

## Mecosta County Park Commission Commission Meeting

The November 16, 2021 Commission Meeting of the Mecosta County Park Commission was called to order at Mecosta County Services Building at 5:00 PM by the Commission Chairman, Mr. Stratton.

### Roll Call

**Members Present:** Mrs. Bradstrom, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Hatkowski, Ms. Miller, Mr. O'Neil (arrived at 5:10 PM), Mr. Roels, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Stratton and Mr. Vogel. **Members Absent:** Mr. Johnson. **Others Present:** Jeff Abel - Superintendent, Erin Bean - Operations Manager, Mary Hansen - Assistant Operations Manager and Kathy Maclean - Administrative Clerk.

### Approval of Agenda

Hearing no objections, the agenda stands approved with the additions of Rustic Camping Fees added as (d) to Financials and ARPA Funding added as (b) to Other Business.

### Approval of Minutes

Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to approve the minutes of the October 19<sup>th</sup> Park Commission, October 26<sup>th</sup> Special Park Commission, October 27<sup>th</sup> Rules and Regulations Committee and the November 3<sup>rd</sup> Personnel Committee meetings. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None.

### Reports and Updates

#### Superintendent's Updates

The Superintendent updated the Commission on 30 current and completed projects, including:

**Winter Pond Drain at Paris** has been completed with the assistance of the Ferris's Ducks Unlimited students.

**Draining of Buckhorn Creek Reservoir** has started, currently 3 dam board have been removed resulting in an 18 inch drop in the water table. An RFP has been created for engineering firms to complete; firm selection is anticipated to take place in 2022.

**Hardy Reservoir Draw Down** is happening quicker than in prior winters. The Davis Bridge Launch has been closed and guest have been redirected to Brower Park until such time as the deep water launch becomes unmanageable.

**EGLE Permit Received for Brower Park's** water access improvement grant. The project will coincide with the extended draw down of the Hardy Reservoir, whenever that occurs.

**One Room School House** exterior painting has been completed.

**School Section Campground Expansion** draft is being updated by Prein & Newhof.

**Illegal Dumping at Tubb's** has been occurring. We have installed cameras with the hope to get photos that can be turned over to the authorities.

**Wi-Fi Equipment** for Brower and School Section continues to be delayed.

**Fish Stocking at School Section Lake** was cancelled for this year as they were unable to received quality fish.

**Dragon Trail Updates** this year we have paid out in excess of \$290,000 toward Dragon Trail expenses that qualify for a 50% reimbursement from grant funding. Currently, the trail fund is short \$50,000 to complete our reimburse. This year's build still has 1800' of trail to complete the Mecosta Township grant build. A Punchlist walk-through is scheduled for this Friday.  
**Incident/Accident Reports** - None to report.

## **Correspondence**

**Group Camp Request - Cook (Gulliver)** was reviewed and discussed by the Commissioners with a resolution to reject the request and to not deviate from the reservation policy.

## **Committee Actions**

### **Masterplan**

**Brower Water Access Grant-Scoring** has been completed. The application is being submitted to the DNR with a score of 385 for a proposed 30% match on a \$402,000 project.

**Re-location of Paris Eiffel Tower** due to the deteriorating condition of the back ponds and to provide off season viewing, consideration is being given to its location. It is recommended that the staff evaluate possible new locations and refer the proposition to the Buildings & Grounds Committee for review.

## **Financial**

**Budget Adjustments - Review & Approval** - Mr. Stanek motioned seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to approved- the adjustments as presented. Motion carried.

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

**Approval of Bills** - Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mr. O'Neil to approve the bills in the amounts of \$11,858.95, \$131,392.06 and \$13,204.69. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

**Rustic Camping Fees** - the DNR has increased its state forest rustic camping fees to \$20 per night. Mr. O'Neil motioned, seconded by Ms. Miller to increase the nightly rate for rustic sites at Haymarsh, Tubbs and Merrill-Gorrel to \$20 starting in 2022. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None.

## **Other Business:**

**Next Commission Meeting** is scheduled for 5 PM, December 14<sup>th</sup> at the County Services Bldg.

**ARPA Funding** Mr. Griffith updated the Commissioners on the progress being made by the State Legislature regarding the funding to complete the paving of the White Pine Trail.

**Adjourned:** 6:00 PM