

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

Wednesday, November 7, 2018  
2:00pm

Hendricks County Parks office  
955 E. 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  
Doug Moon

**Board Absent:** Beth Switzer

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

**Guests:** Ray Benson  
Meghan Stritar, Parks Foundation of Hendricks County  
Scott West, Edwards-Rigdon Construction Company  
Jeff Rigdon, Edwards-Rigdon Construction Company  
Greg Midley, National Road Heritage Trail

**A. CALENDAR**

**A-1. Adopt Agenda**

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

**A-2. Approval of Minutes from Oct. 3, 2018 Board Meeting**

Miner asked that a name spelling be corrected by the addition of 'H' in Whetstone. Harrington motioned to approve with the correction; Freije seconded; motion passed unanimously

**B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/PRESENTATIONS**

**B-1. Greg Midgley, National Road Heritage Trail**

Midgley approaches the board to discuss the progress of the Vandalia Trail. He draws attention to the fact that Greencastle is also expanding and there is now 13 miles of continuous trail from the Amo trailhead to Greencastle. Midgley distributed updated maps to the board of what the trail currently looks like. Presents the most recent brochure of the National Road Heritage Trail and discusses the cross-state initiative that has, with the addition of Greencastle, opened 69 miles of the 160 miles open across the state of Indiana. Midgley mentioned Miner's meeting with the Clayton town council to discuss the future of the trails in that area. Midgley stated that after meeting with the town manager, he was invited to speak the town council members to talk about incorporating drainage work into trail progress with the possibility of grant availability in the future. Midgley emphasizes that these discussions would be brainstorming sessions and Miner stated that he would sit in at the town council workshop. Midgley

mentioned that he had been invited to attend a focus group to review a draft for a state grant on November 13<sup>th</sup> and he will make the board aware of outcome. Midgley discusses the possibility of breaking up funding by the town and county applying for grants separately. He advises the clarification of discussion topics, such as maintenance, going forward.

Miner asks Midgley about property along the trail and bringing interest by adding bridges and landmarks. Midgley concluded by addressing concerns and possibilities of parking in Amo.

#### B-2. Public Comments

Jeff Rigdon introduces himself by offering his companies services to Hendricks County Parks for future projects. Rigdon distributes his company information and brochure to the board.

### C. CONTINUING BUSINESS

#### C-1. Discussion of Memorandum of Understanding with County Commissioners

Harrington states that the commissioners have signed off on the MOU by voting in favor of it. Miner states that it was a 4 to 2 vote with neither Hesson nor Wyeth in favor, for a variety of reasons. Ivie brought up the concern that was had by Wyeth by questioning whether the MOU would be upheld when all members that had signed were no longer active.

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

Emsweller states the benefits of collaborating with the Foundation. He states that the expectation is the Community Foundation is to work through the Parks Foundation to supply funding and the Park and the Foundation will agree on funding distribution. There was mention of the primary spending funds being the Gibbs fund, the Harlos fund and the Hendricks County Parks and Recreation fund through the Community Foundation with the possibility of the creation of future funds. He continues to state that neither body, Parks Foundation or HC parks, would work independently on spending. Miner states the desire to focus contribution to the HCP&R fund.

Hayden states that money in the HCP specific funds cannot be used by the Foundation for other area parks and must be used on Hendricks County parks projects. Harrington explains that when the MOU passes, it will make clear for the Community how to handle funding. Harrington moved to approve the board to enter the MOU. The board voted unanimously in favor.

#### C-3. Superintendent Search

Harrington speaks of the pleasure he has had interviewing candidates and reiterates that the board had spoken of many of them during recent executive sessions. He is confident that an offer can be made and that a news superintendent could be in place by the end of the 2018 calendar year.

#### C-4. McCloud Nature Park Update

Ivie reports that the park is ready for a prairie burn in the next year. The board mentions that they would like to be aware of that date. Hayden suggests that there be an informational video made for public awareness. Ivie agrees that is would be something of interest.

#### C-5. Sodalis Nature Park Update

Ivie redirects the boards attention to the superintendent's report.

#### C-6. Vandalia Trail Update

Ivie expressed desire to pursue a cleaning contract to maintain the bathrooms on the Trail. The question of whether it is necessary for the park to advertise and Ivie stated he would research the matter. Ivie stated that the restrooms had been winterized for the season and will re-open April 1.

Miner discusses the Buck Arnold Property. Miner states that there had been appraisal offers on the property and discussed the options of the land with the board. Miner expressed desire to acquire the land for future expansion.

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

Ivie reported that, although after some discussion and was advised that an RFQ (Request For Qualifications) may have more flexibility than a RFP (Request For Proposal), he believes the parks needs would be best suited with a RFP to initiate Phase 1 of Gibbs Park. He states his belief that this phase should focus on infrastructure, whereas, the parking lot is created, and land assigned for specific projects. Miner suggested that the park be treated in a more modular way, where the park focuses on one project to finish, before moving on to the next. Harrington advised the board to hold on any further plans until a new superintendent can make that decision; Miner agrees. Ivie reiterates that much of the planning had been done by a committee and has been reviewed. Freije asks for clarification and Harrington advises the board to hold until one person can make all decisions pertaining to the development of the park. Miner discusses the Searcy land and the concerns with agriculture for the next year. Hayden advised looking into adding an amendment to the agreement.

## **D. NEW BUSINESS**

### D-1. 2019 Fee Schedule

Ivie discusses a new fee schedule that was discussed by a committee and has been reviewed for the year of 2019. A change was made to reduce cost on both scout overnights and pavilion rentals. Miner motions for approval, Harrington seconds; motion passes unanimously.

### D-2. 2019 Park Board Meeting Calendar

Ivie presents a draft for 2019 Park Board Meetings. A discussion had started in past meetings of finding a more suitable time for the park board to meet. The Park Board will address this at their next meeting.

### D-3. Searcy Family Cash Farm Lease

No discussion, topic tabled.

### D-4. Scheduling Joint Meeting with PFOHC Board

A joint meeting of the Parks Foundation of Hendricks County Board members and Hendricks County Parks Board members has been requested with the potential of having it set for January 15<sup>th</sup> at the Washington Township Park pavilion.

### \*D-5. Travel Reimbursement

Harrington moved to amend the agenda to add item. He motioned to authorize the reimbursement of travel cost for superintendent candidates that traveled from out of state. Ivie questioned where the funding would be pulled from and Harrington stated that it would be pulled from the HCP&R's 'travel expense' fund and would cover flight and/or mileage, one-night hotel costs along with meals during the time they were traveling. Freije asks for cap clarification, Harrington states that expenses should be reasonable are subject to the approval of the board. Seconded by Hayden; passed unanimously.

## **E. REPORTS**

### E-1. Superintendent Report

Ron Fox, after having medical care in October, has been cleared by the doctor to go back to work on the maintenance crew. Jake is spending time away from the park this week and will be back next week.

### E-2. Budget Report

Ivie reports that he has 2 more opportunities to file claims on the 2018 budget, anything after November 27<sup>th</sup> will have to be pulled from the 2019 budget. December the only payables are early pays. Ivie states that the staff has been advised to utilize the remainder of the 2018 budget to replenish before the new year. Ivie advises the board that any receipts need to be collected from candidates to be able to be reimbursed before the end of the year. Ivie redirects to the superintendent report where it mentions the INDOT grant and land acquisitions.

### E-3. Committee Reports

Miner advises that the committees remain dormant until the new superintendent is in place.

E-4. Parks Foundation of Hendricks County Report

No new business; Stritar was unable to attend due to family illness.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Prior to adjournment, Miner mentions that a new board member will join the Hendricks County Parks & Recreation Board in future meetings. Emsweller notes that Jeff Pell is a Purdue extension educator with experience throughout the state on Indiana but has come back to Hendricks County. Pell would be taking the seat of a previous member, Beth Switzer, on the board.

**The meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

---

William O. Harrington, Secretary