

Mecosta County Park Commission Commission Meeting

The September 14, 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, Mr. O'Neil, Mr. Roels, Mr. Stanek and Mr. Stratton. **Members Absent:** Mrs. Bradstrom, Ms. Miller and Mr. Vogel. **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 as presented.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. O'Neil motioned, seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve the minutes of the July 20th Masterplan Committee and Park Commission meetings, the August 24th Personnel Committee, September 2nd Masterplan Committee and September 10th Finance Committee Meetings. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Reports and Updates

Superintendent Updates

The Superintendent updated the Commission on 13 current and completed projects, including:

Storm Damage & Power Outages All four of our main campgrounds have, at some point, lost power for prolonged periods of time during the 3 storms that have occurred in the past month. This has caused loss of revenue, upset customers and increased burden on staff.

Consumers Energy Dragon Trail Celebration Event at Brower Park has been rescheduled for October 8th with a ceremony at 2:30 PM and food and games until 6:00 PM. This is the last weekend Brower Park will be open for the season.

Buckhorn Creek Dam Removal an on-site meeting with all entities involved took place last week. Additional funding sources and permitting for the project are in process.

WPVRA cabin and climbing poles have been removed. The hole from the old foundation has been filled in with natural logs and fill dirt. Day use of the area is being permitted.

Brower Shallow Boat Launch Initial grant application scoring has been received and additional documents requested.

Dragon Trail Updates Bridge was installed this week, 2 more crossings scheduled to be completed in next few days and crossing signage ordered for the roadways. The trail from Brower Park to Davis Bridge is anticipated to be completed within the week. The Dragon Trail may fit the parameters for a significant grant through the Regional Economic Planning Commission. Application/Proposal deadline November 1st.

Incident and Accidents 6 reports reviewed and discussed.

Meet & Greet Events Commissioners discussed the core concerns seasonal camping guests had brought to their attention, with the leading concern being that of park rule enforcement.

Committee Action

Masterplan

ARP Project List Review The committee has recommended, and the Park Commissioners support, the submission of the Parks prioritized projects list to the County Board of Commissioners for evaluation toward meeting the qualifications of potential funding assistance from the American Rescue Plan.

Generator Installation Within Parks the Park Commission, in consensus, petitions the Park Commission Chair to submit a funding request to the County Board of Commissioners for the installation of 2 generators in each of the 4 main parks. With the addition of a generator at one main bathhouse and park office, the Parks will be better prepared to provide, at no-charge, community outreach to County residents in need of storm relief during power outages.

Finance

In Process Projects reviewed and discussed the current capital funding obligations.

2022 Personnel Budget was reviewed, noting that with the additional Office Ranger at Brower and School Section and the bottom to top wage increases Parks will be increasing payroll by more than \$180,000 annually.

2022 Capital Budget reviewed and discussed.

2022 Revenue and Expenses reviewed and discussed.

Final Budget Review and Approval Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mr. Griffith to approve the budget as presented. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Seasonal Camper Deposit Update Preliminary numbers suggest Brower Park and School Section will have seasonal camper waiting lists and Merrill-Gorrel and Paris will have more seasonal campers in 2022.

Personnel

End of Season Additional Retention Payments Mr. Griffith motioned, seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve an additional end-of-season retention payment of \$250 to all full time and seasonal employees that have not been disqualified from receiving retention pay. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Unemployment Status Application for seasonal employer designation is still pending. The Commission's stance has not changed.

Buildings and Grounds

One Room School House Update We have received a preliminary quote of \$5,000 for the painting of the School House. We have requested Culture Alive submit an invoice to us for our \$4,000 portion.

Financials

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

Approval of Bills Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mr. Johnson to pay the bills in the amounts of \$26,353.56, \$25,991.16, \$63,674.17, \$12,932.39, \$25,722.33, \$13,273.75 and \$17,259.19.

Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Public Comment: None.

Other Business

Next Commission Meeting is scheduled for 5 PM, October 19th at the County Services Building.

Adjourned: 6:30 PM