

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

The December 15, 2020 Commission Meeting of the Mecosta County Park Commission was called to order via live video conference at 5:00 PM by the Commission Chairman, Mr. Stratton.

### **Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Mrs. Bradstrom, Mr. Johnson, Mr. O'Neil, Mr. Perialas (arrived - 5:35 PM), Mr. Roels, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Stratton, Mr. Sweir (arrived - 5:05 PM) and Mr. Vogel. **Members Absent:** Ms. Miller. **Others Present:** Jeff Abel - Superintendent, Erin Bean - Operations Manager and Kathy Maclean - Administrative Clerk.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Hearing no objections, the agenda is approved with the addition of Tree Sale under Correspondence.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to approve the minutes of the November 17<sup>th</sup> Park Commission meeting and the December 1<sup>st</sup> Rules & Regulations meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

### **Haunted Hatchery - Circle K**

Erin Bezeau, Circle K President, provided a report on this year's event. Due to COVID, attendance and subsequent revenue was lower this year, with a total of \$2560 being raised. A portion of the proceeds are being donated to the parks to benefit youth programming in the parks.

### **Public Hearing**

The Chairman of the Mecosta County Park Commission, Steve Stratton, opened the Public Hearing for the 2021-2025 Parks and Recreation Master Plan at 5:05 PM.

P. Griffith noted the Parks Superintendent had been receptive to his input and that he appreciated the Superintendent's willingness to discuss and make changes to the draft during the public review period.

There was no additional public input.

The Chairman of the Mecosta County Park Commission closed the Public Hearing at 5:13 PM and the Commission Meeting resumed.

**Public Comment:** None.

### **Reports and Updates**

#### **Superintendent's Updates**

The Superintendent updated the Commission on 15 current and completed projects, including:  
**Paris Fencing** Safety fencing has been installed around the sink hole area by the icehouse and fence repairs have been completed in multiple sections near the campground.

**Grand Rapids RV Show** has been cancelled; we elected to move our payment to the January 2022 show.

**Dead Trees** have been removed from School Section Lake and Brower Parks' common and campground areas; additional tall or dangerous trees will be removed by Cook's Tree Service. An evaluation of Merrill-Gorrel's trees will take place next week.

**Ice Mountain Davis Bridge Grant** check for \$20,000 has been received.

**FGC Renovations** Our staff have been repairing and repainting windows, walls and ceiling and updating lighting to LED in the lower level of the lodge. Flooring to be installed soon.

**Dragon Trail Updates** - Mrs. Bradstrom and Mr. O'Neil updated the Commission regarding the Trail's available fund balance of approximately \$7,800. To move forward with next year's scheduled build, an influx of up to \$410,800 is needed, approximately 50% of which is matching grant dollars through a Michigan DNR Trust Fund Grant that will be reimbursed once portions of the trail are completed and certified by the engineer. The first segment scheduled to be built in 2021 is the segment that connects Davis Bridge Park to Brower Park. Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, seconded by Mr. O'Neil to have the Superintendent draft a letter requesting a line of credit up to \$410,800 from Mecosta County. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

**Incident /Accident Report** - No reports.

## Correspondence

*Park Commission Appointments* - Paul Griffith has been appointed to the Park Commission and Mrs. Bradstrom and Mr. Stratton have been reappointed for a term of 3 years.

*2021 Tree Sale* - The Commission agrees to provide the Mecosta County Conservation District use of the Paris Fish Hatchery Building for their 2021 Tree Sales.

## Committee Actions

### Masterplan

**2021-2025 Park Commission Master Plan** - Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to submit the Master Plan Draft to the County Board of Commissioners for their review and approval. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

**Buckhorn Creek Dam Removal Project** - The Muskegon River Watershed (MRWA) has completed a preliminary restoration plan and project estimate to remove the dam and restore the stream to its natural condition. The project partners include MRWA, MCPC, and the MDNR Fisheries, Parks and Recreation and Wildlife Divisions. Various funding sources will be pursued; MCPC will have some financial burden, but currently the estimated amount has not been established. This will be a long-term solution to the sink hole by the icehouse. Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, seconded by Mr. Vogel to support MRWA's continued progress in the interest of the Park Commission. Motion carried.

**Event Schedule** - Events and event dates were reviewed. Community Open House Weekend to include free vehicle entry on Friday as well as Saturday and Sunday.

### Personnel

**Assistant Operations Manager Job Posting** – Job description was reviewed and approved to post with minor correction. Anticipated hiring of position to take place in February 2021.

## Finance

**2021 Refund Policy** - Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to approve the updated refund policy as presented. Motion carried.

## Financial

**Financial Report - Revenue & Expenses, Cash Spreadsheet, Year-to-Year** -

Financial reports were reviewed and discussed.

**Year End Budget Adjustment - Review and Approval** - Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, seconded by Mr. Vogel to approve the budget adjustments as presented. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

**Approval of Bills** - Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mr. Roels to approve the bills in the amounts of \$2,244.11 and \$11,446.15. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

**Public Comment:** None.

## Resolution

WHEREAS: **Mr. Stephen Perialas** has faithfully served the Mecosta County Park Commission for a total of 21.5 years. **Mr. Stephen Perialas** has served as Chairman for 3 years, 1 year as Vice Chairman, 4 years as Secretary and has served on several Mecosta County Park Commission sub-committees.

WHEREAS: **Mr. Stephen Perialas** has, during his appointment with this Commission, given freely and unselfishly of his time, experience, and varied expertise, which have contributed significantly to the development, improvement and continued operations of the Mecosta County Parks, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Mecosta County Park Commission and the Superintendent of said Commission does hereby express sincere gratitude for the faithful and dedicated contributions which **Mr. Stephen Perialas** has made and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this resolution be made a permanent part of the proceedings of this Commission and that a true copy be given to **Mr. Stephen Perialas** as a record of his exemplary service.

Motion carried Unanimously.

## Other Business:

**2021 Meeting Dates & Times** - The 2021 schedule was reviewed and supported with all in-person Commission Meetings scheduled at the Mecosta County Services Building and the September and December meeting dates moved to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of those months.

**Next Commission Meeting** - 5 PM, January 19<sup>th</sup> at the Services Building and/or via Zoom.

**Park Superintendent** - Out of Office December 18- January 4

**Adjournment:** 6:20 PM