

**Hendricks County Parks and Recreation
Park Board Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, January 3, 2018
2:00pm

Parks & Recreation Office
955 East Main Street
Danville, IN 46122

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm.

Board Present: Paul Miner, President
Matt Freije, Vice President
Bill Harrington, Secretary
Gary Emsweller
Mike Hayden

Board Absent: Beth Switzer
Doug Moon

Staff Present: Jeremy Weber, Superintendent
Eric Ivie, Assistant Superintendent
Linda Brunner, Administrative Assistant
Sarah Wolf, Park Naturalist

Guests: Carol Ford
Meghan Stritar, Parks Foundation of Hendricks County

A. CALENDAR

A-1. Agenda

Harrington moved to adopt the agenda; seconded by Freije, the motion passed unanimously.

A-2. Approval of Minutes of December 6, 2017 Meeting

Freije moved to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Harrington, the motion passed unanimously.

A-3. Review Current Budget Status

Brunner advised that the 2018 budget appropriations had not yet been updated on the County Financial System software, but that the budget had been approved and the funding for the new positions had been approved at Tuesday's council meeting.

B. Election of Officers

The following officers were elected, unanimously, for the 2018 term:

President: Paul Miner
Vice President: Matt Freije
Secretary: Bill Harrington

C. PUBLIC HEARINGS/PRESENTATIONS

C-1. Public Comments

Carol Ford was introduced to the Board, and informed the Board that she has done extensive work with the Avon Outdoor Learning Center, and is currently the president of Honor Flights, having worked with that organization since 2012. Emsweller added that Ford has served in many capacities over the years as an advocate for natural resources and parks.

D. CONTINUING BUSINESS

D-1. Sodalis Park Update

Weber reported that he had received a letter from the IAA terminating the MOU between it and the park board. He advised that he had no other news, but that he had reached out to USF&W and had scheduled a meeting on January 10th at its offices in Bloomington. Emsweller recommended that the park board withdraw from its leasing responsibilities as soon as possible, and redirect its efforts toward other projects and responsibilities. Weber reminded the Board that the purpose of his meeting with USF&W was to determine its position before proceeding. The Board discussed negotiating an amount for the improvements it has made at Sodalis, changing the park name under the new ownership, and getting permanent recognition of the contributions made by the Hendricks County Park Board. Weber agreed to report back to the Board immediately following his meeting with USF&W on January 10th.

D-2. Board meeting Schedule

Weber reminded the Board that its next meeting was scheduled February 7th, with the meeting of the HCPR and PFOHC combined boards scheduled February 9th, and inquired whether there was any interest in cancelling the meeting on the 7th, or if members felt they could be available for both. The Board agreed by consensus that the February 9th combined meeting would serve as its February park board meeting, and the February 7th meeting should be cancelled.

E. NEW BUSINESS

E-1. Park and Foundation Board Retreat

Weber advised that he and Ivie had prepared a list of agenda items for the combined board meeting on February 9th, and asked for input from board members. He reported that the items they had included are: Upcoming events, the relationship between the two boards, funding for Gibbs Phase 1 development, policies that are being/have been developed, eastward expansion of the Vandalia Trail, Sodalis Nature Park, Russell Property Update, any park-related legislation introduced, update on the Commissioners' plans for the department, engagement between board members with elected officials and community leaders, staffing (new positions), long-term plan – changes regarding Sodalis, frequency of interaction of boards, and marketing gains in 2017. Weber asked that board members notify him of any additions they wanted to see on the agenda.

F. REPORTS

F-1. Superintendent Report

Weber advised that he was scheduled to meet with representatives of DNR regarding the process, expectations, and funding for the archery range. Hayden suggested it would be valuable to have archers involved in the design, and Weber reported that he is an archer. He said he plans to look at a modular range.

Weber also advised that the funding for the new positions of the Assistant Superintendent and Full-Time Naturalist had been approved by the Council at its meeting on Tuesday, and that we can now post the Full-Time Maintenance position.

Weber informed the board that, regarding board member engagement, the NRPA has a template strategy for developing lobbyists/activists for parks.

Weber stated that he had been exchanging emails with BFS regarding the kitchen table meetings, and that he and Miner would be meeting with representatives of BFS the following week to discuss moving forward.

Ivie informed the Board that he had sent out a simple Survey Monkey survey to solicit feedback from park visitors on several questions, such as how and where they receive information on park programs and activities and which methods they prefer, which days they are most likely to visit parks and what they most enjoy doing there, in which zip codes they reside. Ivie had been surprised to have received over 400 responses in less than 24 hours. Harrington said he had reviewed the survey and commended Ivie on his excellent question construction and the user-friendliness of the survey. Ivie reported that he would keep the survey open for another week or so, and would report back to the board when he had compiled the results.

F-2. Youth Advisory Board

Freije reported that the December meeting of the Youth Advisory Board had been cancelled, as few students were able to attend. There was discussion of the need to reorganize and re-strategize, in an effort to more fully engage the youth members.

F-3. Committee Reports

Miner said he will email the finance committee to determine a date that the committee can meet with Guerrettaz and others.

Miner also advised that he is monitoring this session's legislation at the State House, and would advise the Board of any bills introduced that would potentially affect parks and recreation.

F-4. Foundation Report

Stritar reported that the "Ugly Christmas Suit" Fundraising drive took in approximately \$3,500 in donations. Additionally, donors bought bike maps, McCloud Maple Syrup and HCP&R calendars during December.

She reported that the Foundation was working on setting up a “membership” program where donors could set up sustaining donations. She said that she planned to make the program visible at events. She also advised that the Foundation’s Development Committee is working on corporate sponsorships, and that the Pancake Breakfast committee will be meeting January 8th.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

The next Park Board meeting will be the combined Park and Foundation Board meeting, scheduled for Friday, February 9th at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds.

Respectfully submitted,

William O. Harrington, Secretary