

Mecosta County Park Commission Commission Meeting

The April 21, 2020 Commission Meeting of the Mecosta County Park Commission was called to order via live video conference at 5:05 PM by the Commission Chairman, Mr. Stratton.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Agenda

Hearing no objection, the agenda stood approved.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to approve the minutes of the February 18th Park Commission meeting and April 8th Finance Committee meeting. Motion carried.

Reports and Updates

Superintendent's Updates

The Superintendent updated the Commission on 33 current and completed projects, including:

Parks Revenue Comparison through April 16th was reviewed.

Goose Nests located at Brower Park; 10 eggs disposed of. Goose round-up may not take place this year as it is not deemed essential.

Brower Shallow Water Channel Prein and Newhof have completed measurements and soil borings. Plans are being created to complete the launch renovation when the extended water draw down occurs. Date of draw down has not yet been determined.

Paris Ponds Security Septic has been contracted for muck removal from the middle pond.

Campsite Attributes Report has been created by Itinio; this report will help ensure site descriptions are accurate and provide enhanced information access to our camping guests.

Brower Dragon Trail Parking Area Consumers Energy has provided their approval.

However, the project has been put on hold as the forester is not available until fall and, from a financial prospective, it is best not to spend funds at this time.

DNR Fisheries has made us aware that they will not be working with any of their fish raising partners this year. We hope to re-instate this relationship next year.

Merrill-Gorrel Electric project has been completed except for Consumers Energy's final connection, which is anticipated to be completed in the next few weeks. An application has been submitted to the State of Michigan to add water spickets and convert the 4 rustic sites across from the Gorrel cabins to water/electric sites.

Dragon Trail Updates - website has been completed and prepped to go live; Consumers Energy approval is pending. A request to the US Forest Service has been submitted seeking approval to cross 36' of their frontage. The EGLE permit has been approved which permits the bridge installations.

Incident/Accident Reports - None.

Correspondence - Resolution 2020-04, County Board of Commissioners was reviewed as approved.

Committee Actions

Masterplan

2020 Park Events Schedule event plan was reviewed and discussed.

Dragon Trail - Task Order 2 Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, seconded by Mr. Roels to accept the recommendation of the Dragon Trail Executive Committee to approve an increase in the allocation of funds from the Dragon Trail funding account, of up to \$370,000 to complete Task Order 2. Motion carried.

Dragon Funding Agreement Mr. Stanek, motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to endorse the Dragon Trail Executive Committee's recommendation to hire the Non-Profit Spot to raise 2.5 Million over the next 2 years at a cost of \$143,750 from the Dragon Trail funding account. Motion carried.

Stand-Up Paddle Boards have not been fully utilized at Paris Park and will be moved to School Section Lake.

Facility Closures, Status, Re-Opening Dates The Davis Bridge Boat Launch, Haymarsh and Tubbs Lake are scheduled to open May 1st; Brower Park on May 8th; Paris, School Section and Merrill-Gorrel May 16th, 17th and 18th. An extension of the "Stay at Home" directive would essentially push the park openings out whereas, the Davis Bridge Boat Launch, Haymarsh and Tubbs would open the day after the directive is lifted, Brower a week later and the remaining parks 2 weeks later.

Personnel

Staff Update 35 of 45 positions have been offered; 23 employees have completed and passed their physicals and drug test, the remaining 12 will complete their physicals and drug tests after the directive is lifted.

COVID Updates PPE has been ordered, USB extender have been purchased to extend charge card swipers to within the guests reach, additional hand sanitizer dispensers will be installed at the park window. Modern Bathhouse sanitation plans are still being developed. Discussion included possibly purchasing touchless thermometers.

Davis Bridge Camp Host Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, seconded by Mr. Vogel to increase the monthly electrical allocation from \$175 up to \$225. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Manager Trailers Commissioners discussed pros and cons to offering Seasonal Managers the ability to rent the Managers' Trailers at School Section, Merrill-Gorrel and Brower year-round. Arrangement could create a tax obligation scenario. Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to empower the Superintendent to research, determine and finalize. Motion carried.

Finance

Parks 2020 Millage Proposal Though the financial deficiencies noted within our parks community-oriented action plan have not changed, the Commission feels it should not be pursuing a millage while many of Mecosta County residents and local businesses are facing unexpected hardships due to the economic impact of fighting the COVID 19 pandemic. Re-evaluation should take place when the economic climate is more stable, and residents are better positioned to provide support to their local parks. The Superintendent was instructed to send a request letter to the County Board of Commissioners for removal of the proposal from the August 2020 ballot.

Toilet Paper Bids were evaluated. Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mr. Roels to accept the X-Cel Chemical's bid for \$3,200. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Wood Vendors Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, seconded by Mr. Vogel to accept all 3 of the bids; Jake Thompson to provide bundled wood to the parks for resale; Tony Bauman and American Classic to provide campsite delivery to the parks indicated. Motion carried.

Cancellation Policies were reviewed and approved; updates to be made if needed by extension of Stay Home directive.

Capital Projects list was reviewed and discussed. The Commissioners agreed to delay any projects that are not in process.

School Section Memorial Event may need to be delayed due to COVID 19 construction delays. The Finance Committee recommends permitting free entry for the Memorials' dedication on a TBD date, the Commissioners agreed.

Seasonal Camper Payment Plan the Finance Committee recommends the Commission consider providing a payment plan to Season Campers that request.

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 \$28,866.51, \$10,094.60, \$104,735.51, \$3,806.00, \$46,701.62, \$4,590.48, \$11,814.63, \$17,171.28 and \$60,052.66. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Public Comment: Nick Smith, Newaygo County Parks Director, introduced himself to the Mecosta County Parks' Commissioners.

Other Business:

Next Meeting is 5:00 PM, May 19, 2020 at the Parks Administration Offices.

Meet & Greet Proposed Dates

School Section - 7 PM, Friday, July 24th

Merrill-Gorrel - 7 PM, Friday, July 31st

Brower - 9 AM, Saturday, July 25th

Paris - 9 AM, Saturday, August 1st

Adjournment: 6:45 PM