time was spent with the DNR marking additional trees to be kept so that our campsites will remain more appealing through the process.

Dragon Trail Executive Committee - Last meeting was Nov. 7th at the Mecosta County Services Building. All parties seem confident that the application will be submitted to FERC in early spring with a hopeful submission date in January. Construction is to start in late 2018 or early 2019 and take 2 years to complete. The hope is to have the trail 50% funded before starting construction. A marketing campaign is ready to be put into action for funding, but the committee does not want to start seeking donations until FERC approvals have been received.

SSLVP Bathhouse Update - The underground foundation has been poured with block laid to just above ground level. If we get a thaw over the winter months they will come back to start working on the new plumbing lines and pour the flooring. If the weather stays consistently cold they will resume work in the spring.

DEQ Groundwater Waste Permit @ Paris Park - We have completed and submitted the Ground Water Discharge Application for Paris Park. We are finishing up the Public Comment period for the Brower Permit. The School Section Permit was submitted by Lapham as part of the new septic field project. The last permit we will need to apply for is Merrill-Gorrel, which will have to be done in June of 2018.

Upcoming Reservations - Reservations for Monthly Camping, Pavilions and the Family Group Camp will begin January 2nd; nightly camping reservations will be accepted starting February 1st.

Incident/ Accident Reports: None.

2017 Year End Review PowerPoint: The Superintendent's presentation included highlights of 2016-2017 including marketing strategy, park improvements, financial reports for each park, and budgeted capital projects planned for 2018.

Correspondence

A letter from Mr. Paul Bullock, Mecosta County Administrator, was reviewed which outlined a Workers Comp refund which was provided to the parks.

Committee Actions

Masterplan – School Section Bathhouse Block Construction: Three options were provided and reviewed for the exterior bathhouse block. It was determined grey block would be installed and the responsibility of painting would be determined at a later date.

Rules & Regulations – 2018 Rules and Regulations Updates: A draft of the proposed 2018 Rules and Regulations document was reviewed and discussed. Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, to update the Rules and Regulations document as presented and send the final copy to the County Board of Commissioners for review. Motion carried.

New Violation of Rules Structure: A copy of Kent County Parks Fines and Penalties structure was presented. Some rules are identified as civil infractions, which would allow tickets to be written by individuals who are not deputized. This change in the violation structure would allow fines to be identified for various infractions, and those violations would not result in a misdemeanor on a person's record. Civil infraction tickets would encourage rule compliance and would be an option of middle ground between non-compliance and eviction from the park. This option may be considered for future drafts of the rules.

Financial

Financial Report - Revenue & Expenses, Cash Spreadsheet and Year to Year Comparison - Were reviewed and discussed.

Budget Adjustments - were reviewed. Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mr. Wheeler to approve the recommended line item adjustments as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Bills - Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mr. Peralas to approve the bills in the amount of \$10,158.50 and \$6,081.28. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Public Comment: John and Carolyn Pasquantonio discussed their vision for the White Pine Valley Recreation Area, as it has now been utilized for five years. They have concern with the lack of park commission interest in the property. The Pasquantonios were grateful that the parking lot has been kept plowed, but would also like to see staff walk the property to remove downed limbs and hanging branches, as well as spend time maintaining the trails. John expressed his concerns with those who are using the park as they wish, and he would like to see more defined rules and expectations outlined for acceptable behavior.

Other Business:

Next Board Meeting is January 16th, 2018 at 6:00 PM at the Administrative Building in Paris.

Adjournment: 7:46 PM