

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

Wednesday, December 6, 2017
2:00pm

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:05pm.

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

Board Absent: Beth Switzer

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

Guests: Ray Benson
Bob Niemeyer
Meghan Stritar, Parks Foundation of Hendricks County

A. CALENDAR

A-1. Agenda

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

A-2. Approval of Minutes of November 1, 2017 Meeting

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

A-3. Review Current Budget Status

Weber advised that he was still working with the Auditor's office on the funding mechanism for the new positions, i.e., what percentage was to come out of the general fund and what percentage out of Innkeepers, but that the remainder of the budget had been approved.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/PRESENTATIONS

B-1. Public Comments

Benson commented that he had read, and was pleasantly surprised by, the tribute to Mary and him in the new issue of *The Explorer*, and thanked Ivie for having written it.

C. CONTINUING BUSINESS

C-1. Vandalia Trail Update

Weber informed board members that the contractor had reached “substantial completion” of the trail November 17th, but was continuing to work on the punch list. He stated that he expects final completion by February 2018 but, due to some quality issues, it may be summer before all the repairs are made. He added that the bike stations are already in use, and some trail users are complaining that the trail doesn’t run east of Amo yet. The board discussed furthering the trail, and how it will move forward with the next step of “kitchen table” meetings with landowners. Miner reported that the community leaders previously thought to be able to assist in that effort had been approached but had declined involvement in the process. The current plan is to conduct the talks without outside assistance.

Weber reported that the contractor had submitted a claim for the delays caused by the flooding over the summer. He said that the claim was initially denied, but the contractor has appealed to the INDOT district office. Weber said he believes the claim will be denied again. Miner reported that he had walked the length of the trail and encouraged other board members to get out and walk it.

C-2. Sodalís Nature Park Update

Miner advised that he had learned from Todd McCormack that he and Plainfield Town Manager Klinger had met since the last Park Board meeting, and there was considerable discussion by board members of various options for Hendricks County Parks’ role in maintaining Sodalís Park moving forward. Weber indicated he would contact USF&W to schedule a meeting to ascertain their position on the future of the park.

D. NEW BUSINESS

D-1. 2018 Gibbs Cash Farm Lease

Weber discussed with the board the changes he and Dan Searcy are proposing for the 2018 cash farm lease. He stated the total acreage has been reduced from 102 acres to 60, taking out acreage for Phase 1 development of Gibbs Park, and the lease cost per acre has been reduced from \$200 to \$180, due to a decline in commodities prices.

Emsweller moved to approve the 2018 Gibbs Cash Farm Lease; seconded by Freije, the motion passed unanimously.

D-2. 2018 Park Board Meeting Schedule

Brunner distributed the 2018 Park Board Meeting Schedule, which followed the Board’s regular schedule of meeting the first Wednesday of the month at 2:00pm, with the exception of July, when the first Wednesday was a holiday and the meeting would be moved to the second Wednesday. There was discussion of how the meeting time affected attendance and various options for alternative meeting times. Moon suggested the possibility of joining the meeting by phone or by an online platform like “Go to Meeting.” Harrington agreed to conduct research to determine if the state statute

governing parks and recreation boards allowed for votes to be accepted in that manner.

Freije moved to adopt the 2018 Park Board meeting schedule; seconded by Harrington, the motion passed unanimously.

D-3. 2018 Park Board Membership/Officers

Weber reminded the Board that elections for 2018 officers would be held at the January meeting. He also reminded Hayden and Harrington that the terms they had been appointed to fill both expire in January, and requested they write letters as soon as possible to their appointing elected officials stating their interest in being reappointed to the park board.

D-4. 2018-19 CMP Action Plan Review

Weber advised that he had been reviewing the action item matrix contained in the 2016-2020 Comprehensive Master Plan. The Board discussed developing policies and funding sources, and Weber requested that the Board give some thought to the following three (3) priorities for 2018:

- Continuation of marketing and awareness campaign
- Updating programming
- Development of strategy for Board Member engagement with elected officials.

E. REPORTS

E-1. Superintendent Report

Emsweller asked whether the job descriptions for the new positions had been approved, and Weber advised that they had, and that the Assistant Superintendent position will be filled by Eric Ivie. Following congratulations to Ivie and a brief discussion of the other positions, Weber stated he would forward the new job descriptions to the Board.

E-2. Youth Advisory Board

Freije reported that the December meeting of the Youth Advisory Board was scheduled for Saturday, December 9th, but the agenda had not been determined.

E-3. Committee Reports

Miner reported that the McCloud 15-year celebration committee had met and brainstormed ideas for opening up the entire park for the event. The policy committee, consisting of Harrington, Freije, Weber and himself, was scheduled to meet Tuesday, December 12th at 1:30 pm. He added that the next step for the finance committee was to schedule a meeting with county financial advisor Guerrittaz, and that the board should be thinking of putting together a Vandalia Trail committee to make plans for the official opening. He also reported on his suggestion to work with the SWCD on pollinators, and on a 3-year grant for invasive species removal at the parks.

E-4. Foundation Report

Stritar reported that the Foundation had had a lengthy and highly productive meeting the preceding week and had established committees and a membership program, which she reported that she and Ivie would be kicking off on social media with a campaign to raise donations by featuring Weber sporting an ugly Christmas suit. She stated Scott Geans was also working with an attorney on a

“Friends of the Foundation” initiative which would allow them to solicit donations at booths set up at various events.

ADJOURNMENT

Weber reminded the Board of the next meeting date of January 3rd, and the combined Park and Foundation Board retreat on February 9th, and the meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William O. Harrington, Secretary