

Mecosta County Park Commission Commission Meeting

The June 16, 2020 Commission Meeting of the Mecosta County Park Commission was called to order at the Mecosta County Services Building and via live video conference at 5:00 PM by the Commission Chairman, Mr. Stratton.

Roll Call

Members Present: Mrs. Bradstrom, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Miller, Mr. O'Neil, Mr. Roels, Mr. Perialas, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Stratton, Mr. Sweir and Mr. Vogel. **Members Absent:** None. **Others Present:** Jeff Abel - Superintendent, Erin Bean - Operations Manager and Kathy Maclean - Administrative Clerk.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. O'Neil motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to approve the agenda with the addition of Concession Contract being added to Committee Action - Finance. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mr. O'Neil to approve the minutes of the May 19th Commission Meeting. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Reports and Updates

Superintendent's Updates

The Superintendent updated the Commission on 7 current and completed projects, including:

Merrill-Gorrel Electric The final inspection has been completed with a few minor punch list items outstanding.

Tree Planting of 35 trees at Paris Park and 5 trees at School Section has been completed through a grant with the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly.

Tree Work by Cook's Tree Service is being completed to mitigate some tree hazard issues in Brower and Merrill-Gorrel Parks.

Power Issues Numerous storms with high winds have caused power outages at Merrill-Gorrel and School Section Lake over the past few weeks.

Dragon Trail Updates - Current trail construction is occurring near Sandy Beach and moving north, 6 miles have already been completed and we are receiving positive feedback from users. The Brower Park Loop bridge construction has begun and may be completed as early as next week. Jody Overman - Non-Profit Spot, added that thedragon.us website will go live on Friday and to expect press releases about the website release.

Incident /Accident Report - 3 reports were reviewed and discussed. Submitted documentation and damage quotations, along with a re-imbusement request related to tree damage to a camping unit of Mr. Boeve at Brower Park were reviewed. Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, seconded by Mr. Stanek to approve a single payment limited to \$250 to cover the insurance deductible of Mr. Boeve. Motion carried, 8 yes, Mr. Vogel and Mr. Stratton, no.

Correspondence - Scout Requests - Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to approve the request to complete painting and repairs to the Scout Storage Building at the Parks Administration location. Motion carried. Request to make repairs to the Scout Shelter at the WPVRA were discussed. Mr. O'Neil motioned, seconded by Mr. Vogel to table decision until discussion with County Commissioners has occurred. Motion carried.

Committee Actions

Masterplan

Park Operations Most facilities and amenities are now available. The Art Barns, Tubing Operation and Watersports Rentals remain closed until safety concerns can be addressed and staffing levels are up.

School Section Lake Memorial Project Updates This has been a flawless community partnership and feedback received from Veterans' Memorial visitors has been very positive. A dedication ceremony is scheduled for 1 PM on July 25th.

Ice Mountain - Muskegon River Grant Possibility The Commissioners recommend that the Superintendent request Prein & Newhof complete the grant application to seek funding for the Davis Bridge erosion control project.

Personnel

Staff Update Merrill-Gorrel is currently fully staffed, Paris Park has 1 new office ranger starting with 1 position delayed until tubing operations are opened. School Section has 3 employment offers outstanding, that if accepted will bring the park to fully staffed. Brower Park has 8 of 12 positions filled. 2 part time rover positions also remain open.

Finance

Seasonal Camper Update Brower has 118 seasonal campers after completing the waiting list of 34 request. School Section is at capacity, with 7 guests remaining on the waiting list. Paris Park and Merrill-Gorrel have had minor loses. Nightly occupancy in all parks have been high.

Budget Adjustment Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, seconded by Mr. Vogel to approve the budget adjustments as presented by the Superintendent. Motion carried with a roll call vote.

2021 Brower and Rates Consumers Energy has informed the Commission to expect water depth on the Hardy Pond to be at full depth during the 2021 season. Mr. O'Neil motioned, seconded by Mr. Perialas to raise all categories of seasonal camping rates at Brower by \$100 for the 2021 operating season. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

2021 Camping Season Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mr. Vogel to approve the 2021 seasonal camping season as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion carried. Changes to the refund policies regarding seasonal camper deposits were reviewed and discussed. Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to support the policy changes as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion carried.

Concession Contract draft agreement with Phat Matt's food service for Brower Park was reviewed. Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mr. Sweir to approve the contract with minor language modification. Motion carried.

Building and Grounds

Harrietta Hills quote for adding fish to Paris Park was review and discussed. Mr. O'Neil motioned, seconded by Mr. Stanek to purchase 1000 Rainbow Trout and 1000 Hybrid Bluegill for the Paris Ponds. Motion carried with unanimous roll call vote.

Financial

Financial Report - Revenue & Expenses, Cash Spreadsheet, Year-to-Year – Standard reports were reviewed and discussed along with an additional revenue interval report that was presented. The most recent intervals are showing an improvement in revenue loses. In comparing year over year revenue through June 1st, 2020 was nearly \$195,000 lower than the same period in 2019, but by June 11th revenue was trailing last year by almost \$130,000, a \$65,000 improvement in position.

Approval of Bills - Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to approve the bills in the amounts of \$7,623.19, \$40,803.44 and \$20,496.15. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Public Comment: Mace asked for a change in policy regarding jet ski lifts in the Parks' boat mooring area. Willett requested the Commission consider changing deck size limitations and extend golf cart usage to after dark if cart is equipped with lights. All 3 requests are being referred to the Rules and Regulations Committee for consideration and recommendations.

Other Business:

Next Meeting is 5:00 PM, July 21st at the County Services Bldg. on Northland Dr., Big Rapids.

Adjournment: 7 PM