

## Mecosta County Park Commission Commission Meeting

The July 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, Mary Hansen - Asst. Operation Manager and Kathy Maclean - Administrative Clerk.

### Approval of Agenda

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

### Approval of Minutes

Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mr. Griffith to approve the minutes of the June 21<sup>st</sup> Park Commission and the June 28<sup>th</sup> Finance meetings. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None.

### Reports and Updates

#### Superintendent's Updates

The Superintendent updated the Commission on 20 current and completed projects, including:

**SS Septic Issues** – Since notifying the seasonal campers of on-going problems and changing Randy's portable dump location we have not had additional clogging issues.

**Rock Installation at Davis Bridge** – Traffic control rock borders have been installed.

**Arctic Glacier** – We have been having major troubles with our provider this year and have made them aware that we are unhappy and may be potentially switching providers. We have requested proposal from 2 other ice providers.

**Mower for WPVRA** – We are exploring the purchase of a brush hog to maintain the roadways and fields in the area, as well as other park locations where we may be able to save some wear and tear on our finish mowers.

**Brower Mooring Issues** – We have had major compliance issues of the mooring requirements at Brower. A recent audit found 35+ boaters did not have the proper permitting. New signs have been posted to help re-enforce the permit requirements.

**Brower Lot Markers** – Over 20 lot markers have either gone missing or been broken. The new markers that are being placed, include reflectors.

**Brower WiFi** – We have received notification that a few of the parts that have been on order are expected to arrive within the next couple of weeks. These parts are needed to enhance the service speed and allow us to create a reliable Hot Spot in the Art Barn/Pavilion area of the park.

**Lottery Packets** – School Section, Paris and Merrill-Gorrel packets will be distributed in the coming weeks, Brower Park's packet is being prepared for distribution this week.

**No Wake Zone** – Mecosta Township is working on a new permit to have a “No Wake Zone” around the River Ridge/Davis Bridge area. We will provide information regarding the preferred location of buoys in the Davis Bridge area.

**Health Department Meeting** – Mr. Vogel has met with the Health Department regarding Campground Licensing of the WPVRA. These initial meetings have determined that Temporary Campground Licensing is not feasible and that the Parks will continue to move forward with Rustic Campground Licensing.

**YTD - Park Revenue Report** - The combined total of park revenue categories is currently trailing last year by about 2.5%.

**Dragon Trail Updates** - The Superintendent reviewed outstanding reimbursements due Mecosta County Parks. The County Board of Commissioners have allocated up to \$225,000 of cannabis tax revenue toward the completion of the Dragon Trail.

**Engineered Project Update** – A status update of the 14 capital projects was provided and their remaining financial obligation.

**Incident/Accident** – 7 reports reviewed and discussed.

## Correspondence

**Project Funding Letter** has been received from the County Board of Commissioners indicating their interest in partnering with the Parks to update park playgrounds, Brower electric and the School Section Lake Beach bathhouse; they have tentatively approved to earmark up to \$1,150,000 ARPA dollars and have requested meeting with a team of Park Commissioners.

## Committee Actions

### Finance

**SSLPOA Fish and Weed Funding Request** - Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mr. Stratton to approve \$1650 toward weed control and \$750 toward fish stocking at School Section Lake.

Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

**2023 Rates & Fees** - Mr. Stanek reviewed the Committee’s recommendation to increase most rates by 6-7% in response to the increased Parks’ cost due to inflation and labor rates. Mr. Griffith motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to approve the 2023 Rates & Fees as presented.

Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

**2023 Seasonal Operating Dates, Holidays & Camp Allocations** - The Committee discussed the need to maintain nightly camping availability at School Section Lake and to achieve this by including seasonal employee campsites as a part of the 60% of all sites permitted to be a Seasonal Site. Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, seconded by Mr. Vogel to approve the 2023 operating dates and holiday dates, and further supports current Seasonal Campers be exempt from the newly defined allocation at School Section Lake and recommends achieving the new allocation through natural attrition. Current Seasonal Campers will be Grandfathered. Motion carried.

**2023 Camper Deposit** - Amounts to remain the same as 2022, Brower Park - \$500 and School Section, Paris and Merrill-Gorrel Parks - \$300.

### Personnel

**2022 Seasonal Staff Update** was provided by the Assistant Operations Manager.

## 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 payment of the bills in the amounts of \$11,826.18, \$19,868.12 and \$101,497.93

Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

**Public Comment:** None.

## Other Business:

### Resolution - Stratton

WHEREAS: **Mr. Steven Stratton** has faithfully served the Mecosta County Park Commission for a total of 10 years. **Mr. Steven Stratton** has served as Chairman for 3 years, as Vice Chairman for 3 years, and has served on several Mecosta County Park Commission sub-committees.

WHEREAS: **Mr. Steven Stratton** has, during his appointment with this Commission, given freely and unselfishly of his time, experience, and varied expertise, which have contributed significantly to the development, improvement and continued operations of the Mecosta County Parks, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Mecosta County Park Commission and Superintendent of said Commission does hereby express sincere gratitude for the faithful and dedicated contributions which **Mr. Steven Stratton** has made and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this resolution be made a permanent part of the proceedings of this commission and that a true copy be given to **Mr. Steven Stratton** as a record of his exemplary service.

Motion carried Unanimously.

**Next Commission Meeting** is scheduled for 5 PM, August 16, 2022, at the Mecosta County Services Building.

**Meet and Greet dates** - 7/29 School Section, 7/30 Merrill-Gorrel, 8/5 Brower Park, 8/6 Paris Park and the Brower Lottery on 8/13.

**Budget Committee Meetings** - TBD

**Adjourned:** 6:00 PM