

Mecosta County Park Commission Commission Meeting

The June 18, 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: Mr. Griffith, Mr. Hatkowski, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Lambrix, Ms. Miller, Mr. Stanek, Mrs. Strong and Mr. Vogel. **Members Absent:** Mrs. Bradstrom and Mr. Farrow. **Others Present:** Jeff Abel - Superintendent, Mary Hansen - HR Manager and Kathy Maclean - Administrative Clerk.

Approval of Agenda

Hearing no objections, the agenda stands approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2024, Park Commission and June 4, 2024 Finance Committee meetings. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Ms. Johnson, SSLPOA representative shared her appreciation of the Superintendent's updates at the Associations Annual meeting.

Reports and Updates

Superintendent's Updates

The Superintendent updated the commission on 20 current and completed projects, including:

Power Outages at Brower, School Section and Merrill Lake this year were the first live tests of the new generators; with Brower and School Section's functioning as planned, Gorrel's needed to be re-set prior to starting.

SSLPOA Annual Meeting was attended, topics discussed were weed control and fish stocking, wake boats, regulations for the "Narrows". Members also, expressed interest in having the Commission consider the purchase of the island.

MET Funding Application was submitted for request of \$50,000 and \$150,000 as directed.

Save the Ponds Group would like to apply for an Ice Mountain Grant of up to \$20,000. The Commissioners support this action.

Animal Issues have been discovered in the Paris Hatchery and the schoolhouse at School Section Lake. We have contacted pest control companies to set live traps for the raccoons.

Park Reconciliations are taking longer to complete due to issues with the new reservation system; we are working with our provider to simplify the process moving forward.

Paris Tree Removal is scheduled to take place in the next few weeks. Our provider is removing the 4 large maples that overhang pond 3 at cost.

Recognition bench unveiling to be scheduled at the WPVRA in the coming weeks.

The Conservation District has requested use of the Paris Hatchery as a distribution point for their Fall Seedling Sale on September 27th. Mr. Griffith motioned, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to approve opening the Northland Dr. access gate to the Hatchery parking lot for free access starting September 27 through the end of the season. Motion carried.

Recycling Options at Brower are being discussed with our trash removal provider. Similar services are not currently available at School Section Lake.

Year to Date Park Revenue Report was reviewed.

Dragon Trail – Ribbon Cutting ceremony has been tentatively scheduled for September 27 at Newaygo County - Sandy Beach Park.

Save the Ponds Group meeting notes reviewed.

School Section Lake Expansion project will be completed shortly. The electric contractor will finish installation Monday, trees around manager trail are due to be planted, 12-16 sites are currently open for use and more opening soon.

Brower Park Water Access project walkthrough has been completed. Punch list items that remain include signage creation and installation and ribbon cutting ceremony.

Incident/Accident Reports - 4 Incidents were reported.

Committee Actions

Finance

2025 Rates and Fees as recommended by the Finance Committee were reviewed and discussed. Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mr. Lambrix, to approve the 2025 rates and fees as presented. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

2025 Operating Dates, Holiday Billing Mr. Griffith motioned, seconded by Mr. Vogel, to approve the recommended season operating dates and holiday billing schedules as presented. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

2025 Seasonal Camper Deposits, Percentages and Site Availability were discussed with no changes in the seasonal deposits recommended. No changes were recommended for Paris; continue to permit up to 50% (33 sites) seasonal occupancy. The Committee recommends leaving the Gorrel side of Merrill-Gorrel unlimited, but to re-open some hand-picked options on the Merrill side. Maintain School Section Lake at up to 50% (133 sites) with 12 of the 41 new sites being available as “Prime” seasonal site options. Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mr. Griffith to approve the Committees recommendations and to select the 12 available “Prime” sites as the 12 sites within the west and north border of the new section. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

School Section Lift Pump Replacement required to remedy the ongoing system issues. Two 1-hp grinder pumps are on order at a cost of \$5400. Mr. Lambrix will make an onsite visit to School Section Lake.

Budget Adjustments Mr. Lambrix motioned, seconded by Mr. Griffith, to authorize the Commission Chairman and the Finance Committee Chairman to review and approve the recommended budget adjustments on behalf of the Commission. Motion carried.

Personnel

2024 Seasonal Staff Update - The HR Manager informed the Commissioners that we are fully staffed except for 3 positions that are being back-filled.

Overtime Eligibility Changes - Salary Caps - The DOL has scheduled 2 phased changes to the thresholds for overtime compensation and minimum salary compensation for July 1, 2024 and January 1, 2025. A spreadsheet of required and recommended pay adjustments was presented. The Superintendent was asked to submit items of clarification to the County’s legal counsel for review prior to implementation. Ms. Miller motioned, seconded by Mrs. Strong, to approve the salary increases as presented and as necessary to comply with the July 1st requirements. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Financial

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

Approval of Bills: Mr. Griffith motioned, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to approve the bills in the amounts of \$577,104.15, \$103,604.05, \$13,777.09 and \$25,053.74. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Public Comment: None.

Other Business:

Next Regular Commission Meeting is scheduled for 5 PM, Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at the Mecosta County Services Building.

Adjourned: 6:05 PM.