

## **Mecosta County Park Commission Commission Meeting**

The July 20, 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:** Mr. Griffith, Mr. Hatkowski, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Miller, Mr. O'Neil, Mr. Roels, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Stratton and Mr. Vogel. **Members Absent:** Mrs. Bradstrom. **Others Present:** Jeff Abel - Superintendent 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. Johnson to approve the minutes of the June 15<sup>th</sup> Park Commission and July 9<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee meetings as presented. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None.

### **WPVRA-Youth Camping**

Jeff Hardesty informed the Commission that the Boy Scouts' Committee had voted unanimously to demolish the structure, request permission to make improvements to the property and seek a primitive campground license. Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mr. Johnson to authorize the Boy Scouts to enter the property to remove the structure and permit them day use only of the property and the Park Commission to seek primitive campground licensing. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

### **Reports and Updates**

#### **Superintendent's Updates**

The Superintendent updated the Commission on 18 current and completed projects, including:

**MOTA Tubing Agreement** Partnership agreements are in place and after a few minor hiccups the process is running smoothly.

**Student Work Crews** have been completing some routine maintenance at School Section Lake. This partnership helps the crews gain work experience while at no cost to the Parks.

**TC Energy Grant** for the Dragon Trail in the amount of \$29,375 has been received and transferred to Mecosta Township.

**Consumer's Inspection** has been completed at Brower and Davis Bridge with no corrective actions noted.

**Internet Upgrade at Brower** was scheduled for today, but provider has postponed.

**Internet Upgrade at School Section Lake** We are waiting on backordered products to make the upgrades to the WiFi distribution and to add cameras around the office and store.

**YTD Park Revenue** report shows that camping revenue through July 14th is up 45% over last year and the combined park vehicle revenue is up 8% from last year. School Section Lake and Davis Bridge vehicle revenue is trending behind in their year over year comparison.

**Dragon Trail Updates** The trail builders have returned and continue making trail north of Brower and north of the ravine. Once the bridge over the ravine is installed users will have immediate use of many more miles.

**Incident/Accident Reports** - 12 reports reviewed and discussed.

## Correspondence

**Artic Glacier** letter indicating our ice price will be increasing was reviewed; the Superintendent has discretion to test another ice bag size.

**Vaccine Clinics** being offered. District Health #10 has asked if we would like to host a “pop up” clinic in one of the parks. The Commission would like to know if DHS would market it and was in favor of hosting a test event at one of the parks.

## Committee Actions

### Masterplan

**Rescue Plan Project Review** the Commissioners discussed the Committee’s recommendation of highest priority capital projects. 1) Dragon Trail 2) Paris Hatchery and front pond 3) Back ponds and grounds of Paris Park 4) School Section beach bathhouse 5) Playgrounds 6) Brower Shallow Water Boat Launch 7) Electric & Sewer Updates 8) New School Section Lake Campsites.

Mr. O’Neil motioned, seconded by Mr. Stanek to have Prein & Newhof provide engineering proposal for School Section Lake Beach Bathhouse. Motion carried. Mr. Roels motioned, seconded by Mr. O’Neil to provide the stated prioritized list to the County Board of Commissioners. Motion carried.

### Finance

**School House Maintenance SSLVP** Linda Howard discussed the need for the exterior of the building to be painted and that they are looking for partners to share the cost. One quote, thus far, has been received at a cost of \$8500. Mr. O’Neil motioned, seconded by Mr. Stanek that the Park Commission will pay \$4000 of the exterior painting cost. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

**2022 Rates and Fees** were reviewed and discussed. Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mr. O’Neil to accept the rates as submitted. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

**2022 Season Operating Dates, Holidays and Site Allocation** The commissioners discussed closing School Section Lake, Merrill-Gorrel and Paris Parks on Friday September 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Griffith motioned, seconded by Mr. Vogel to approve the modified closing date for School Section, Merrill-Gorrel and Paris and to accept the remaining Operation dates, holiday dates and site allocation as presented. Motion carried.

**2022 Seasonal Camper Deposits** to remain at the same levels as 2021.

**School Section Lake Walleye Stocking/Weed Control** Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mr. Roels to continue to share the cost of fish planting (\$750) and weed control (\$1650) in School Section Lake. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

**Consumers Energy Dragon Trail Celebration** Consumers Energy will be hosting a Dragon Trail Celebration Ceremony in Brower Park on August 13<sup>th</sup> from 1-6.

**Personnel**

**Seasonal Staffing Update** Staffing continues to be challenging; 10 positions are currently open. Managers' pay at Merrill-Gorrel and School Section Lake have been supplemented due to the double duties caused by Manager vacancies.

**Building & Grounds**

**Recycled Shingle Roadway Product** American Classic has asked if we would test a new to market product in Brower Park. The Committee suggests we request product references and determine what we believe to be the best test spot.

**Financial**

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

**Approval of Bills** - Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve the bills in the amounts of \$215,028.77, \$67,453.36 and \$17,628.27. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Other Business:**

**Next Commission Meeting** is scheduled for 5 PM, August 17<sup>th</sup> at the County Services Building.

**Adjournment:** 7:20 PM