

Mecosta County Park Commission Commission Meeting

The March 16, 2021 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. Griffith, Mr. Hatkowski, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Miller, Mr. O'Neil, Mr. Roels, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Stratton and Mr. Vogel. **Members Absent:** None. **Others Present:** Jeff Abel - Superintendent, Erin Bean - Operations Manager and Kathy Maclean - Administrative Clerk.

Approval of Agenda

Hearing no objection, the agenda stood approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mr. Griffith to approve the minutes of the February 16th Finance and Park Commission meetings; February 18th and February 25th Building and Grounds meetings; and February 24th Committee of the Whole and Personnel Committee meetings. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Correspondence: A letter from Mr. and Mrs. Pasquantonio was reviewed.

Public Hearing (5:05 PM) - Brower Park Water Access Improvement Grant

The Chairman paused the Commission meeting and called the public hearing to order. Public was welcomed to comment regarding the grant proposal, no public came forward with comments. The hearing was closed at 5:09 PM and the regular monthly meeting of the Commission was resumed.

Reports and Updates

Superintendent's Updates

The Superintendent updated the Commission on 19 current and completed projects, including:

White Pine Valley Recreation Area directional signs have been installed by the Road Commission. Mr. Griffith stated that the Friends of the White Pine Trail are willing to install another directional sign for the WPVRA at the trail crossing on Hoover Rd.

Park Commission 2021 through 2025 Master Plan has been approved by the DNR.

Family Group Camp Flooring installation in the lower level of the lodge has been completed.

Server Crash lost data has been deemed not recoverable.

Family Group Camp Septic permits have been submitted to the Drain Commission for soil and erosion and to District Health Department #10.

Q and A Millage Document has been dispersed to County and Park Commissioners, Township Supervisors/Clerks and made available on the Park's website and social media accounts.

Cooks Tree Service is in School Section and Brower Parks this week to remove hazard trees and limbs and to grind stumps.

Reservations/Permit Sales/Seasonal Reservations YTD Report

Both vehicle permit and reservation revenue year to date are up; with reservation revenue up more than 21% over last year. Seasonal camping at Brower Park and School Section Lake are at full occupancy with waiting lists. Merrill-Gorrel and Paris Park seasonal camping reservations are up 26% and 45%, respectively.

Dragon Trail Updates - Construction, Fundraising, Marketing, Facebook

Task Order 3 bids were reviewed, Flowtrack MTB was selected for this year's Mecosta Township Trust Fund Grant section of build. Michigan's Dragon Trail at Hardy Dam has an official Facebook page and has trademarked the Dragon Trail logo. Mr. Griffith motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to authorize the establishing of a flow through account to handle the sales and sales tax collection of Dragon Trail merchandise through Brower Park and the Parks' Administration offices. Merchandise costs to remain the responsibility of the Dragon Trail. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Incident and Accident - 2 reports reviewed and discussed.

Committee Actions

Finance

Review Grant Match-Brower Trust Fund Grant Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mr. Griffith to support the Committee's recommendation and complete the grant application with a 30% County Park match. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Wood Vendors 2021 Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mr. Vogel to accept the two bulk wood vendor bids as the sole service providers. Motion carried.

Paris Dam Removal Project-Financial Commitment Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, seconded by Mr. Griffith to provide a letter of matching funds commitment in the amount of \$8,000 to the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly for its pursuit of the Fish Habitat Grant Program. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Committee of the Whole

Resident Discounts Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to discount the price of annual vehicle and annual boat permits sold to Mecosta County residents, contingent upon the passage of the Park Millage. By providing vehicle and/or boat registration verifying Mecosta County residency, a resident of Mecosta County would be able to purchase an annual permit for \$20 per year, per registered vehicle for a duration of 5 years. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Paris Park Day Use Parking Area the Commissioners considered the committee's recommendation to utilize Paris Park as an educational hub and permit day use visitors to utilize the Hatchery Building parking area free of charge. Discussion focused on if this rebranding and benefit should be contingent upon passage of the millage. No action was taken.

Brower Park Boat Entrance Permits Mr. Griffith motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to support the committee's recommendation to eliminate the Brower Park boat entrance fee and replace the fee with a boat mooring fee starting in 2022, contingent upon the passage of the millage. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Personnel

Drug Testing Process Mr. Hatkowski motioned, seconded by Mr. O'Neil to support the Personnel Committee's recommendation to discontinue pre-employment drug testing for all new hires. 9 - yes, Mr. Roels - no, motion carried.

Unemployment-Seasonal Employee Designation Mr. O'Neil motioned, seconded by Mr. Hatkowski to support the Personnel Committee's recommendation to request the County Board of Commissioners consideration in submitting an application, on behalf of the Park Commission, to designate the county as a seasonal employer. 9 - yes, Mr. Vogel - no, motion carried.

Seasonal Employment Update 29 of last year's seasonal employees expressed interest in returning this year. A total of 18 new employee applications have been received to date. Help wanted ads have been placed with MI Works, Handshake, Facebook, and on our website. Staff will also be attending virtual job fairs. Discussion took place regarding the payment of the 10% retention pay to part time, year-round staff members. It was determined those payments would be made on the last pay period of the calendar year.

Buildings and Grounds

Final Review and Recommendation-Brower Park Trust Fund Grant Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, seconded by Mr. Griffith to support the building and grounds committee recommendation to approve Concept 2 of the Brower Park Water Access Improvements grant proposal and request that the County Board of Commissioners review and pass a resolution in support. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Round Rail Fence Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve the purchase of round rail fencing from American Timber and Steel at a cost of \$4,082.50. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Michigan's Dragon Trail Parking Area-Brower Park Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to support the building and grounds committee recommendation to move forward with the revised bid of \$31,885 from American Classic Forestry. Motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Vehicle Review The County Parks vehicle fleet has been reviewed by the building and grounds committee chair who recommends the sale of a bucket truck, camper, 2001 ¾ ton Chevy and 2005 ½ ton Chevy using the auction site govdeals.com. The Park Commission members agreed with the conclusion of the review and sales concept.

Financial

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 \$3,897.11, \$23,188.15, \$258.98, \$5,567.19 and \$4,304.57. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Public Comment: None.

Other Business:

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

Adjournment: 7:00 PM