

## Mecosta County Park Commission Commission Meeting

The May 21, 2024, Commission Meeting of the Mecosta County Park Commission was called to order at the Mecosta 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. **Members Absent:** None. **Others Present:** Jeff Abel - Superintendent, Taylor Jutila - Operations Director, Jose Santiago - Operations Manager and Mary Hansen - HR Manager.

### Approval of Agenda

Hearing no objections, the agenda stands as approved.

### Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Strong motioned, seconded by Mr. Lambrix, to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2024, Park Commission meeting. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None. Chairman Stanek inquired about the length of time to speak given to each member of the public in attendance and recommended a shorter time. Ms. Miller motioned to change the current time limit of 4 minutes to 3 minutes, seconded by Mr. Vogel. Motion carried.

### Reports and Updates

#### Superintendent's Updates

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

**Servers for Park System** - mapping of folder destinations for each park computer is in process.

**New Credit Card Machines** have been installed at each of the park offices.

**Brower Campsite** markers were installed in the Pines section using poured concrete and composite color core numbers at ground level as a test for potential use in other parks.

**Brower DNR Reimbursement Payment** was received in the amount of \$152,015.66.

**Playground Reimbursement Payment** by the county in the amount of \$30,435 from last year's upgrades.

**MG Tree** Work totaling \$4,000 including tree trimming, removals and stump grinding was completed prior to the park opening.

**Paris Well** needed extensive repair work on the main well prior to the park opening.

**Paris Trout Pond** addition of 300 6-8" trout is in the works at a cost of \$1,077 delivered.

**School Section Wi-Fi** addition of 2 distribution points is in the works.

**EGLE Pre Application Meeting** was held at Brower Park to review the permit application scope for extending and dredging the deep water launch for boat access if necessary.

**Year to Date Park Revenue Report** - Was reviewed, noting vehicle permit purchases are up.

**Dragon Trail** - Crew is back working with hopes of having the trail completed in August with a ribbon cutting ceremony in September.

**Save the Pond Group Update** provided by Mr. Hatkowski and included reporting that the south wall of pond 3 has recently cracked further and is in danger of collapsing. The restoration process will need to be done in phases. Engineer Cliff Youngs has offered to help pro bono and has discussed restoration options. Mr. Lambrix also discussed an option for restoration. The group discussed funding options and possible fiscal sponsorships. A website address has been established and contact has been made with the Deans Council at Ferris State University for possible collaboration.

**School Section Lake Expansion Updates** - the project is complete with a few punch list items being finished. All 4 ADA sites are open for reservations with the rest of the sites due to open soon after the grass has been allowed time to take hold.

**Brower Park Water Access Updates** - the ADA kayak and canoe launch, boat launch and fishing pier are open and ready for use. The parking area has been paved and the area has been landscaped. We are waiting on a few benches; educational sign displays and the hose connections for the boat wash.

**Incident/Accident Reports** - 3 incidents were reported.

## Committee Actions

### Finance

**Marijuana Excise Tax Funding** - Mr. Hatkowski motioned, seconded by Mr. Farrow to apply for funding for the Paris Ponds Project with one application for \$50,000.00 and another for \$150,000.00. Motion carried.

### Personnel

**2024 Seasonal Staff Update** The HR Manager informed the Commissioners that we are fully staffed except for one position that we need to back-fill.

### 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 approve the bills in the amounts of \$67,008.48, \$74,944.27, \$33,413.32, \$9,000.25. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

**Public Comment:** None

### Other Business:

**2025 Rates and Operating Dates** must be finalized at June meeting.

**Next Regular Commission Meeting** is scheduled for 5 PM, Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at the Mecosta County Services Building.

**Adjourned:** 5:50 PM.