

## **Mecosta County Park Commission Commission Meeting**

The November 12, 2024, 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, Ms. Miller, Mrs. Strong, Mr. Vogel and Mr. Stanek. **Members Absent:** Mr. Lambrix **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. Farrow motioned, seconded by Mr. Vogel, to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2024, Park Commission and October 30<sup>th</sup> Rules and Regulations Committee Meetings. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None.

### **Reports & Updates**

#### **Superintendent's Updates**

The Superintendent updated the Commission on 21 current and completed projects, including:

**Gift Cards** order has been placed for 500 hard card gift cards.

**State Recognition Dragon Trail** A special tribute from Representative Kunse and Senator Hauck for completion of the Dragon Trail has been received.

**2025 Reservations Opening Dates** have been set. We plan to open reservations for Monthly Camping, Pavilions, and Family Group Camp on January 8th at 9:00 AM and open reservations for nightly camping and cabins on February 12th at 9:00 AM.

**Brochures/Rate Cards** Currently in process of updating and printing our 2025 Rate Cards and Brochures.

**Park Maps** Staff are working on updating the park maps similar to the map created for School Section this past season.

**Historical Marker School Section** Staff are working with Old Settles and the Michigan History Center toward updating the historical marker by the concessions building within the park.

**School Section Walleye Stocking** took place last week with us paying our \$750 contribution to the program.

**Buckhorn Public Notice** We received notice that the EGLE permit for the dam removal project at Buckhorn Creek has been distributed for Public Notice and Comment.

**Save the Ponds Updates** - Mr. Hatkowski stated that both websites, ParisPonds.org & ParisPonds.com are now active as well as a page on Facebook. A public kick off to create awareness is set for Friday November 22 at 10:00 am at the Paris Park Hatchery. Should there be inclement weather it will be held inside the Hatchery building. Mr. Stanek expressed his excitement regarding the project and thanked Mr. Hatkowski for all he is doing for the Save the Ponds project.

## Committee Actions

### Masterplan

**Brower Park Electrical Project Update** The project is moving along on pace and is going well. We had hoped to add conduit installations to the scope of work for future Wi-Fi service, however due to higher-than-expected cost estimates, the project has proceeded without the additional scope of work.

**Davis Bridge DNR Trust Fund Project Update** The Resolution to accept the grant was passed by County Board and the grant acceptance has been submitted to the DNR. Final adjustments are being made to the site plan due to a change request from Consumers Energy related to the placement of the vault toilet building. The project is expected to go out to bid soon.

**Masterplan Update Proposal** The Park Commission current Master Plan is good through the year 2025. A 2026 – 2030 update to the Master Plan will be required to apply for State Grants Funding. Prein & Newhof created the current Master Plan and has submitted a proposal for a plan renewal at a cost not to exceed \$9,000. Mrs. Strong motioned to move forward with the Master Plan update proposal, Second by Mr. Griffith. Motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

### Finance

**2025 Picnic Table Order** Bids were presented regarding the cost for additional picnic tables for the new season. The order is being split with the frames and boards being obtained from separate suppliers. Mr. Griffith motioned to accept the bids from Jamestown and Big L, seconded by Mr. Farrow. Motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

**Service Master Administration Cleaning Proposal** A service proposal was reviewed with a task list to be performed and the cost associated with cleaning the Parks Administration building in Paris. Mrs. Strong motioned, seconded by Mr. Farrow. Motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

### Rules & Regulations

**Pet Regulations – School Section Lake Veteran’s Park** Mr. Hatkowski described a review process that took place within the Rules and Regulations committee to consider several potential rule modifications. From a customer service standpoint, it was recommended that the potential pet rule change be brought forward for consideration prior to any other recommendations being finalized. The committee had discussed the potential benefits and consequences of changing the pet rule prior to recommending moving forward with a change. It was noted that many customers have been requesting this change through various methods, including the annual Meet and Greet events. Superintendent Abel requests a final decision be made on this topic, prior to other rule change recommendations being considered, to allow adequate time for the seasonal campers to be notified of the change, search for alternate accommodations if desired, and to have cancellation fees waived for a period, should the rule change be approved. Mr. Hatkowski motioned to accept the recommendation from the Rules and Regulations Committee to change the pet policy, Mrs. Bradstrom seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Griffith motioned to have a brief period at the Superintendent’s discretion to waive seasonal camper cancellation fees at School Section, allowing time for the campers to be notified and cancel without penalty, if desired. Seconded by Mr. Vogel. Motion carried unanimously.

### Financial

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

**Approval of Bills –** Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to accept the bills as presented in the amounts of \$6,000, \$4,764.07, \$4,227.55, \$7,323.18, and \$238,983.93. With the final list including the Hillard Electric invoice @ \$150,885.00 & Pete’s Contracting invoice @ \$74,384.00. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

## **Other Business**

**Next Commission Meeting** is scheduled for 5 PM, Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at the Mecosta County Services Building.

**Save The Ponds** Kick off on Friday November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10 am.

**Adjourned:** 5:45 PM.