

MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION
JUNE MEETING
(ANNUAL MEETING)
MAY 27, 2020

Local Operational Guidance - COVID 19

N.J.S.A 10:4-8(b) authorizes local units to conduct public meetings through use of streaming services and other online meeting platforms.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Mercer County Park Commission will hold their ANNUAL MEETING on Wednesday, June 24, 2020, beginning at 5:30 pm via Zoom Webinar. To encourage full public participation of the public meeting, please use the meeting access information below:

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83720318632?pwd=OVpxSEh3d05wQ25pWkJCQmNpUVVJLZz09>
- Webinar ID: 837 2031 8632
- Password: 773039
- **iPhone one-tap:**
US:+19294362866,,83720318632#,,,,0#,,773039# or
+13017158592,,83720318632#,,,,0#,,773039#
- **Telephone:** Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):
US: +1 929 436 2866 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799

***Public Comment shall take place as indicated on the June 24, 2020 Annual Meeting Agenda. Kindly provide public comment when prompted during the meeting via the messaging/chat feature or by the, ‘hand-raising’ feature, where you will be prompted to speak to provide public comment.**

CALL TO ORDER

- Commissioner Schulz called the June 24, 2020 meeting of the Mercer County Park Commission to order at 5:32 pm, via Zoom Webinar platform.

ROLL CALL

- **The following Commissioners answered the Roll Call of the Secretary:**
 - o Commissioners: Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, Schulz and Smith
- **The following Commissioners were absent:**
 - o Commissioner Longo

Commissioner Schulz led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Salute to the Flag.

NOTICE OF MEETING:**SUNSHINE LAW**

In accordance with the Sunshine Law (Open Public Meetings Act Chapter 231, P.L. 1975), adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in that notification was given as follows: emailed to the Times, Trentonian, the Mercer County Clerk and the Joyce McDade Administration Building.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from the May 27, 2020 Park Commission Public Meeting:

- In voice vote, the May 27, 2020 the Park Commission Public Meeting minutes were approved as presented.
- **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, Schulz and Smith. **Nays-None. Abstain-None. Absent:** Longo.

Approval of June 2020 Mercer County Park Commission Bills:

- In voice vote, the June 2020 Mercer County Park Commission bills were approved for payment as presented.
- **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, Schulz and Smith. **Nays-None. Abstain-None. Absent:** Longo

Approval of May 2020 Mercer County Park Commission Revenue Reports:

- In voice vote, the May 2020 Mercer County Park Commission Revenue Reports were approved as presented.
- **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, Schulz and Smith. **Nays-None. Abstain-None. Absent:** Longo.

COMMUNICATIONS *(Presented by Executive Director Aaron T. Watson)*

- **Local Coalition Works for Racial Justice Through Environmental Equity**
 - The Mercer County Coalition for Environmental Equity and inclusivity, comprised of representatives from the Mercer County Park Commission, Local Land Trusts, Service Organizations, and School Officials throughout the County, has been working together to create experiences that inform and inspire people of all ages, ethnicities, abilities, and income levels to enjoy nature and the outdoors.
 - The Coalition pays special attention to removing barriers to participation and championing equitable opportunities and programs at local parks and public lands that support quality of life issues like healthy air, water, and land; as well as career opportunities, and access to open space and fresh food sources.

- **Nature Programs to Host Virtual Summer Lecture Series**
This summer, the Environmental Education and Stewardship Departments; in partnership with researchers from the Conserve Wildlife Foundation and the Wildlife Center Friends Organization, will be hosting a series of virtual webinar Presentations that will focus on the wildlife that affect our lives, even in an urbanized environment. All scheduled presentations are available to the members of the public at no cost.

- **2019-20 Mercer County Park Commission Deer Management Report**
Included in Communications, our Administration is pleased to present our Commission with the 2019-20 Mercer County Park Commission Deer Management Report.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:

(Presented by Executive Director Aaron T. Watson and Director of Recreation and Events, G. Dean Gray)

- This Month’s Employee of the Month is Junior Callejas, Sign Maker for the Recreation and Events office. Junior began his Employment with the Park Commission on October 20, 2018.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Stony Brook Pedestrian Bridge**
This project is substantially completed. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be coordinated with the LHT and Planning Department. Opening of the trail to the public is expected for the July 4th weekend.

- **MCP Sewer Extension**
The Sewer Connection in the Mercer County Park has been completed . The entire park, with the exception of Marina, and Tennis complex has been connected to the public sewer system.

- **Golf Courses**-Golf Courses are fully operational again under current COVID Guidelines. Golf pro shops opened this week. Awaiting start dates for seasonal staff to operate pro shops and course rangers.

NEW BUSINESS:**RESOLUTIONS:**

R-1. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A WINDOW CONTRACT WITH WEEDS, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF MEADOW INSTALLATION SERVICES ON MERCER COUNTY PARKLAND, COUNTY OPEN SPACE AND FOR POP UP MEADOWS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY WITHIN THE COUNTY OF MERCER. PERIOD: JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH MAY 31, 2021. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$24,535.00

– On Motion by Commissioner Gardner seconded by Commissioner Mooij.

– **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, Schulz and Smith. **Nays**-None. **Abstain**-None. **Absent**: Longo.

R-2. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH PRINCETON HYDRO (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL WATER QUALITY AND HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM MONITORING SERVICES FOR MERCER COUNTY PARKLAND LAKES. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$35,955.00. PERIOD: JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021

– On Motion by Commissioner Gardner seconded by Commissioner Davis.

– **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, Schulz and Smith. **Nays**-None. **Abstain**-None. **Absent**: Longo.

R-3. AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 2020-48, ADOPTED MAY 27, 2020 AND THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT (AMENDMENT NO. 1) TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH SIMONE COLLINS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE (AWARDED THROUGH A FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) FOR PROFESSIONAL ANALYSIS AND MASTER PLAN DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE MOORES STATION QUARRY RESTORATION AND PARK DEVELOPMENT. INCREASE THE CONTRACT AMOUNT BY \$7,290.00 (+2.42%) RESULTING IN A REVISED TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$307,994.00. CONTRACT PERIOD REMAINS THE SAME

– On Motion by Commissioner Schulz seconded by Commissioner Gardner.

– **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, Schulz and Smith. **Nays**-None. **Abstain**-None. **Absent**: Longo.

R-4. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION ACCEPTS THE EARLY TERMINATION OF A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH ZAGSTER, INC. FOR A BIKE SHARE PROGRAM FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION FACILITIES (CC-2019-02). PERIOD: MAY 1, 2019 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2020; WITH A TWO (2) YEAR OPTION, OR TWO (2), ONE (1) YEAR OPTIONS TO EXTEND THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT PERIOD. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$48,000.00 FOR YEAR ONE (1). “TERMINATE CONTRACT DUE TO THE FACT THAT AS A RESULT OF THE IMPACTS OF THE COVID CRISIS, ZAGSTER, INC. IS NO LONGER A VIABLE BUSINESS ENTITY; AND THEREFORE, CANNOT FULFILL THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN THE CONTRACT”. TERMINATION EFFECTIVE: JUNE 28, 2020

- On Motion by Commissioner Schulz seconded by Commissioner Gardner.
- **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, Schulz and Smith. **Nays**-None. **Abstain**-None. **Absent**: Longo.

R-5 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING FOR BIKE SHARE SERVICES AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS WITHIN THE COUNTY OF MERCER

- On Motion by Commissioner Forrester seconded by Commissioner Smith.
- **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, Schulz and Smith. **Nays**-None. **Abstain**-None. **Absent**: Longo.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

Park Commission Counsel, R. David Blake, Esq. Cited the Park Commission By-Laws, Article 7, Section 3 and Section 8 to begin proceedings for the Election of Officers for the Park Commission’s Annual Meeting.

Nominated for President of the Park Commission for the 2020-21 Year: James J. Schulz, Jr.

- On Motion by Commissioner Davis seconded by Commissioner Mooij.
- **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, Schulz and Smith. **Nays**-None. **Abstain**-none. **Absent**: Longo.

Nominated for Vice President of the Mercer County Park Commission for the 2020-21 Year: Marissa Davis

- On Motion by Commissioner Schulz seconded by Commissioner Gardner.
- **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, Schulz and Smith. **Nays**-None. **Abstain**-none. **Absent**: Longo.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT*Presented by Executive Director Aaron T. Watson***EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT(AARON WATSON)****– GOLF**

- Golf Courses online store had 1,600 transactions over the last month; including the update and issuance of golf memberships, GHIN handicaps and Gift Card sales.
- Pro shops opened up on June 15th, with a limit of two (2) people in the golf shops at one time. If they prefer, golfers also have the option to call pro shops to purchase items and pick them up at their convenience.
- On July 1, all tee time bookings will be moving to twelve (12) minute intervals. All four (4) courses have been operating at about 66% capacity and filling about 95% of all those tee times on a daily basis.
- All Driving Ranges and Putting Greens are open at Mercer Oaks, Mountain View and Princeton Country Club. Many leagues have resumed play over the last two (2) weeks.
- Most of the outings scheduled for May, June and July have been rescheduled for September and October.

– CATERING

- Caterers are operating turn windows, beverage carts and utilizing outdoor space to accommodate golfers.
- As of July 2, the Governor's Executive Order will permit indoor dining at 25% of room capacity not to exceed 100people.

– TENNIS

- Outdoor Courts only are open at this time.
- We are currently offering private group lessons for groups of up to four (4) players maximum.
- Summer Tennis League – Two-hundred and Twenty-eight (228) players are currently participating in a singles flex-league.

– PARKS:

- Campsites are open with reduced capacity to accommodate social distancing guidelines. Forty-five (45) reservations have been made; with a total of \$1,220.00 in revenue since the re-opening of camp sites in the East Picnic Area.
- Picnic areas are opening with limited capacity to adhere to social distancing

guidelines. Reservations are currently on-line only.

- The Marina is open with kayak rental, private boating, and fishing permitted.
- Dog Parks are open with guidelines.

– **RECREATION AND EVENTS**

- I will be meeting with our Deputy Director, Superintendent of Operations and Director of Recreation and Events this week to discuss the current COVID safety Guidelines from the Department of Health for Leagues, Fields, Camps and Picnic Areas.
- Discussions are on-going for entertainment offerings under the current COVID Guidelines.

– **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

- Building on last year's successful River Days event at South Riverwalk Park, planning is underway for a 2020 River Days program. Staff is considering how this year's event and event funding can be focused on serving people's needs in this era of COVID-19; such as grab-n-go lunches, farmers market tent, and health services.
- Family Field Trips and Kayak Nature Tours have opened for registration.

– **MERCER COUNTY STABLES**

- Staff and horses are all well and Mercer Stables is in Phase 2 of our re-opening plan. Phase 2 allows for the following programs: riding lessons, adaptive riding lessons, trail rides, and pony rides.

– **HOWELL FARM**

- Beginning this week, there are free, interactive tours of the gardens and fields where the farm is growing vegetables and grains for donation to local food pantries and soup kitchens.
- The farm is contributing several components to the Nature Program's virtual camps. The session on Ice Harvesting includes an Ice Cream Making activity; the session on Beekeeping includes a close-up video visit to the farm's very active hives where honey is being produced.
- Ten (10) food pantries are currently distributing the farm's whole wheat flour, cornmeal, oatmeal, eggs, and fresh vegetables to County residents in need. To date, 3.5 tons of the farm's grains have been donated. By the end of June, more than 5,000 people will have received food items from the farm.
- The corn maze has been designed and planted. This year, it will feature the beautifully restored truss bridge that spans Moore's Creek in the Pleasant Valley Rural Historic District.

– **PUBLIC SESSION:**

- There were no members of the public that wished to speak during the public session.
- **ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSEQUENT PUBLIC MEETING:**
The July 29, 2020 Mercer County Park Commission Public Meeting is scheduled to take place at a location to be determined.
- **ADJOURNMENT:**
On motion by Commissioner Gardner, seconded by Commissioner Schulz, Adjournment took place at 6:32 pm

Heather Mauro

Heather Mauro

Executive Secretary

Secretary to the Commission