

Mecosta County Park Commission Commission Meeting

The August 16, 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 Vice Chairman, Mr. Griffith.

Roll Call

Members Present: Mrs. Bradstrom, Mr. Farrow, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Hatkowski, Mr. Lambrix, Ms. Miller, Mr. Stanek and Mr. Vogel. **Members Absent:** None. **Others Present:** Jeff Abel - Superintendent, Erin Bean - Operations Manager, Mary Hansen - Assistant Operation Manager and Kathy Maclean - Administrative Clerk.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to approve the amended agenda with the Brick Paver Walkway Request being delayed to a later date. Motion carried.

Election of Chairperson/Officers

The Vice Chairman opened the floor to nomination. Mr. Lambrix motioned, seconded by Mr. Hatkowski to nominate Mr. Stanek for Chairman. Motion carried. Mr. Lambrix motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot to elect Mr. Stanek to Chairman. Motion carried. The Vice Chairman turned the meeting over to Mr. Stanek, Chairman.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mr. Farrow to approve the minutes of the July 19th Personnel and Park Commission meetings, August 2nd Personnel meeting and the August 3rd Masterplan meeting. Motion carried.

Public Comment: *Lorrie Gaber* is interested in returning the Hatchery and ponds at Paris Park back to its prior form and status. She would like the Commission to consider applying for grants to fund the needed repairs and has offered her services where able. *Michael McClain* supports the Commission doing what it can to repair the Paris Park ponds.

Appeal of Eviction - Hubscher/Anderson

Joe Hubscher appealed to the Commission to reverse his Brower Park eviction. He provided his standpoint of the actions that led to the eviction in addition to supplementary documents for review.

Appeal of Eviction - Demorest

Bobbie Demorest appealed to the Commission to reverse her Brower Park eviction. She provided her standpoint of the events that led up to the eviction in addition to some supplementary for review. Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, seconded by Mr. Johnson that a review of the circumstances be completed with a final decision to be announced at the next Commission meeting. In the interim, both evictions will stand, any entry into Park Commission property requires an appointment be scheduled with the Superintendent. Motion carried.

Reports and Updates

Superintendent's Updates

The Superintendent updated the Commission on 14 current and completed projects, including:

Brower Park WiFi Some of the new equipment has arrived and been installed and has now dramatically increased our overall speed. Additional wiring has been completed at the Art Barn; we anticipate having that location be set-up as a Hot-Spot within the next few weeks.

Paris Retail offerings have been made available and are focused on complimenting the park's river adventure services. Retail space is located in the Park's woodshed/retail barn.

Buckhorn Project Spicer Group has completed their evaluation of the deteriorated culvert under the White Pine Trail and have recommending a full replacement.

Sheriff/Under Sheriff and the Superintendent met to exchange ideas on the develop of best communication practices between the two entities to address park related issues and/or actions as they occur.

Old Settlers Reunion will take place on Saturday, August 20th at School Section Lake; a Veteran's Memorial presentation is scheduled as a part of the event.

YTD - Park Revenue Report - the combined total of park revenue categories is currently trailing last year by less than 2.5%.

Dragon Trail Updates - about 1.5 miles of trail remains to be built to connect Newaygo State Park to the Brower Loop, two bridges in this segment were ordered earlier in August and are anticipated to complete this portion of the trail before the end of this year's build season. Current data shows that the Brower Park segment is receiving the most traffic.

Incident/Accident - 7 reports reviewed and discussed.

Meet & Greet Summaries were reviewed and discussed. Highest marks, system - wide were given to the cleanliness of our bathhouses.

Committee Actions

Masterplan

Prein & Newhof A few of the currently slated capital projects need to obtain a funding source or be deferred.

Finance

Brower Lottery Report - 162 entries registered; 120 sites were selected with the remaining 42 entries making up the 2023 waiting list.

Personnel

Resignation of Operations Manager has been submitted and accepted, her last day will be August 19th, 2022.

2023 Seasonal Staff Payrates-Hourly Recommendation - \$1.00 per hour increase.

2023 Seasonal Staff Payrates-Managers Recommendation - \$1.00 per hour increase.

2023 Full Time Staff Positions & Payrates Recommendation - 6% increase.

Retention Pay - Sick Time Bonus - Campsite Compensation reviewed and discussed.

Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, seconded by Mr. Griffith to accept the recommendations of the Personnel Committee and to increase seasonal hourly and seasonal management by \$1 per hour and full-time staff by 6%. Additionally, permit the Superintendent the latitude to hire new seasonal staff at up to a 5th year level based on experience. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Current Staffing - One park seasonal staff positions is currently vacant.

Financial

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

Approval of Bills - Mr. Griffith motioned, seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve payment of the bills in the amounts of \$30,355.25, \$20,962.8, \$24,314.30, \$18,497.54 and \$35,746.92. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Public Comment: Mr. Marko feels that the rules are not being applied equally to all campers and that the water in Brower's Sunny Acres smells bad.

Other Business

Resolution - O'Neil

WHEREAS: **Mr. Eric O'Neil** has faithfully served the Mecosta County Park Commission for a total of 11 years. **Mr. Eric O'Neil** has served as Chairman for 3 years, as Vice Chairman for 2 years, and has served on several Mecosta County Park Commission sub-committees.

WHEREAS: **Mr. Eric O'Neil** 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. Eric O'Neil** 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 **Eric O'Neil** as a record of his exemplary service.

Motion carried Unanimously.

Next Commission Meeting is scheduled for 5 PM, September 13th, 2022, at the Mecosta County Services Building.

Adjourned: 6:20 PM