

Mecosta County Park Commission Commission Meeting

The September 15, 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, Mr. O'Neil, Mr. Roels, Mr. Perialas, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Stratton, Mr. Sweir and Mr. Vogel. **Members Absent:** Ms. Miller. **Others Present:** Jeff Abel - Superintendent, Erin Bean - Operations Manager and Kathy Maclean - Administrative Clerk.

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, seconded by Mr. Vogel to approve the agenda with the addition of Haunted Hatchery under the heading of Other Business. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mr. Stanek to approve the minutes of the August 18th Masterplan, August 18th Park Commission, August 27th Committee of the Whole, September 1st Personnel, September 8th Building and Grounds, September 8th Finance and September 9th Finance meetings as presented. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Reports and Updates

Superintendent's Updates

The Superintendent updated the Commission on 21 current and completed projects, including:

Seasonal Camper Packets have been distributed for Merrill-Gorrel, Paris and School Section Lake; payment deadlines are September 25th with lotteries to take place on September 29th. The response has been high.

Bathhouse Vandalism at Brower Park's Sunny Acres took place over the Labor Day weekend. New doors and hardware have been purchased and installed.

Tubbs Main & Island roads and boat launches were repaired and graded prior to the holiday weekend.

Tubbs ORV issues and complaints. We have been working with the DNR to post additional "No ORV" signage. The DNR plan to increase enforcement patrols.

Brower Internet was lost when the tower was hit by lightning Sunday of Labor Day weekend. The park did not have phone or internet service or the ability to run credit cards until late Wednesday night.

Ice Mountain Grant meeting is scheduled for September 24th to notify us if we are the recipient of a grant for Davis Bridge erosion control.

Dragon Trail Updates - 30 volunteers hauled bridge making materials at the Sportsman's Park for the construction of 2 bridges. The bridges were completed over the following 2 days.

Incident /Accident Report - 5 reports were reviewed and discussed.

Correspondence

School Section Lake Veteran's Park Petition - A petition from seasonal campers at School Section was reviewed regarding keeping the park pet free. Additional input from local citizens, day users and transient camping guests is being sought. The 5 Year Master Plan Survey should provide additional insight.

White Pine Valley Recreation Area – Pasquantonio Letter was reviewed. Directional signage on 22 Mile Road was previously requested of the Road Commission. Additional directional signage on Northland Drive and Hoover Road to be pursued. Mecosta County Board of Commissioners has not currently responded to the Park Commission request regarding retaining or selling the property.

Committee Actions

Masterplan

Dragon Trail Pass Connie Koepke, Mecosta County Visitors Bureau, discussed a program that would promote the Dragon Trail to local Mecosta County hotel guests. Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mr. Stanek to approve the proposed pilot program and permit the Mecosta County Visitors Bureau to reimburse the Mecosta County Park Commission monthly at a rate of \$4 per redeemed Dragon Trail Pass. Pilot program to expire no later than the end of 2021. 8 yes, Mr. Perialas, No. Motion carried.

Resolution Supporting MNRTF Ballot Proposal Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, seconded by Mr. Perialas to support the ballot question being placed before voters in the November 2020 general election to update and expand the MNRTF, guaranteeing investment in conservation and outdoor recreation for generations to come, protecting our natural resources and invigorating our local economies. Motion carried unanimously.

5 Year Parks Masterplan Survey Physical copies of the survey are available in all park offices and an electronic version on our website. The survey has been marketed on our Facebook pages, postings in each of the park, through a Facebook ad, by direct e-mail to seasonal campers and by press release to the Pioneer and local radio stations. Thus far, most surveys are being completed online.

DTE Energy/ReLeaf Michigan Tree Grant Paris Park has been chosen to receive a tree grant. The forester with Releaf Michigan has visited the Park and hopes to organize a volunteer event for October 10th. Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to support the grant and accept the planting of 15 trees. Motion carried.

Finance

2021 Personnel Budget as recommended by the personnel and finance committees was reviewed.

2021 Capitals Budget as recommended by the building and grounds and finance committees was reviewed.

2021 Budget Revenue & Expenses as recommend by the finance committee was reviewed.

2021 Final Budget Approval - Mr. Perialas motioned, seconded by Mr. Stanek to accept the budget as presented and recommended by the committees. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Building and Grounds

Paving Project – Brower Park Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mr. Vogel to accept the Reith Riley bid of \$23,420 for the re-paving of the entry road and the deep-water boat launch. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Financial

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

Financials were reviewed and discussed. Revenue continues trending up in comparison to last year; with the most recent year to date comparison being almost \$68,000 ahead of last year. School Section Lake Concession Revenue is up 40% over last year.

Approval of Bills - Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mr. Perialas to approve the bills in the amounts of \$1,711.21, 26,612.52, 26,119.68 and \$6,239.13. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Public Comment: None.

Other Business:

Haunted Hatchery - The Commissioners reviewed and approved the Circle K Club's COVID safety plan and to move forward with allowing the Haunted Hatchery event.

Next Scheduled Meetings Tuesday, October 20, 5 PM at the County Services Building.

Superintendent Out of Office - September 16-22, 2020

Adjournment: 6:15 PM