

## Mecosta County Park Commission Commission Meeting

The May 16, 2023, Commission Meeting of the Mecosta County Park Commission was called to order at the Mecosta County Services Building at 5:00 PM by the Commission Chairman, Mr. Stanek.

### Roll Call

**Members Present:** Mr. Farrow, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Hatkowski, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Lambrix, Mr. Stanek, Mrs. Strong and Mr. Vogel. **Member Absent:** Mrs. Bradstrom and Ms. Miller. **Others Present:** Jeff Abel - Superintendent, Mary Hansen - HR Manager, Taylor Jutila - Operations Director, Mike Fenton - Operations Manager and Kathy Maclean - Administrative Clerk.

### Approval of Agenda

Hearing no objections, the agenda stood approved as present.

### Approval of Minutes

Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mr. Farrow, to approve the minutes of the April 18<sup>th</sup> Park Commission and April 26<sup>th</sup> Masterplan Committee meetings. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None.

### Reports and Updates

#### Superintendent's Updates

The Superintendent updated the Commission on 23 current and completed projects, including:

**Brower Park Trust Fund Grant** A project status update has been requested from Prein & Newhof.

**WPVRA** the well permit has been received from District Health Department 10.

**Fish Stocking** 10,000 brown trout have been released from Paris Park, by the DNR Fisheries Division.

**Brower Park Deep Water Launch** A status update has been requested from the engineers.

**Brower WiFi** data transfer cords have been trenched in from the tower to the park office.

**Tree Work** had been completed at School Section Lake and Brower Park prior to the beginning of the season.

**School Section Expansion** A loan funding meeting has taken place with the County Administrator and Finance Officer and the Parks' Superintendent and Commission Chair to explore potential ask options.

**Food Vendor Brower Park** We have a signed contract with a new food vendor that will start Memorial Day Weekend.

**Exterior & Interior LED Light Replacements** An energy initiative grant was completed and approved by Consumers Energy; we received \$5547 worth of LED lighting for \$680.

**WPVRA** New trails and an updated map have been completed by the Pasquantonios. The map has been posted on the park kiosk and the MCPC website.

**School Section Wifi** distribution has been extended to the full-hook-up section.

**Dragon Trail Construction** Section 1 has been completed including the ADA portion minus one bridge; Section 2 is complete. Two Rokon vehicles have arrived at Big Prairie Township Fire Rescue and training has begun.

**Year to Date Revenue Report** reviewed; revenue continues to trend higher year-over-year.

**Incident/Accident Report** 4 reports reviewed and discussed. A FOIA request has been submitted to the County Sheriff's Department regarding a shooting incident at Merrill-Gorrel. The Commission tasked the Rules and Regulations committee with the reviewing of incident reports and providing recommendations to the Superintendent once the FOIA request is received.

## **Committee Actions**

### **Masterplan**

**School Section Lake Park Expansion** Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mr. Griffith, to accept the recommendation of the Committee and send the RFP back out with a phased scope and alternate cost breakouts. The initial base bid request limiting sewer to only new campsites, concrete to only proposed ADA campsites, and site expansion to guest camping area only. Alternate 1 includes base project plus staff site additions, alternate 2 - base project plus all sites with concrete pads, alternate 3 - base plus additional sewer hook-up to the existing northeast section. Motion carried.

**Sparks Grant Re-Submission** was discussed, and the Commission has chosen to re-submit the application with added information.

**Playground Equipment RFP** documents have been created. Mr. Griffith motioned, seconded by Mr. Lambrix, to approve and send requests out for proposals. Motion carried.

**Generator** cement pads have been poured, switches are being installed and generators will be connected around Memorial Day.

### **Personnel**

**Seasonal Staff Update** Currently, 2 seasonal positions remain open. Taylor Jutila was introduced to the Commissioners as the new Operations Director.

## **Financial**

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

**Approval of Bills** - Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mr. Lambrix, to approve payment of the bills in the amounts of \$14,353.86, \$27,386.60 and \$105,311.83. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

## **Public Comment:**

**Mr. Heavner** inquired about the Commission's rules rigidity to limit deck sizes to 160 square feet.

**Mr. MacIver** voiced his interest in being a Dragon Trail volunteer.

## **Other Business**

**Next Monthly Commission Meeting** is scheduled for 5 PM, June 20, 2023, at the Mecosta County Services Building.

**Rules & Regulations Committee Meeting** TBD.

**Adjourned:** 5:45 PM