

NOTICE

MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT, CHAPTER 231, P.L. 1975

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 **FEBRUARY 2022 PUBLIC MEETING** on **Wednesday, February 23, 2022; 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:** Feb 23, 2022 05:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
- **Topic:** February 23, 2022 Mercer County Park Commission Public Meeting Zoom Webinar
- **Please click the link below to join the webinar:**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89479601197?pwd=MUVUbVEvQjAwbzk3QUVhQ3B2MWS4QT09>
- **Telephone:** 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
- **Webinar ID:** 894 7960 1197
- **Passcode:** 879996

AGENDA

➤ **CALL TO ORDER:**

Commissioner Davis called the February 23, 2022 meeting of the Mercer County Park Commission to order at 5:34 pm, via Zoom Webinar platform.

➤ **ROLL CALL:**

The following Commissioners answered the Roll Call of the Secretary:

- Caton, Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Martinez and Smith.
- Commissioner Mooij joined the meeting at 5:40pm.

The following Commissioners were absent: Schulz.

Commissioner Davis 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, 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 JANUARY 26, 2022 PARK COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING**
 - On Motion by Commissioner Smith; seconded by Commissioner Gardner, by voice vote, the January 26, 2022 Mercer County Park Commission Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.
 - **Ayes:** Caton, Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Martinez and Smith. **Nays:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Mooij and Schulz.

- **APPROVAL OF JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2022 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION BILLS:**
 - On Motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Davis; by voice vote, the January/February 2022 Mercer County Park Commission Bills were approved for payment as presented.
 - **Ayes:** Caton, Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Martinez and Smith. **Nays:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Mooij and Schulz.

- **APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2022 PARK COMMISSION REVENUE REPORTS:**
Executive Director Aaron T. Watson provided a synopsis of the Park Commission Revenue Reports
 - On Motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Gardner, by voice vote, the January 2022 Mercer County Park Commission Revenue Reports were approved as presented.
 - **Ayes:** Caton, Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Martinez, Mooij, and Smith. **Nays:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Schulz.

- **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**
Presented by Executive Director, Aaron T. Watson, Nominated by Deputy Director, Joe Pizza
 - This month's Employee of the Month is Andrea Sawyer. Ms. Sawyer is a Facility Coordinator/Purchasing Clerk for our Park Commission Administrative Office. Ms. Sawyer has been employed with the Park Commission for thirty-four (34) Years.

- **COMMUNICATIONS:**
 - **C-1: SAVE THE DATE: MERCER COUNTY TENNIS HALL OF FAME DINNER:** *Rescheduled from 2020, the Park Commission will host the Tennis Hall of Fame Dinner on June 10, at the Boathouse at Mercer Lake to honor the Tennis Hall of Fame Class of 2020*
 - **C-2: MERCER COUNTY BIKE DRIVE:** *Hosted as a collaborative community outreach effort by the Mercer County Planning Department, Mercer County Park Commission and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Mercer County; a bike drive will be held on April 9 at various locations within the Park Commission.*
 - **C-3: MERCER COUNTY PARKS INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS REPORT:** *Last May, the Park Commission entered into a Service Agreement with Rutgers University's Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability (CUES) to complete an inventory and analysis of Mercer County's Parks and facilities; for the purpose of establishing baseline data on current Park attributes and natural resources; along with future recommendations to maximize the benefits of our park system. The year-long study has been completed and a finalized report from Rutgers CUES has been released publicly. An electronic copy of the report has been provided to the Commission and is*

available on the Park Commission's website for public access.

- **C-4:** A Letter thanking the Park Commission and commending various public offerings, park facilities and amenities submitted by a Municipality of Princeton Resident, addressed to the Mercer County Executive and the Park Commissioners was read at the request of the Executive Director through the Chair.

➤ **OLD BUSINESS** (Presented by Deputy Director, Joe Pizza)

- Carpenters and Electricians are completing the Greenhouse at Capital City Farm.
- Masons are completing a patio extension to the Hopewell Valley Golf Course Pool.
- Painters are finishing the paint on the repairs made to the Princeton Country Club Maintenance Facility; which sustained damaged from Tropical Storm Ida.
- Golf Courses Mercer Oaks West and Mountain View are open for the season. Mercer Oaks West and Princeton are closed for seasonal maintenance. However, to accommodate demand for favorable weather conditions, the Park Commission will open all courses.
- The Golf website has been fully upgraded.
- The Concession Stand Project at the Mercer County Park is anticipated for completion on or about June 1.
- Construction of a Ropes Course will be advertised for public bidding.

Hopewell Valley Golf Course:

- Pending Capital Improvement Projects are anticipated to be completed in late April.
- A late-April Soft opening of the new facility is projected; with a Grand Opening on the Friday prior to the Memorial Day Weekend.
- The Memorial Day Holiday weekend will be the official opening of the Pool and Tennis Courts.

➤ **NEW BUSINESS**
RESOLUTIONS:

R-1. AMEND RESOLUTION 2021-124, ADOPTED DECEMBER 15, 2021 AND THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES AN AMENDMENT (AMENDMENT NO. 1) TO THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION 2022 FACILITY RATES AND FEES SCHEDULE. AMEND RESOLUTION TO ADJUST THE HOURLY RATES FOR THE USE OF PARK RANGERS FOR EVENTS AS DETAILED IN THE 2022 RATES AND FEES SCHEDULE. ADJUSTED RATE: \$40.00 PER HOUR. EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2022. ALL OTHER RATES AND FEES REMAIN THE SAME

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

Commissioner Gardner thanked the Park Rangers for their service in keeping Park patrons safe.

R-2. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A MARKETING AGREEMENT WITH THE TRENTON THUNDER ORGANIZATION FOR THE PERIOD OF MARCH 1, 2022 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2023

- On Motion by Commissioner Caton, seconded by Commissioner Mooij.
 - **Ayes:** Caton, Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Martinez, Mooij and Smith. **Nays:** None.
Abstain: None. **Absent:** Schulz.
- R-3. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXERCISE THE OPTION TO EXTEND THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH BUZZETTA FOODS, INC., FOR MOBILE FOOD CONCESSION SERVICES FOR MERCER COUNTY PARK ATHLETIC FIELDS, SPECIAL EVENTS AND THE MARINA BOATHOUSE FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION. PERIOD: APRIL 1, 2022 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2022. ALL OTHER TERMS REMAIN THE SAME (CC2019-01)
- On Motion by Commissioner Caton, seconded by Commissioner Gardner.
 - **Ayes:** Caton, Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Martinez, Mooij and Smith. **Nays:** None.
Abstain: None. **Absent:** Schulz.
- R-4 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A WORK ORDER CONTRACT FOR PUBLIC WORKS SERVICES FROM APPROVED COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM: EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION OF NEW JERSEY; FOR THE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND GRADING OF TOPSOIL ALONG BOTH SIDES OF THE NEW ASPHALT PATH WITHIN THE MERCER MEADOWS PARK, TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL. CONTRACTOR: GARDEN STATE SEALING. AMOUNT: \$55,000.00. PERIOD: FORTY-FIVE (45) CALENDAR DAYS FROM RECEIPT OF SIGNED PURCHASE ORDER (ESCNJ 65 MCECCPS/#18/19-66)
- On Motion by Commissioner Mooij, seconded by Commissioner Smith.
 - **Ayes:** Caton, Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Martinez, Mooij and Smith. **Nays:** None.
Abstain: None. **Absent:** Schulz.
- R-5 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE CHANGE ORDER (NO. 2) WITH TRI-FORM CONSTRUCTION, INC., FOR BUILDING OF A NEW CONCESSION STAND AT THE MERCER COUNTY PARK FESTIVAL GROUNDS. INCREASE THE CONTRACT AMOUNT BY +\$48,669.22. REVISED TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT: \$926,089.22 (+5.5%). ALL OTHER TERMS REMAIN THE SAME (AB2020-40)
- On Motion by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Caton.
 - **Ayes:** Caton, Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Martinez, Mooij and Smith. **Nays:** None.
Abstain: None. **Absent:** Schulz.
- R-6 AWARD OF BID RECEIVED FEBRUARY 4, 2022 TO MARINE MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION, INC.; FOR DOCK REPAIRS FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION. PERIOD: SIXTY (60) CALENDAR DAYS FROM NOTICE TO PROCEED. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$75,644.33 (AB2022-01)

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

R-7 AWARD OF BID RECEIVED FEBRUARY 17, 2022 TO KDP DEVELOPERS, INC.; FOR HOPEWELL VALLEY GOLF COURSE SEPTIC IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION. PERIOD: THIRTY (30) CALENDAR DAYS FROM NOTICE TO PROCEED. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$662,000.00 (AB2022-04)

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

R-8 AWARD OF BID RECEIVED FEBRUARY 18, 2022 TO WILLIAM STOTHOFF COMPANY; FOR HOPEWELL VALLEY GOLF COURSE POTABLE/SANITARY WATER SYSTEM, TREATMENT AND SERVICE LINES IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION. PERIOD: NINETY (90) CALENDAR DAYS FROM NOTICE TO PROCEED. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$741,250.00 (AB2022-05)

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

Commissioner Caton asked if this Contract is for Potable Water only, or also for the fairway.

Deputy Director Pizza replied that the Contract is for Potable Water only and the Fairway is irrigated by use of the Stony Brook.

Commissioner Caton asked if the area of irrigation in the Stony Brook was affected by Tropical Storm Ida.

Deputy Director Pizza confirmed the area was affected; and will require dredging and repair to be functional for irrigation. Deputy Director Pizza indicated that the project has been advertised for public bidding and will be forthcoming on the March Park Commission Agenda.

R-9 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH FULPER FARMS, LLC FOR THE ON-CALL PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF TIMOTHY HAY FOR THE MERCER COUNTY STABLES FACILITY. PERIOD: MARCH 1, 2022 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2023. TOTAL AMOUNT UP TO, BUT NOT TO EXCEED: \$55,250.00

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

R-10 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN EXTRAORDINARY UNSPECIFIABLE SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH HUNTER RESEARCH, INC. (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) TO PROVIDE ON-CALL RESEARCH SERVICES, AS REQUESTED, FOR VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION. AMOUNT UP TO, BUT NOT TO EXCEED: \$25,000.00 (BASED ON AN HOURLY RATE SPECIFIED IN THE FEE SCHEDULE). PERIOD: MARCH 1, 2022 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2023

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

R. David Blake, Esq., Park Commission Counsel called for a motion to entertain a Block Vote for Agenda items R-11-R-21

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

R-11 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) TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ON-CALL ENGINEERING SERVICES, AS REQUESTED, FOR VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION. AMOUNT UP TO, BUT NOT TO EXCEED: \$25,000.00 (BASED ON AN HOURLY RATE FEE SCHEDULE). PERIOD: MARCH 1, 2022 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2023

R-12 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH PRINCETON HYDRO, LLC (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ON-CALL WATER RESOURCE ENGINEERING SERVICES, AS REQUESTED, FOR VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION. AMOUNT UP TO, BUT NOT TO EXCEED: \$25,000.00 (BASED ON AN HOURLY RATE FEE SCHEDULE). PERIOD: MARCH 1, 2022 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2023

- R-13** MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CME ASSOCIATES (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ON-CALL ENGINEERING SERVICES, AS REQUESTED, FOR VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION. AMOUNT UP TO, BUT NOT TO EXCEED: \$25,000.00 (BASED ON AN HOURLY RATE FEE SCHEDULE). PERIOD: MARCH 1, 2022 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2023
- R-14** MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ACT ENGINEERS (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ON-CALL ENGINEERING SERVICES, AS REQUESTED, FOR VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION. AMOUNT UP TO, BUT NOT TO EXCEED: \$25,000.00 (BASED ON AN HOURLY RATE FEE SCHEDULE). PERIOD: MARCH 1, 2022 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2023
- R-15** MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH REMINGTON & VERNICK (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ON-CALL ENGINEERING SERVICES, AS REQUESTED, FOR VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION. AMOUNT UP TO, BUT NOT TO EXCEED: \$25,000.00 (BASED ON AN HOURLY RATE FEE SCHEDULE). PERIOD: MARCH 1, 2022 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2023
- R-16** MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH GEDEON GRC CONSULTING (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ON-CALL ENGINEERING SERVICES, AS REQUESTED, FOR VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION. AMOUNT UP TO, BUT NOT TO EXCEED: \$25,000.00 (BASED ON AN HOURLY RATE FEE SCHEDULE). PERIOD: MARCH 1, 2022 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2023
- R-17** MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH BECHT ENGINEERING BT, INC. (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ON-CALL ENGINEERING SERVICES, AS REQUESTED, FOR VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION. AMOUNT UP TO, BUT NOT TO EXCEED: \$25,000.00 (BASED ON AN HOURLY RATE FEE SCHEDULE). PERIOD: MARCH 1, 2022 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2023

- R-18** MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH PRINCETON ENGINEERING GROUP, LLC (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ON-CALL ENGINEERING SERVICES, AS REQUESTED, FOR VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION. AMOUNT UP TO, BUT NOT TO EXCEED: \$25,000.00 (BASED ON AN HOURLY RATE FEE SCHEDULE). PERIOD: MARCH 1, 2022 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2023
- R-19** MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH SPIEZLE ARCHITECTURAL GROUP (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ON-CALL ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, AS REQUESTED, FOR VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION. AMOUNT UP TO, BUT NOT TO EXCEED: \$25,000.00 (BASED ON AN HOURLY RATE FEE SCHEDULE). PERIOD: MARCH 1, 2022 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2023
- R-20** MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH HMR ARCHITECTS (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ON-CALL ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, AS REQUESTED, FOR VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION. AMOUNT UP TO, BUT NOT TO EXCEED: \$25,000.00 (BASED ON AN HOURLY RATE FEE SCHEDULE). PERIOD: MARCH 1, 2022 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2023
- R-21** MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH HARRIS SURVEYING, INC. (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ON-CALL SURVEYING SERVICES, AS REQUESTED, FOR VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION. AMOUNT UP TO, BUT NOT TO EXCEED: \$25,000.00 (BASED ON AN HOURLY RATE FEE SCHEDULE). PERIOD: MARCH 1, 2022 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2023
- On Motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Gardner; Agenda Items **R-11 through R-21** were voted on in Block.
 - **Ayes:** Caton, Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Martinez, Mooij and Smith. **Nays:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Schulz.

➤ **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Presented by Executive Director, Aaron T. Watson

2022 NEW INITIATIVES:

- **Miry Run Ponds (Dam Site 21)**

Designs for park improvements and dredging are progressing. A meeting was recently held with the operator of a pipeline that crosses the property to discuss dredging and park plans. Planning is also underway to amend the sewer service area to accommodate plans for restrooms in the park. The Park project will also be presented for courtesy review to local planning boards on March 16 (Robbinsville) and March 23 (West Windsor).

- **Trenton Fishing Wharf**

NJDOT has prepared a draft agreement to memorialize their commitment to build park improvements provided that the County provide all necessary funding. The agreement is currently under review by Park Commission counsel.

- **Moores Station Quarry**

A revised reclamation plan for quarry closure has been prepared by Trap Rock Industries and is under staff and legal review. The Final Master Plan report is expected from Simone Collins in March.

GOLF OPERATIONS

- The 2022 season is off to a good start. Weather has allowed the courses to open periodically; with the courses generating approximately \$111,000.00 in revenue.
- Currently, 400 residents have updated their membership cards so far.
- On March 1, all four (4) golf courses will open for play, weather permitting.

TENNIS OPERATIONS

- On Saturday, February 12, online registration was held for March-August Tennis Lesson Programs. One-Thousand, One-hundred and Twenty-one spots (1,121) were filled generating \$84,220.00 in revenue.
- Administrative staff have been involved with numerous winter projects; including development of a new online reservation system, as well as an online league scoring system.

MARKETING AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- **Swim to Row**

Students from Sprout University and the Center for Child and Family Achievement are in Level 2 of the program, continuing with swimming lessons at the Hamilton Y, one (1) day per week. Rowing lessons will begin at the PNRA in early March.

- **Career Fairs:**

- Staff attended a career fair at Hopewell Valley Regional High School on February 16 with summer job and internship descriptions from the Stables, Golf Courses, the Nature Center, and Howell Farm.
- The Park Commission is looking into future participation in the school's cooperative education program.

RECREATION & EVENTS

- 2022 Concert Series

A schedule for the 2022 Concert series is being finalized; pending the final selection of the National Act component of the series. A contract is currently under review between the Contracted Entertainment procurement services provider, Ultra Artists, the Park Commission and the entertainer, Morris Day, to perform at the Mercer County Park Festival Grounds.

STEWARDSHIP

- Living Shoreline at Roebling Park:

- This project will include creek bank stabilization, a new boat ramp, and the preservation of in-situ archaeological artifacts. Final project designs by consultant Princeton Hydro, have been developed and sent to the NJDEP for a pre-permit application review.
- This project is being supported in part by a \$150,000 Green Acres grant, in addition to a \$150,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- Youth Leader Program:

- The initial Youth Environmental Leadership program has been extremely successful in providing youth participants with a myriad of tools to promote environmental education and leadership within a professional environment.
- Many of the initial youth participants have expressed interest in continuing their efforts with the Park Commission in an internship or seasonal capacity.
- Staff are currently working with the Watershed Institute to consider how to continue and expand the program next year.

HOWELL FARM

- Howell Farm In the News: This month's Farm programming was featured on the following news outlets:

- **NJ101.5 Radio:** "Maple Sugaring is the Hottest new Trend: This NJ Farm Keep it old School"
- **NJ.com:** *True Jersey text over video production:* "Make Your own Maple Syrup at this N.J. Farm"

- Visitation Increases:

- Weekday school programs are either at capacity, or almost full for spring programs.
- Public program attendance on weekends has returned to pre-COVID levels and for many programs has increased.

- Isles Community Gardens Plowing:

- For the 37th year, on Tuesday, April 5, Howell Farm will bring a team of plow horses to the Chestnut Street Community Garden in Trenton.
- Our team will work with neighborhood gardeners, school children and Isles staff members as they ready a half-acre garden for planting.

CAPITAL CITY URBAN FARM (CCF)**– Washing and Packing Shed**

Consultant, Pickell Architecture is preparing plans and drawings needed to begin construction of a shed that will be used for washing and packing produce, as well as providing shade for educational programs.

– Science Mentor Program

This month, the farm provided a tour and program for “Science Mentors” - a school group interested in agricultural science and engineering.

MERCER STABLES**– Juneteenth 2022 Event Planning**

Preliminary brainstorming discussions are taking place for our 2022 Juneteenth event. Formal planning meetings will be scheduled in the coming weeks.

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WILDLIFE CENTER

- New patients through February 12 = **79**; patients recorded at the same time period in 2021 = **70**

- In an effort to rebuild our volunteer base, new volunteer orientations are planned for April 2 and 10. These will be the first volunteer training orientations held since 2019, pre-pandemic.

- Recruitment of college interns at the Wildlife Center continues. Outreach has included contacting local universities and colleges regarding paid and unpaid opportunities.

➤ GENERAL PUBLIC SESSION:**– The following Members of the Public Addressed the Commission:**

- Email Correspondence submitted by Louie Farigna (Township of Hopewell); Read by the Executive Secretary.
- Kris Grudt, Executive Director (Princeton National Rowing Association)
- Rob Doherty, Superintendent of Operations (Mercer County Park Commission)

– 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.

➤ **MARCH 30, 2022 PARK COMMISSION MEETING:**

- Via Zoom Webinar Link; to take place at 5:30 pm.

➤ **ADJOURNMENT**

- On motion by Commissioner Gardner, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, Adjournment took place at 6:27 pm.

Heather Mauro

Heather Mauro

Executive Secretary

Secretary to the Mercer County Park Commission