

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

Wednesday, November 2, 2016  
2:00 p.m.

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

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

**Board Present:** Gary Emsweller, President  
Paul Miner  
Bob Niemeyer  
Matt Freije  
Dennis Gibbs

**Board Absent:** Doug Moon  
Beth Switzer

**Staff Present:** Jeremy Weber, Superintendent

**Guests:** Ray Benson

**A. CALENDAR**

A-1. Agenda

Gibbs moved to adopt the agenda; seconded by Miner, the motion passed.

A-2. Oct. 12, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Being no additions or corrections to the Oct. 12 2016 meeting minutes, minutes were approved as presented.

A-3. Review Current Budget Status

No major items needed to be discussed related to budget report.

**B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/PRESENTATIONS**

B-1. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

**C. CONTINUING BUSINESS**

C.-1 McCloud Wetland Mitigation Project Update

Weber reported that the pre-final inspection was completed on Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> and that staff is more or less happy with the work completed to date. Some issues have been identified with the work, and they are being addressed.

In the next 2 to 3 weeks the park staff hopes to complete the tree planting. Trails and boardwalks within the mitigation area will be constructed as weather and time allow over the winter and into next spring. It is estimated that the work completed by the park staff on the wetland mitigation project saved Hendricks County residents at least \$172,000.

#### C- 2. Arboretum at McCloud Project Update

Weber advised the board that the tree planting for the arboretum was completed on Oct. 21. There has been a delay in the seeding of the area due to the delayed harvest of specific variety of ground cover seed.

At this time we are waiting on the contractor to complete the well and trenching before constructing trail.

#### C-3. Vandalia Trail Update

Weber informed the board the project is moving along very quickly with clearing vegetation along the construction area and stripping the existing bridge deck at Crittenden Creek. Although there have been a few issues on the right-of-way within the Coatesville town limits, those issues have been quickly addressed by the Town of Coatesville, private property owners and Hendricks County Parks. Weber, Holtsclaw and CECon (Engineer charged with inspection) have been meeting frequently.

#### C-4. Russell Property Update

Weber informed the board the that he had a meeting with Mrs. Russell and Jack Lawson last Thursday, Oct 27, 2016 to further review opportunities and the most recent appraisal submitted on the property. Although there was no conclusion at the meeting, Jack Lawson called Weber later that day to inform him that Mrs. Russell would not be willing to accept anything below market value. A few days later Mrs. Russell talked with Weber and seemed to be communicating she may not be as rigid as Lawson had communicated. After discussion by the board, a motion was made by Miner to move forward on having a new appraisal completed and see if Pamela Davidson (IU Foundation on Philanthropy) would meet with Mrs. Russell. Seconded by Niemeyer, motion carried.

### **D. REPORTS**

#### D-1. Superintendent Report

Weber informed the board that he has followed up with Ryan Cannon on the Gibbs' property, and at this time nothing has advanced and nothing new to report. The board did discuss that the time has come to begin looking at phasing in W.S. Gibbs Park into existence and how to begin opening the property up for public use. Gibbs made a motion that Weber put together a committee made up of a board member, a Foundation board member and include input from the general public and bring back to the board ideas to begin phasing in and opening the property as a park in the near future. Seconded by Miner, motion carried.

Weber reported that he met with Todd Cavender, IAA at Sodalis Park providing an update on the status of the surrounding property. Although things are advancing there were no significant items to report. Todd did convey a property owner to the south has complained about people wandering onto their property from the park and has requested it be addressed. Motion was made by Miner to install signage along the property line to avoid people wandering onto private property. Motion was seconded by Freije, motion carried.

Weber informed the Board that Dr. Joy O'Keefe will be joining us at the Dec. board meeting.

Approximately 500 people participated in the Fall Color Festival program.

Naturalists will begin working on new exhibits for the nature center and arboretum.

#### D.-2 Youth Advisory Board

Freije reported he was happy with the participation of the students who volunteered to serve at the Fall Color Festival, and meetings are going well. The next meeting is Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### D.-4 Foundation Report

Weber reported that Julie Randall will be leaving.

Weber and Randall are working on submitting a grant application to the Bicentennial Nature Trust.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Freije moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Niemeyer. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dennis Gibbs, Secretary