

Mecosta County Park Commission Commission Meeting

The October 15, 2024, 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. Stanek.

Roll Call

Members Present: Mrs. Bradstrom, Mr. Farrow, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Hatkowski, Mr. Lambrix, Ms. Miller, Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Strong, Mr. Vogel and Mr. Stanek. **Others Present:** Jeff Abel - Superintendent, Taylor Jutila – Operations Director, Jose Santiago-Rivera - Operation Manager, Jaydin Johnson - HR & Marketing, and Kathryn Hunt - Administrative Clerk.

Approval of Agenda

Agenda stood as presented.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mr. Griffith to approve the minutes of the September 10th Commission Meeting. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Reports and Updates

Superintendent's Updates - The Superintendent updated the Commission on:

- **MParks Webinar** – Updates to the new Sick Time mandates will be going into effect next year with updates to follow prior to scheduled date to go into effect.
- **Parks Closed** – All four modern campgrounds closed on October 6th.
- **Seasonal Lotteries** – For MG, SS, and PP were completed on October 2nd. A Seasonal Camper Summary Report was included with the board packets.
- **Manager Interviews** – End of season interviews were completed with Park and Office Managers, by Taylor, Jose, and Jaydin.
- **Retention Payments** – Seasonal retention payments will be included with the Oct. 18th payroll for most staff.
- **Return Letters to the Seasonal Employees** – Have been sent to staff as required with our Seasonal Employer designation.
 - Mr. Lambrix questioned the need for the letters and asked about cost to pay out unemployment for seasonal staff.
- **Winterization & Leaf Mulching** – Is taking place within all the modern camping areas.
- **Water Testing** – Third & Fourth Quarter and Annual Nitrate Testing has been completed.
- **Gift Cards** – Currently working on a new Gift Card process that will allow for re-loadable physical gift cards.

Dragon Trail - Grand Opening – Was held on September 27th at Sandy Beach County Park. The required maintenance fee amount is now being divided by 3 entities instead of 2 so the amount we contribute will be slightly lower. Updated signage has been installed around most of the trail. The website was updated prior to the Sept. 27th Grand Opening.

Seasonal Camper Comparison Report – Was presented comparing the number of seasonal campers and those on the waitlist to previous years reservations, as well as current bookings vs. the maximum number of seasonal campers permitted per park.

Year To Date Revenue Report – Non-Vehicle Revenue has continued to improve and is running similar to 2023 while 2024 Vehicle revenue is showing around \$9,000 behind pace from 2023.

Save the Ponds - Mr. Hatkowski reported the website was opened using either ParisPonds.org or ParisPonds.com as well as the Donate Now option to receive funds. Mr. Hatkowski also reminded the board of the Community Giving Day on December 3rd 2024.

Incident/Accident Reports – None to Report

Correspondence -

SSLPOA Newsletter was included with the board member information

Consumers Energy Dam Update was included with the board member information

Committee Actions -

Masterplan

Brower Park Electrical Project Update- The work has begun now that the park is closed and is expected to be completed or near completion by the end of the year with cosmetic landscaping work to finish in the spring.

Paris Parking Review - Discussions were held regarding the charging of a fee to park at Paris Park during the campground operating season. No actions were recommended. It was additionally discussed to add another sign at the White Pine Trail parking lot near the Icehouse Barn to indicate the free parking area coming from North to South.

Finance

2025 Seasonal Vehicle/Boat Permits– Mr. Stanek administered a vote on three proposed choice options. The Commissioners selected the Light Blue and Red colored logo, mirroring the color scheme of the Save the Ponds committee graphics and including the Save The Ponds wording.

DNR Trust Fund Grant Preliminary Score School Section (305) – Preliminary score was 305 – previously scored 335 during the last grant cycle. The DNR Grant Coordinator advised that the supplemental information submitted at the end of the last cycle was missing from this year’s application. We have re-submitted that information and made a few additional updates to try to bring our score up before the final scoring review.

DNR Trust Fund Grant- Davis Bridge Project Update – Motion by Mrs. Strong, second by Mr. Griffith to request that the County Board of Commissioners pass a resolution in acceptance of the grant. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Administration Office – Cash Bank - Discussions were held regarding the need for imprest cash as a change fund and operating till at the Administrative Office location. Mr. Hatkowski motioned seconded by Mr. Lambrix to allow for an imprest cash bank of up to \$250 at the Administrative Office location. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Building & Grounds

Pontoon Boat Purchase - Motion by Mrs. Bradstrom, second by Mr. Lambrix to move forward with the purchase of a pontoon boat and trailer at an amount of \$10,000 or less. 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 - Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, seconded by Mr. Vogel to accept the Bills as presented in the amounts of \$13,134.29, \$3,683.67, \$18,083.79, \$16,538.76, & \$19,883.90. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Public Comment: None.

Other Business

Next Commission Meeting is scheduled for 5 PM, Tuesday, November 12th, 2024 at the Mecosta County Services Building in the front Conference Room.

Rules & Regulations Committee Meeting will be scheduled before next meeting.

Adjourned: 5:42 PM