

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

Wednesday, October 3, 2018
2:00pm

Hendricks County Parks & Recreation office
955 East Main Street
Danville, IN 46122

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Board Present: Paul Miner, President
Matt Freije, Vice President
Bill Harrington, Secretary
Doug Moon

Board Absent Gary Emsweller
Mike Hayden
Beth Switzer

Staff Present: Eric Ivie, Assistant Superintendent
Carol Wickliff, Administrative Assistant
Jim Holtsclaw, Park Manager
Sarah Wolf, Park Naturalist

Guests: Meghan Stritar, Parks Foundation of Hendricks County
Ray Benson
Scott West, Edwards-Rigdon Construction Company

CALL TO ORDER Meeting began at 2:00 pm

A. CALENDAR

A-1. Agenda

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

A-2. Approval of Minutes for September 5, 2018 Board Meeting

Harrington moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Freije; motion passed unanimously

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/PRESENTATIONS

B-1. Public Comments

There were no public comments

C. CONTINUING BUSINESS

C-1 Discussion of Memorandum of Understanding with County Commissioner

Harrington reported on the MOU with the commissioners and council, which was reviewed and discussed by the board at the previous meeting. Harrington stated that he had filled in missing

dates and presented a clean copy for signature to be presented at the joint meeting later in the month. The board then discussed the process of hiring the new superintendent. He stated that the county was not involved in the process, but that Erin Hughes, in Human Resources, had been consulted.

Harrington moved to approve the MOU with the commissioners and directed that Miner sign the MOU and present it to the commissioners. Seconded by Freije; motion passed unanimously.

C-2 Discussion of Memorandum of Understanding with Parks Foundation of Hendricks County

Miner asked to table discussion until November's meeting due to absence of contributing parties from the foundation; board agreed

C-3 Superintendent Search

Ivie reported that the county is still receiving applications and has extended the timeframe to 10/31. As of this time, there has been no decision on a new superintendent.

C-4. McCloud Nature Park Update

Ivie reported reconstruction and restoration efforts throughout the park. New trees have been purchased and are waiting to be planted this season.

Tri-West High School Service Club will be out this month to volunteer in various projects throughout the park with the assistance of Holtsclaw.

Ivie mentioned that the Fall Colors Festival that takes place at McCloud is on its way to being another success this year.

C-5. Sodalis Nature Park Update

No new updates as of the time of the meeting.

C-6. Vandalia Trail Update

Ivie reported that through a joint effort of himself and primarily Shaffer repairs were made to make the restrooms at the Vandalia Trails accessible for public use. Water samples were reviewed by IDEM and approved. Although there were initial issues with the filtration system, they were quickly sorted by adjusting access to the sinks for the weekend. A charcoal filtration system was added to the water fountain on 9/19/18, which made them totally accessible and functional for public use. Ivie reported the concern of County Surveyor Dave Gaston that stated that drainage problems will need to go in front of the County Drainage Board, but would like a second opinion from another engineer before that happens.

The board discussed further expansion of the trail and option of connectivity. Miner reported a discussion with Midgley about his assistance in obtaining information on a \$90 million state grant called Next Level Connection State Trail grant. Harrington suggested Midgley be invited to the November board meeting with the support of the board.

Miner reported on the discussion with the county council about obtaining the stretch of land

separating the towns. Whetstone was made aware that an offer will be made on the largest parcel in the near future. Whetstone's concern of the use of eminent domain was addressed by Miner stating that he would like to work with the landowners to accommodate their needs.

C-7. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park Update

Ivie reported that he had met with Banning to discuss the RFP. He suggested on moving forward with the focus on infrastructure. Banning had suggested that a conversation with the town of Avon and the West Central Conservancy District to discuss water and septic options in the area. Avon has no plans to bring water to the Gibbs Park. Gibbs is ready to move into Phase 1 of development. The suggestion of reconnecting with the Gibbs committee was brought to the board, which consisted of Moon, Miner, and Ivie, with the addition of Banning and Stitar. The board will reach out to other community members of interest.

D. NEW BUSINESS

No new business to report

E. REPORTS

E-1. Superintendent Report

Ivie reported personnel changes within the parks department. There was discussion on creating a new time for future board meetings. The possibility of video conferencing came up in discussion with the concern of the validity of physical presence; Harrington stated that he would converse with Steurwald. Ivie brought to the attention of the board that some board members terms are ending soon. Ivie also discussed connecting with the Fee Committee to the board's attention. The 2019 Fee Committee will be comprised of Miner, Freije and Moon and will meet and discuss the current fee schedule and recommendations for 2019 with a future report to the full board before the end of the year.

Ivie reported that full-time park employees were able to attend NRPA conference in Indianapolis that he felt was less valuable than the IPRA conference earlier in the year. Park Naturalists attended the EEAI in northern Indiana.

Ivie reported technical issues and concerns that have occurred in the Parks office building and are currently being addressed and corrected.

Ivie reported that State Board of Accounts is doing a routine audit of the Parks Dept, with the primary concern of the Vandalia Trail grants.

E-2. Budget Report

Ivie reported that some of the budget had been reallocated to different expenses categories, but the parks is still within budget overall.

E-3. Committee Reports

Nothing new to report

E-4. Parks Foundation of Hendricks County Report

Various fundraiser events have been planned for October at McCloud. The suggestion of the Parks board and the Foundation board sitting together for a meeting was discussed. Stritar invited the park board members to the next foundation meeting on October 25th at 7:30 am. Stritar presented a drafted budget of programs that the foundation has funded throughout 2018 to the board. Foundation found a farm to donate half the requested pumpkins for the Fall Colors Fest at McCloud. A suggestion from West was made stating that the foundation and board ask a variety of patches for pumpkins rather than one patch.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:18pm

Respectfully submitted,

William O. Harrington