

Mecosta County Park Commission Commission Meeting

The February 19, 2019 Commission Meeting of the Mecosta County Park Commission was called to order at the Administration Office in Paris, MI at 5:00 PM by the Chairman, Mr. Stratton.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mr. Perialas to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2019 Park Commission Meeting. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Gary Lough updated the Commissioners on progress toward the design and installation of a Veterans Memorial display within School Section Lake Veterans Park. The project group will be called School Section Lake Veterans Memorial Organization and they have partnered with a non-profit (Old Settlers Reunion) to begin fundraising efforts.

Reports and Updates

Superintendent's Update

The Superintendent updated the Commission on 20 current and completed projects, including:

Dragon Trail FERC Application The application is now in the public comment period until March 14th. Consumers expects a potential approval by late March or early April, if the project does not receive negative feed-back during public comment.

WPVRA The buildings and grounds committee of the County Board Of Commissioners has scheduled a walk through on April 2nd to discuss the future of the property.

Millage Proposal Update The Superintendent and Parks Chairman will be attending a County Board Finance Committee meeting on March 5th to discuss the Park Commission's request for a millage proposal on the 2020 ballot.

State of the Parks presentation will be given to the County Board of Commissioners on March 7th.

Canoe/Kayak Racks Maintenance has constructing 2 storage racks planned for installation at Merrill-Gorrel at a cost of \$200 each. The Commissioners recommend offering the use of the racks to our Merrill-Gorrel guests at no-charge.

Incident/Accident Reports: None.

Correspondence WPVRA Letter The Chairman has requested that the following letter from John and Carolyn Pasquantonio be read into the minutes:

Carolyn and I fully understand the Commissioners reasons to eliminate the White Pine Valley Recreation Area, but we are truly saddened by the decision. We would like to ask you one last favor. Please read this e-mail to the commission tonight. We planned to attend but changed our minds since we cannot bring ourselves to speak about this without being emotional.

We worked over five years to build something unique for the people of Mecosta County. It was never about numbers but always about the opportunity for people to have local access to four season recreation in a natural environment without the trade-off of motorized or equestrian conflict. There is no alternative to WPVRA anywhere close by. Please understand why we feel somewhat betrayed as do all the others who helped.

There are over six hundred trail systems in Michigan many are similar in rustic design and isolated from campgrounds or waterways. We had hoped WPVRA would be another coveted addition.

Thank you all for patiently listening to us in the past.

Our gratitude to the Pasquantonios as they have gone above what most citizens would do, and we commend them for their work.

Committee Actions

Masterplan

Dragon Trail Grants Scott Faulkner updated the Commission regarding the creation of marketing and informational pieces, grant developments/requests and support from state government toward the project. Mr. Perialas motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to enthusiastically approve the Mecosta County Park Commissions pursuit of a \$150,000 MDNR Passport Grant. Motion carried. Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom that all available funding opportunities related to this project should be pursued. Motion carried.

RFQ for Engineering Services A bid packet for parks Engineering and Architectural services was reviewed and discussed. Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, seconded by Mr. Vogel to approve the document for dissemination to engineering firms. Motion carried.

Brower Launch Dock Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, seconded by Mr. Vogel to accept the Masterplan Committee's recommended to move forward with Deaton's Waterfront Services bid of \$17,849.76 for installation of a new launch dock at Brower Park. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

School Section Boat Slips The Masterplan Committee has recommended to delay this project until a later date.

Picnic Table Order Quotes were reviewed and discussed. Mr. O'Neil motioned, seconded by Mr. Perialas to accept the Masterplan Committee's recommendation to move forward with Belson Outdoors at a cost of \$15,2526.95 unless Michigan based company Play Environment Design could provide a similar product and price.

Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Brower Overlook Benches Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mr. Maxwell to support the Masterplan Committees recommendation to purchase 3 benches to recognize TransCanada, Consumers Energy and MCPC at the Brower Overlook.

Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Stand-up Paddleboards Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to purchase 8 rentable stand-up paddleboards to be split between Paris and Merrill-Gorrel Parks at a cost of \$5,392. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Changing Tables in Parks Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mr. Maxwell to purchase 22 Koala baby changing tables, to be installed throughout the 4 main camping parks; 4 for Merrill-Gorrel, 6 for School Section, 4 for Paris and 8 for Brower at a total cost of approximately \$4,664. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Personnel

16-17 Year-Old Employees Commissioners reviewed State and Federal employment laws regarding the hiring of minors and in what capacity a minor can work. Current employment opportunities appear to be limited to office and concession ranger positions. Additional information is being pursued from Risk Management.

Financial

Financial Report - Revenue & Expenses, Cash Spreadsheet, Year-to-Year - Reports were reviewed and discussed.

Approval of Bills - Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to approve the bills in the amounts of \$36,927.76, \$12,114.81 and \$10,960.97. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Public Comment: None

Other Business:

Next Commission Meeting is March 19th, 2019 5:00 PM at the Administration Building in Paris.

Adjournment: 6:25 PM.