

Mecosta County Park Commission Commission Meeting

The July 18, 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: Mrs. Bradstrom, Mr. Farrow, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Hatkowski, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Lambrix, Ms. Miller, Mr. Stanek, Mrs. Strong and Mr. Vogel. **Member Absent:** None. **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 was accepted with the addition of Prein & Newhof proposal for Brower Park added to Committee Action-Masterplan.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, seconded by Mrs. Strong, to approve the minutes of the June 20th Park Commission and the July 11th Finance Committee meetings. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Reports and Updates

Superintendent's Updates

The Superintendent updated the Commission on 17 current and completed projects, including:

Park Camera Installations at Brower, School Section and Paris Parks have been completed and now provides live and recorded access; Merrill-Gorrel equipment is on order.

Spark Grants have been reviewed and resubmitted for the Paris Hatchery and School Section Lake's Bathhouse.

Brower Park Lottery-2024 Newaygo County Parks has recommended, and Big Prairie Township and Mecosta County Parks have agreed, to move future lotteries for the Hardy Pond Campground lotteries to the third weekend in August.

Generator start-ups at School Section, Brower and Paris should be completed this week.

School Section Watersports new equipment has been purchased and rentals began the weekend of July 4th.

Buckhorn Dam Removal funding has been secured. Permits to be submitted at the end of August, with a projected start of March/April 2024.

Seasonal Staffing mid-season vacancies continue to be a challenge to fill. Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, seconded by Mr. Farrow, to authorize 2 year-round part-time positions to be funded through vacancies of current seasonal positions. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Dragon Trail Construction The County Board of Commissioners have allocated \$200,000 of the \$288,000 requested from the Marijuana Excise Tax to complete the trail.

Incident/Accident 10 reports reviewed and discussed.

Year to Date Revenue Report reviewed; both vehicle and non-vehicle revenue are trending higher year-over-year.

Committee Actions

Finance

2024 Rates & Fees Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Griffith, to accept the Committee recommendation and increase the Seasonal Camping Rates at Brower and Paris Parks.

Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

2024 Operating Dates are inline with the 2023 season with all 4 parks closing October 6th.

2024 Holiday & Event Billing Dates reviewed. Policies are in-line with previous seasons.

2024 Seasonal Camper Percentages & Zones to ensure nightly camping availability, the Commissioners agree to limit Paris Park's Seasonal Camper percentage to 50% of the park.

2024 Seasonal Camper Deposits The Commissioners agree to maintain a \$500 lottery deposit for Brower and \$300 lottery deposits for Paris, Merrill-Gorrel and School Section.

Seasonal Camper Lottery Updates Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mr. Griffith, to limit the use of the Brower wait list to the first 45 days of the season, after which seasonal site cancellations will be released for nightly reservations. Motion carried.

Bid Review-Brower Park-Shallow Water Access Improvements Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom, to submit the lowest bid from Dexico Construction for DNR Grant approval at a cost of \$528,400. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Bid Review School Section Lake-Campground Expansion & Renovation Mr. Griffith motioned, seconded by Mr. Vogel, to request 10-year loan funding assistance from the County. Commissioners reviewed the bid and bid alternates and concluded Pete's Contracting bid plus engineering and contingency will cost approximately \$1.2 million to cover the full scope of the project less the installation of concrete pads. Motion carried with 9, yes, Mrs. Strong, no.

Playground Updates-Final Plan Review Mr. Griffith motioned, seconded by Mr. Farrow, to revise the scope of Brower Park's Art Barn playground plan to include the replacement of the current swing set and incorporate the two planned play areas into one at an additional cost that will bring the park system-wide project cost to \$219,643. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Credit Card Processing Provider-New Reservation System Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to switch credit card processing to Elavon. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Building and Grounds

Old Picnic Tables 8 wooden legged picnic tables have been donated to the park in the Village of Mecosta as their tables were stolen. The Commissioners support extending this offer to other local Mecosta County units of government as a meaningful way to turn over our older table inventory.

Masterplan

Prein & Newhof Proposal-Brower Park Deep Water Channel Mr. Lambrix motioned, seconded by Mr. Hatkowski, to accept the \$6500 proposal from Prein & Newhof for the design, permitting and bidding of the access improvements of Brower's Deep-Water Channel. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Financial

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

Approval of Bills - Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mr. Griffith, to approve payment of the bills in the amounts of \$32,326.11, \$48,458.19 and \$30,845.64. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Public Comment: None.

Other Business

Next Monthly Commission Meeting is scheduled for 5 PM, August 15, 2023, at the Mecosta County Services Building.

Adjourned: 6:15 PM