

**MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION
MARCH 31 MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 31, 2021 @ 5:30 PM
VIA ZOOM WEBINAR LINK AND PHONE NUMBER:**

NOTICE

**MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION
OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT, CHAPTER 231, P.L. 1975**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Mercer County Park Commission will hold their **APRIL 2021 PUBLIC MEETING** on **Wednesday, April 28, 2021; to begin at 5:30 pm via Zoom Webinar**. To encourage full public participation of the public meeting, please use the meeting access information below. (The Meeting link and meeting information may also be accessed on our website at www.mercercountyparks.org)

- **When:** Apr 28, 2021 05:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
- **Topic:** April 28, 2021 Mercer County Park Commission Public Meeting Zoom Webinar
- **Please use the information provided below join the webinar:**
- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85670088629?pwd=VlpjZjZlZkdHUyNEljSTVWQTBkYmM3BGU09>
- **Passcode: 983929**
- **Webinar ID: 856 7008 8629**
- **Or Telephone:** Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):
US: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 436 2866 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER:

- Commissioner Schulz called the April 28, 2021 meeting of the Mercer County Park Commission to order at 5:35 pm, via Zoom Webinar platform.

ROLL CALL:

- **The following Commissioners answered the Roll Call of the Secretary:**
Caton, Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Martinez, Mooij, Schulz and Smith
- **The following Commissioners were absent:** none
- **Commissioner Schulz led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Salute to the Flag.**

NOTICE OF MEETING:

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, AND POSTED TO THE MERCER COUNTY WEBSITE AND MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION WEBSITE; AND SENT VIA EMAIL BLAST THROUGH THE COUNTY OF MERCER AND MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM..

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.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 31, 2021 PARK COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING:

- On Motion by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Forrester; by voice vote, the March 31, 2021 Mercer County Park Commission Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.
- **Ayes:** Caton, Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Martinez, Mooij, Schulz and Smith.
Nays: None. **Abstain** None. **Absent:** None.

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 2021 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION BILLS:

- On Motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Martinez; by voice vote, the April 2021 Mercer County Park Commission Bills were approved for payment as presented.
- **Ayes:** Caton, Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Martinez, Mooij, Schulz and Smith.
Nays: None. **Abstain** None. **Absent:** None.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 2021 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION REVENUE REPORTS:

- On Motion by Commissioner Schulz, seconded by Commissioner Forrester, by voice vote, the March 2021 Mercer County Park Commission Revenue Reports were approved as presented.
- **Ayes:** Caton, Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Martinez, Mooij, Schulz and Smith.
Nays: None. **Abstain** None. **Absent:** None.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH (Presented by Aaron T. Watson, Executive Director)

(Nominated by Joe Pizza, Deputy Director)

This month's Park Commission Employees of the Month, nominated for their outstanding leadership, are Supervisor of Park Rangers, Dave Buxton and Assistant Supervisor of Park Rangers, Mr. Luis Reyes. Mr. Buxton has been with the Park Commission since April 2011. Mr. Reyes has been with the Park Commission since April 2015.

COMMUNICATIONS

- C-1 Resident Letter sent to recognize Park Naturalist, Christina Athmejvar for leading the, "Just a Hike Program".
- C-2 On April 10, the Mercer County Park Commission and the Mercer County Planning Department worked together to organize a Bike Drive to benefit the Boys and Girls Clubs of Mercer County. The collaborative effort yielded a collection of over 400 bikes; which is the largest and most successful collection in the initiative's 12-Year history.
- C-3 The Mercer County Park Commission has approved a prescribed burn plan to be implemented by the New Jersey Forest Fire Service (NJFFS) at Baldpate Mountain. The Forest Fire Service has worked in collaboration with the Park Commission's Stewardship Department in recent months to develop the plan, which is tailored to improve the ecological condition of the Park Commission-managed natural area.

Commissioner Schulz asked for an update on the success of the prescribed burns performed to date have

Superintendent Cucchi advised the Commission as to the outcomes of all prescribed burns performed by the New Jersey Forrest Fire Service to-date; as well as upcoming winter burns.

Executive Director Watson advised the Commission that the program's success has provided cost savings and environmental improvements.

OLD BUSINESS:

(Presented by Deputy Director Joe Pizza)

- **In House Staff Operations:** Park Maintenance staff has been continuing to prepare campgrounds, picnic areas and dog parks for the upcoming prime seasons.
- **Mercer County Skating Center-**The Skating Center has been prepared to begin to host Covid-19 Vaccinations for the public.
- **Golf-**All five (5) Golf courses have been aerated, and irrigation systems have been tested and are fully operational for the season.
- **Hopewell Valley Golf Course:**
 - Contracts for Pool Management and Maintenance services and Catering Concessionaire are scheduled on tonight's agenda.
 - Clubhouse and maintenance shop and pro shop: Interiors have been painted; windows have been replaced, new flooring installations, roof repairs and siding installation.
 - New awnings have been ordered
 - Facility internet and phone upgrades are in-process.
- **Hopewell Valley Golf Course Capital Projects:**
 - **Bridge Replacement:** Test pits have been performed. The new pre-fabricated bridge is on order and anticipated to be delivered in June.
 - **Potable Well Drilling-** The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is reviewing submissions for the request to drill a second well. Once determination is made, we shall proceed accordingly.
 - **Septic System Repairs-**The Design Specifications for the upgrades and repairs have been sent to the Purchasing Department to proceed with Advertising for public bidding.
 - **Cart Path Upgrades-**This project is nearing completion; pending final paving operations.
- **Park Commission Capital Projects:**
 - **Paving Project in the Mercer County Park (Rink area and walking trails)-**This project has been completed.
 - **Sewer upgrade at the West Pump Station (Mercer County Park)-**This project is on-going and should be substantially completed next month.

Wildlife Center Pre-Flight Cage-This project shall be substantially completed; anticipating final installation of bird netting.

Commissioner Gardner asked if the opening of the Hopewell Valley Golf Course's facility, anticipated in June, will include the opening of the pools as well

Deputy Director Pizza confirmed that the pools will be included in the opening.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS:

R-1. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE OPTION TO EXTEND THE SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON TO UTILIZE CERTAIN SERVICES OF THE HAMILTON TOWNSHIP ECOLOGICAL FACILITY FOR ONE (1) YEAR AS PER [N.J.S.A.40A:65-1]. PERIOD: JULY 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2022; WITH ALL TERMS OF THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT REMAINING SAME

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

R-2. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AGREEMENT WITH GARDEN STATE BASEBALL, L.P. AND THE COUNTY OF MERCER; ESTABLISHING THE TERMS OF AN INTERIM ADJUSTED PROVISION OF THE RENT OBLIGATION; UNDER THE CURRENT TERMS OF THE LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN GARDEN STATE BASEBALL, L.P.; THE COUNTY OF MERCER AND THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION FOR THE USE OF ARM AND HAMMER PARK STADIUM. PERIOD: APRIL 1, 2021 TO MARCH 31, 2022. ALL OTHER TERMS OF THE ORIGINAL LEASE AGREEMENT REMAIN THE SAME

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

Counsel advised the Commission that a vote for New Business items R-3 through R-7 may be provided in block format.

Chair Schulz requested a motion to vote in block format for New Business items R-3 through R-7

- On Motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Smith, a block format vote was accepted by the Commission for New Business items R-3 through R-7.
- **Ayes:** Caton, Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Martinez, Mooij, Schulz and Smith.
Nays: None. **Abstain** None. **Absent:** None.

- R-3. AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 2020-69, ADOPTED DECEMBER 9, 2020 AND THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT (AMENDMENT NO. 2) TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AGREEMENT WITH BUZZETTA FOODS, INC.; ESTABLISHING THE TERMS OF AN INTERIM ADJUSTED PROVISION TO THE REVENUE OBLIGATION UNDER THE CURRENT TERMS OF THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACT (CC-2019-01); FOR CONCESSIONAIRE MOBILE CATERING SERVICES AT THE MERCER COUNTY PARK ATHLETIC FIELDS AND SPECIAL EVENTS. AMEND RESOLUTION TO: ‘EXTEND THE AGREEMENT PERIOD THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2021; EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2021.’ ALL OTHER TERMS OF THE ORIGINAL COMPETITIVE CONTRACT REMAIN THE SAME. ALL OTHER TERMS OF THE ORIGINAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AGREEMENT REMAIN THE SAME
- R-4. AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 2020-68, ADOPTED ON JULY 29, 2020 AND THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT (AMENDMENT NO. 2) TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AGREEMENT WITH CHEZ ALICE CATERING; ESTABLISHING THE TERMS OF AN INTERIM ADJUSTED PROVISION TO THE REVENUE OBLIGATION UNDER THE CURRENT TERMS OF THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACT (CC-2018-07); FOR CONCESSIONAIRE CATERING SERVICES AT THE STRAWBERRY HILL MANSION FACILITY. AMEND RESOLUTION TO: ‘EXTEND THE AGREEMENT PERIOD THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2021; EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2021.’ ALL OTHER TERMS OF THE ORIGINAL COMPETITIVE CONTRACT REMAIN THE SAME. ALL OTHER TERMS OF THE ORIGINAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AGREEMENT REMAIN THE SAME
- R-5. AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 2020-64, ADOPTED ON JULY 29, 2020 AND THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT (AMENDMENT NO. 2) TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AGREEMENT WITH HEIRLOOM EVENTS; ESTABLISHING THE TERMS OF AN INTERIM ADJUSTED PROVISION TO THE REVENUE OBLIGATION UNDER THE CURRENT TERMS OF THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACT (CC-2018-08); FOR CONCESSIONAIRE CATERING SERVICES AT THE PRINCETON COUNTRY CLUB AND MOUNTAIN VIEW GOLF CLUB FACILITIES. AMEND RESOLUTION TO: ‘EXTEND THE AGREEMENT PERIOD THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2021; EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2021.’ ALL OTHER TERMS OF THE ORIGINAL COMPETITIVE CONTRACT REMAIN THE SAME. ALL OTHER TERMS OF THE ORIGINAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AGREEMENT REMAIN THE SAME

- R-6. AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 2020-66, ADOPTED ON JULY 29, 2020 AND THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT (AMENDMENT NO. 2) TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AGREEMENT WITH LANDMARK HOSPITALITY (LMH HOLDINGS, LLC); ESTABLISHING THE TERMS OF AN INTERIM ADJUSTED PROVISION TO THE REVENUE OBLIGATION UNDER THE CURRENT TERMS OF THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACT (CC-2019-04); FOR CONCESSIONAIRE CATERING SERVICES AT THE BOATHOUSE MARINA FACILITY. AMEND RESOLUTION TO: ‘EXTEND THE AGREEMENT PERIOD THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2021; EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2021.’ ALL OTHER TERMS OF THE ORIGINAL COMPETITIVE CONTRACT REMAIN THE SAME. ALL OTHER TERMS OF THE ORIGINAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AGREEMENT REMAIN THE SAME
- R-7. AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 2020-65, ADOPTED ON JULY 29, 2020 AND THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT (AMENDMENT NO. 2) TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AGREEMENT WITH MERCER OAKS CATERING; ESTABLISHING THE TERMS OF AN INTERIM ADJUSTED PROVISION TO THE REVENUE OBLIGATION UNDER THE CURRENT TERMS OF THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACT (CC-2016-01); FOR CONCESSIONAIRE CATERING SERVICES AT THE MERCER OAKS FACILITY. AMEND RESOLUTION TO: ‘EXTEND THE AGREEMENT PERIOD THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2021; EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2021.’ ALL OTHER TERMS OF THE ORIGINAL COMPETITIVE CONTRACT REMAIN THE SAME. ALL OTHER TERMS OF THE ORIGINAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AGREEMENT REMAIN THE SAME
- On Motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Gardner, New Business items R-3 through R-7 were approved.
 - **Ayes:** Caton, Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Martinez, Mooij, Schulz and Smith.
Nays: None. **Abstain** None. **Absent:** None.
- R-8. AMEND RESOLUTION NO. PC 2021-40, ADOPTED MARCH 31, 2021 AND CONTRACT DOCUMENTS (AMENDMENT NO. 1) TO THE PARTIAL AWARD OF BID RECEIVED MARCH 24, 2021 TO MULTIPLE VENDORS FOR ON-CALL NATIVE MEADOW ESTABLISHMENT AND RESTORATION SERVICES IN COUNTY PARKLAND AND OPEN SPACE PROPERTIES FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION (AB2021-09). PERIOD: TWO (2) YEARS; WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND ONE (1) YEAR BASED ON THE INDEX RATE. TOTAL AMOUNT UP TO, BUT NOT TO EXCEED: \$200,000.00; [YEAR ONE (1)-UP TO, BUT NOT TO EXCEED \$100,000.00/YEAR TWO (2)-UP TO, BUT NOT TO EXCEED \$100,000.00]. AMEND RESOLUTION AND CONTRACT DOCUMENTS TO ‘REVISE A TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR IN THE AWARDED OF BIDS TO THE LOWEST QUALIFIED BIDDERS. REVISED AS: WEEDS, INC.-TASK ONE (1) AND APPLIED ECOLOGICAL SERVICES-TASK TWO (2). ALL TERMS OF THE ORIGINAL PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS REMAIN THE SAME

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

R-9. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXERCISE A TWO (2) YEAR OPTION TO EXTEND THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH SIMDUCTIVE GOLF INSTRUCTION, LLC./DBA MERCER COUNTY GOLF ACADEMY, FOR CONCESSIONAIRE SERVICES FOR GOLF INSTRUCTION PROGRAMS AT THE MERCER OAKS, MOUNTAIN VIEW AND PRINCETON COUNTRY CLUB FACILITIES (CC2017-05). PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022. ALL OTHER TERMS OF CONTRACT REMAIN THE SAME

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

R-10 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, CENTER FOR URBAN ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY (CUES) (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL PARK ANALYSIS SERVICES FOR AN INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT OF MERCER COUNTY'S PARK SYSTEM; FOR THE PURPOSE OF IDENTIFYING FUTURE PARK INVESTMENT AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS. PERIOD: MAY 1, 2021 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2022. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$69,269.00

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

Executive Director Watson notified the Commission that this Contract will allow the Park Commission to assess service areas that may be improved upon.

Superintendent Cucchi indicated that the Contract will be a collaborative by Rutgers Professors and students to provide an overall inventory of all park amenities; as well as demographic analysis to allow the Park Commission to prioritize capital investments and distribution of services.

Commissioner Smith asked if the report will also a look at Municipal Parks.

Superintendent Cucchi responded that the current deliverables will not be looking at individual Municipal Park needs; but that a more in-depth survey to address these needs would be a future consideration.

Commissioner Smith asked that once identified, the administration bring the item addressing these needs to a future agenda meeting for consideration; in the interest of assessing how the Park Commission may provide municipal assistance and shared services.

Commissioner Caton supported Commissioner Smith's inquiry and indicated that a Strategic Planning approach will be beneficial to identify needed improvements and programs.

Commissioner Davis asked the Superintendent to speak to the Community Engagement portion of this Contract.

Superintendent Cucchi indicated that at this time, the inventory and mapwork will be performed under this Contract as phase 1, and as we move forward, a separate scope of work inclusive of community engagement initiatives will be formed.

Commissioner Davis indicated that the relatability of the facilities we have and how we are and are not using them is critical to how we are going to add or augment facilities.

R-11 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN EXTRAORDINARY UNSPECIFIABLE SERVICES (EUS) AGREEMENT WITH RHYTHM AND BLUES STABLES, LLC FOR FARRIER SERVICES FOR THE MERCER COUNTY STABLES FACILITY. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$15,000.00 PERIOD: MAY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021

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

R-12 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ENGINEERING & LAND PLANNING (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) FOR ENGINEERING PERMITTING SERVICES FOR INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL AT THE STONY BROOK FLOODPLAIN REFORESTATION IN ROSEDALE PARK, TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$9,100.00. PERIOD: MAY 1, 2021 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2022

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

R-13 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH AULT CLARK & ASSOCIATES (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) FOR GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH A LONG-RANGE PLANNING CONCEPTS PROJECT AT THE PRINCETON COUNTRY CLUB, MUNICIPALITY OF PRINCETON. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$7,200.00. PERIOD: MAY 1, 2021 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2022

- On Motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Smith.
 - **Ayes:** Caton, Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Martinez, Mooij, Schulz and Smith.
Nays: None. **Abstain** None. **Absent:** None.
- R-14 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH POOL MANAGEMENT, INC. FOR POOL MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR TWO (2) SWIMMING POOLS LOCATED AT THE HOPEWELL VALLEY GOLF COURSE (CC-2021-04). PERIOD: TWO (2) YEARS [YEAR ONE (1)-MAY 22, 2021 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 12, 2021/ YEAR TWO (2)-MAY 21, 2022 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 11, 2022]; WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT FOR A TWO (2) YEAR PERIOD OR TWO (2) ONE (1) YEAR PERIODS. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$127,738.40 [YEAR ONE (1)-\$63,869.20/YEAR TWO (2)-\$63,869.20]
- On Motion by Commissioner Schulz, seconded by Commissioner Gardner.
 - **Ayes:** Caton, Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Martinez, Mooij, Schulz and Smith.
Nays: None. **Abstain** None. **Absent:** None.
- R-15 AWARD OF BID RECEIVED APRIL 6, 2021, TO APPLIED ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FOR ON-CALL INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION (AB2021-17). PERIOD: TWO (2) YEARS FROM NOTICE TO PROCEED. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$160,000.00, BASED ON AN HOURLY RATE [YEAR ONE (1)-\$80,000.00/YEAR TWO (2)-\$80,000.00]
- On Motion by Commissioner Mooij, seconded by Commissioner Martinez.
 - **Ayes:** Caton, Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Martinez, Mooij, Schulz and Smith.
Nays: None. **Abstain** None. **Absent:** None.
- R-16 AWARD OF BID RECEIVED MARCH 25, 2021 TO EASTERN LIFT TRUCK COMPANY, INC. FOR ONE (1) JLG T500J TOWABLE 50' ARTICULATED BOOM WORK LIFT OR EQUIVALENT FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION (AB2020-12). AMOUNT: \$48,684.47
- On Motion by Commissioner Gardner, seconded by Commissioner Schulz.
 - **Ayes:** Caton, Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Martinez, Mooij, Schulz and Smith.
Nays: None. **Abstain** None. **Absent:** None.
- R-17 AWARD OF BID RECEIVED MARCH 30, 2021, TO AAA FACILITY SOLUTIONS, LLC FOR JANITORIAL CLEANING SERVICES FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION (AB2021-16). TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$55,800.00. PERIOD: TWO (2) YEARS [YEAR ONE (1)-\$27,900.00; JUNE 1, 2021 THROUGH MAY 31, 2022/YEAR TWO (2)-\$27,900.00; JUNE 1, 2022 THROUGH MAY 31, 2023]

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

LATE STARTER NEW BUSINESS AGENDA ITEMS:

- On Motion by Commissioner Schulz, seconded by Commissioner Gardner, by voice vote, the Late Starter New Business Items were added to the April 28, 2021 Park Commission Meeting Agenda.
 - **Ayes:** Caton, Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Martinez, Mooij, Schulz and Smith.
Nays: None. **Abstain** None. **Absent:** None.
- LS-1 AWARD OF BID RECEIVED APRIL 23, 2021, TO TOTAL TURF GOLF SERVICES, INC. FOR ON-CALL GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATIONS SERVICES AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION (AB2021-20). PERIOD: ONE (1) YEAR FROM NOTICE TO PROCEED. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$489,876.95.00
- On Motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Caton.
 - **Ayes:** Caton, Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Martinez, Mooij, Schulz and Smith.
Nays: None. **Abstain** None. **Absent:** None.
- LS-2 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT HARVEST HOSPITALITY GROUP FOR CONCESSIONAIRE CATERING SERVICES FOR THE HOPEWELL VALLEY GOLF COURSE. PERIOD: MAY 1, 2021 THOROUGH APRIL 30, 2024; WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT FOR A ONE (1) YEAR PERIOD (CC-2021-04)
- On Motion by Commissioner Schulz, seconded by Commissioner Mooij.
 - **Ayes:** Caton, Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Martinez, Mooij, Schulz and Smith.
Nays: None. **Abstain** None. **Absent:** None.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Presented by Executive Director Aaron T. Watson

Governor’s Executive Order Changes:

- The size limit on outdoor gatherings in New Jersey will increase from 200 to 500 people in two (2) weeks. This will allow for increased picnic area rentals, as well as additional outdoor events in our parks.
- Indoor catered events— such as weddings and proms — will be able to operate at 50% capacity with a maximum of 250 people. This will give our caterers the opportunity to begin booking more indoor events.

NEW INITIATIVES:

- **Moore Station Quarry Park Master Plan** – Landscape Architecture firm Simone Collins has completed stakeholder meetings with a variety of interest groups gathering feedback on potential re-use ideas for the Quarry. The Steering Committee met on April 27 to review a draft master plan to be presented at the public meeting scheduled for May 18.
- **Miry Run Ponds** – At Miry Run Ponds, engineers have a pre-permitting meeting with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) on April 29 to review permitting requirements for Phase I park improvements. Princeton Hydro has completed soil sediment sampling in the lake and preliminary results indicate no concerns regarding the feasibility of dredging portions of the lake and re-using dredge spoils on site.
- **Trenton Fishing Wharf**– Park Commission staff and contracted Consulting firm, Stantec have developed conceptual plans highlighting options for park improvements at the Trenton Fishing Wharf. We are also working with NJDOT in order to ensure that a flood control project at the site will complement future park improvements.

Upcoming Park Commission Openings:

- **Picnics**-Opened on April 17
- **Campgrounds**-Open on May 1
- **Marina**-Opens on May 24 [Weekends only from Memorial Day to June 15; and then will be open Tuesday thru Sunday (closed Mondays) from June 15 through Labor Day].
- **Splash Park**-Opens on May 24 [Weekends only from Memorial Day to June 15; and then will be open Tuesday thru Sunday (closed Mondays) from June 15 through Labor Day].

GOLF OPERATIONS

- Mercer Oaks Team matches finished their second week on April 25, 2021.
- Princeton Country Club was busy with the start of the Senior and Ladies leagues, along with group lessons instructed by the Golf Academy Staff.
- The First Tee of Greater Trenton has continued their programing at Mountain View and Mercer Oaks.

TENNIS OPERATIONS:

- Grover Middle School, Robbinsville High School, Mercer County Community College and Special Olympics, are currently utilizing the courts for play.
- The Metro Atlantic Athletic College Championships are being held April 24th through 25th. Four (4) men’s teams and four (4) women’s teams will be competing.
- Registration for 2021-22 Indoor Seasonal Courts is on-going. So far, over ninety-one (91) courts have been sold.
- 2021 Summer Junior Tennis Camp registration is on-going. Over 172 spots have been sold.

RECREATION AND EVENTS:

- **Bike Share Program with Verve S:**
 - o Verve S was sent their finalized Contract on April 23, 2021.
 - o Equipment is anticipated for delivery in early May.
- **Juneteenth Weekend via with the African-American Cultural Collaborative of Mercer County** – Discussions are underway to explore the Park Commission’s possible Co-Sponsorship of a series of Juneteenth events with the African American Cultural Collaborative and the Outdoor Equity Alliance. An external meeting with event planning partners took place on April 21; with the next planning meeting scheduled for May 12.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

- **Moore Station Quarry Park Student Input** – The Robbinsville, Ewing, Trenton and Hopewell Valley school districts plan to participate in a May 20 Zoom meeting with Simone Collins to share students’ ideas for the Moore Station Quarry Master Plan.

STEWARDSHIP:

- **Prescribed Burn at Baldpate Mountain** – The New Jersey Forest Fire Service completed a partial prescribed burn at Baldpate, on April 20. The park was partially opened on Thursday, April 22 and fully open on Friday, April 23.
- **Deer Management**-On April 21, Director of Stewardship, Jenn Rogers presented at Duke’s Deer Farm’s Deer Management for Forest Restoration and Carbon Sequestration presentation; there were 171 attendees.
- **Tree Plantings** – Tree plantings throughout the parks took place during Earth Week last week. Approximately 1,300 plants were installed throughout Rosedale Park, Roebling Park, and Dam Site 21. Volunteer groups included Lexus, Starbucks, Robbinsville High School and the Peddie School.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- **Lenape Programs** - Our first presentation in this new series went well. Through a Zoom format, 70 students learned about Lenape history and culture in the Trenton area. The school would like to come for a field trip to Roebling Park next year.
- **Summer Camp scholarships** – As part of our equity and diversity efforts, we have secured donations to provide scholarships to six summer campers for our nature camp this summer at Baldpate. The Sourland Conservancy is now engaged in efforts to get lunches donated for the six (6) scholarship students that we will be hosting this year.
- **Eyes on Eagles** – We officially have triplets at our Bald Eagle nest at Mercer Lake. Our first of two (2) virtual Eyes on Eagles programs begin on April 29; with over 166 attendees currently registered to-date. In-person nest viewings will conclude on May 2.
- **Upcoming programs:**
 - April 22: Early Bird Walk
 - April 23: Eyes on Eagles
 - April 25: Naturally Friends – Barn Swallows
 - April 27: Just a Hike
 - April 28: Just a Hike
 - April 28: Watson Woods Walkers

HOWELL FARM :

- **Juneteenth Celebration:**
 - During a special “Pleasant Valley House Tours” program scheduled for Juneteenth, Saturday, June 19, the Howell farm will feature stories of black families who lived in; or who were enslaved in, what is now called the Pleasant Valley Rural Historic District.

- The farm is providing its homegrown and processed cornmeal to community partners who are including cooking and other food related activities in their Juneteenth programming. The cornmeal was made from the farm's 2020 corn crop which was raised with historical methods; picked with the help of school groups and the general public, and milled at the Thompson Neely House & Mill in Washington's Crossing, PA.
- **Recent Public Program: "Spring Plowing and Wash Day"**
 - The program had an attendance of 280 visitors; bringing 2021 overall Saturday Farm attendance to 5,288.
 - Participants had opportunities to watch and photograph as farmers plowed the field where corn will soon be planted. In the market garden, visitors helped plant potatoes, and in the barnyard they learned about the pre-cursor to the modern washing machine - the hand-cranked washer

MERCER COUNTY STABLES

- **Power Tools for Living Zoom Presentation-** A presentation about Equine Assisted Therapies called, "Power Tools for Living" took place on Friday, April 23. Thirteen (13) interested organizations participated in the presentation.
- **Trail riding:**
 - The season ends May 16; The program will start back up again in September.
 - Trail riding spots are offered 6 days per week-, all days except on Fridays.
 - Over 97 participants have registered for 118 Trail Rides to-date in 2021.

WILDLIFE CENTER

- **Juvenile Bald Eagle Release:**
 - With the assistance of New Jersey Fish and Wildlife ENSP volunteer nest watcher, Mr. Kevin Buynie , a juvenile bald eagle was found in a field, not flying, and was subsequently admitted to our care on April 19.
 - Blood tests were run for lead levels and cholinesterase levels. Both levels were elevated but were not found to toxic.
 - Following the tests, treatment was administered by staff.
 - Once he was healthy, he was carefully measured and fitted with state and federal identification bands and was successfully released back into the wild. Overall, another successful bald eagle rescue.
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PUBLIC SESSION:

- **The following members of the public addressed the Commission:**
 - **Cy Masterpole, Township of Hamilton**
 - **Nora Shuda, Township of Ewing**
 - **Christine Cardinal, Director, Mercer County Stables, Township of Hopewell**
- *The Mercer County Park Commission welcomes the public's participation and comments. If you wish to participate in the public comment section of our meeting you may do so via the Zoom messaging/chat feature or by the, "hand-raising" feature, where you will be prompted to speak to provide your public comment.*

- *The rules and guidelines for public comment may be found on the Commission's website. Please be aware that individuals are limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes during their comment. However, the Commission may, at its option, extend time for certain individuals during the public comment period.*
- *Each member of the public who wishes to speak during the public comment period shall give the speaker's full name, organization name (if applicable) and Municipality of Residence.*
- *Individuals may provide comments, or materials, by regular mail to the Mercer County Park Commission headquarters or via email to Hmauro@mercercounty.org.*

Executive Director Watson and Superintendent Cucchi provided the Commission with additional information related to Commissioner Davis's previous inquiry regarding the Park Commission's current community engagement efforts, initiatives and funding opportunities.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSEQUENT PUBLIC MEETING:

The May 2021 Mercer County Park Commission Public Meeting is scheduled to take place on May 26, 2021; at a location to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT:

- On motion by Commissioner Gardner, seconded by Commissioner Schulz, Meeting Adjournment took place at 7:08 pm

Heather Mauro

Heather Mauro

Executive Secretary

Secretary to the Commission