

Mecosta County Park Commission Commission Meeting

The April 19, 2022, 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. O'Neil.

Roll Call

Members Present: Mrs. Bradstrom, Mr. Farrow, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Lambrix, Ms. Miller, Mr. O'Neil, 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

Mr. Farrow motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mr. Lambrix to approve the minutes of the March 15th Park Commission meeting. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Reports and Updates

Superintendent's Updates

The Superintendent updated the Commission on 25 current and completed projects, including:

AIG Operator Certificate This is a requirement of our Ground Water Discharge Permit. The Superintendent has passed the testing and will hold this certification for 5 years.

Rules and Regulations We have completed the required posting and notification requirements for the update rules and regulations, this includes 2 postings in the Pioneer, email notifications to seasonal campers, document update on the website, the printing of booklets and ordering of signs to be posted at each of the park offices and Davis Bridge. Additionally, the new violation books have arrived with the updated process being put into effect.

Traffic Speed Trailer has arrived.

Soccer Goals for School Section and Brower Park have arrived.

Picnic Tables have arrived, and assembly will begin soon.

Beaver Trapping permission was given for a trapper to tend to a nuisance beaver at Merrill-Gorrel Park.

DNR Grant Submission for Davis Bridge has been completed, including a resolution from the County Board of Commissioners, public hearing notices, public hearing, and letters of support.

Goose Round-Up state-wide has been cancelled due to avian influenza, egg nest destruction at Brower Park will take place over the next few weeks.

WPVRA has been receiving press recently regarding its current designation and progress towards campground designation.

Regional Access Pass The Dragon Executive Committee has been discussing the possibility of a regional access pass that would permit the purchase of one pass to access the Dragon Trail and

all parks operated by Mecosta County, Newaygo County and Big Prairie Township. Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to support the creation and sale of a Regional Parks Pass if each of the entities committed to a \$10 discount from their normal annual pass fee, with the proceeds divided between the 3 entities at the normal annual vehicle rate less the \$10 discount. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

School Section Lake Veterans Memorial The Veterans' Memorial Committee has requested to hold a Memorial Day and statue installation ceremony at the Veterans' Memorial on May 30th. Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mr. Stratton to permit the Committee to hold the program and waive entry fees from 10:30 AM-11:30 AM for those attending the ceremony. Motion carried.

YTD - Park Revenue Report the combined park camping and park vehicle revenue are trending similarly to 2021.

Dragon Trail Updates – The County Board of Commissioners has committed \$225,000 of recently received Marijuana funds toward the completion of all remaining sections of trail within Mecosta County. Newaygo County has also committed to providing funding for completion of all portions of the Dragon Trail remaining to be constructed within their county. We expect an additional 10-14 miles of trail to be construction in 2022 starting at Newaygo State Park, connection to the Brower Park Loop and then moving across the river and working down from the River Ridge area to Big Bend Park.

Incident/Accident Report 2 vehicle damage reports reviewed and discussed.

Correspondence

Seasonal Employer Status Unemployment Insurance Agency has designated us as a Seasonal Employer effective March 23, 2021. Mr. Farrow motioned, seconded by Mr. Johnson to take no further action against seasonal staff that may have received benefits prior to April 15, 2022. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Committee Actions

Masterplan

Davis Bridge Trust Fund Grant Proposal has been submitted with the updated project drawings.

Finance

Generator Project Update & Request A review of the condensed project proposal was completed, with the estimated total project cost to be between \$165,000 and \$200,000. Mr. Griffith motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to request the County Board of Commissioners consider funding \$100,000 of the project with the Park Commission being responsible for all additional costs to complete, at least, the condensed proposal. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Toilet Paper Bids 4 bids and samples were reviewed. Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Ms. Miller to accept the bid from Sysco for 80 cases of toilet paper at a delivered cost of \$3,285.90. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Wood Vendor Bids no bids were received.

Brower Concessions Agreement reviewed. Mr. Stratton motioned, seconded by Mr. Lambrix to approve the Superintendent executing the agreement as presented. Motion carried.

Rules & Regulations

Special Use Permit-Bounce Houses request was brought before the Commissioners and the Commissioners decided to not permit private groups/individuals to bring/use “commercial” style inflatables for private parties in any of the Mecosta County Parks.

Personnel

2022 Seasonal Staff Update was provided by the Operation Manager. Thirty-eight of forty-seven seasonal positions have been filled and the first training sessions completed.

Financial

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

Approval of Bills - Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mr. Lambrix to approve the bills in the amounts of \$17,349.37, \$24,572.91, \$5,880.10, \$28,238.92 and \$10,936.97. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Public Comment: None

Other Business:

Next Commission Meeting is scheduled for 5 PM, May 17, 2022, at the Mecosta County Services Building.

Adjourned: 6:30 PM