

Mecosta County Park Commission Board Meeting

The April 18, 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 Vice Chairman Stratton.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Agenda

Hearing no objections, the agenda stands approved.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to approve the Minutes of the March 21st Park Board Meeting, and the April 10th Master Plan Committee Meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Public Comment: John Pasquantonio updated the Commission on the WPVRA's increased visitors, completion of logging, trail clean-up and a revised trail map in process.

Reports and Updates

Superintendent's Update

The Superintendent updated the Commissioners on the progress of 13 current projects including:

Brower Boat Launch - The 8' extension of the deep-water boat launch has been completed.

Radio Campaign – The countdown campaign has come to a close, finishing out with one park being highlighted each day this past week. We received a tremendous amount of airtime and positive feedback over the course of the campaign.

Cabin Electric for Brower - Remus Electric has been working on the electrical installation in the cabins and anticipate completion prior to the park's opening. In addition, Remus Electric is installing a transfer switch at the Sunny Acres Bathhouse, allowing us to switch to generator power during power outages.

Staff Training - Seasonal Staff training has begun and staff will be in the parks starting April 19th.

DNR Fisheries - The DNR has been to the ponds to fit an exit grate and install water temperature sensors. They intend to add 25 pounds of feeder minnows to both the upper and lower ponds around the Eiffel Tower soon and walleye in June.

Cook's Tree Service - has completed work in Paris and School Section Parks, as well as, removed a few trees from around the Administrative Building. They will have Merrill-Gorrel completed by the end of the week.

Incident/ Accident Reports: None.

Correspondence: None

Committee Actions

Finance

Mower Purchase - Mower quotes were reviewed. Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mr. Johnson to purchase the Gravely Mower with a mulch kit from State Street Hardware for \$6,839.20.

Discussion. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Wi-Fi Brower Park – Currently it does not appear that Wi-Fi will be available when Brower Park opens this season due to some unforeseen contractor issues. All potential options are being pursued to provide Wi-Fi in the park as soon as possible.

Wi-Fi School Section - We have received two quotes to date; both are cost prohibitive at this time. the Masterplan Committee has recommended deferring until the septic is installed with the expectation that some of the installation costs would be defrayed.

2017 Park Wood Vendors - Wood Vendor quotes were reviewed. Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mrs. Vargo to accept the lowest bid of \$40 plus a \$5 delivery fee per rick from Rob Pullman.

Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Masterplan

Paris/DNR Lease Update - The lease document will go before the County Commissioners at 3 PM on April 20th, with the expectation of approval and submission back to the DNR for final signature.

Trail Building Staff Positions - The Superintendent recommends hiring two additional seasonal staff as trail building rangers with a portion of the \$25,000 grant received for the trail. Remaining grant dollars would be dedicated to supplies, equipment and informative signage for the trail and overlook. Mrs. Vargo motioned, seconded by Mr. Vogel to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and hire two trail builders. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

School Section Septic System Update - Lapham Associates has completed 75% of the construction plans & specifications portion of our contract and 90% of the Rule 2215 permit submittal.

2017 Parks Improvement Survey Update - The survey will run until the end of April, currently 1358 total responses have been received from the email blast, Facebook post and website link.

Personnel

2017 Staff Update - 14 employees have completed training, 11 more are currently scheduled for next week's sessions, and 7 positions remain to be filled. We are receiving a few applications daily.

Financial

Financial Report - Revenue & Expenses & Cash Spreadsheet - Were reviewed and discussed.

Approval of Bills - Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald to pay the bills in the amounts of: \$4,452.33, \$23,373.89, \$17,245.94 and \$33,441.30. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Public Comment: None

Other Business: Next Board Meeting is May 16th at 6 PM.

Adjournment: 7:00 PM