

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

Wednesday, March 8, 2017  
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  
Bob Niemeyer, Vice President  
Matt Freije, Secretary  
Gary Emsweller  
Doug Moon  
Mike Hayden  
Beth Switzer

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

**Guests:** Ray Benson  
Dennis Gibbs  
Nikki Lawson, HC Chief Deputy Assessor

**A. CALENDAR**

A-1. Agenda

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

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

**Niemeyer moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Freije, the motion passed unanimously.**

A-3. Review 2017 Budget Status

Brunner distributed a spreadsheet setting out the current budget status. She advised that the line for mileage/travel was showing a projected deficit, but that funds could be transferred to cover that shortfall if it did, in fact, occur later in the year. There were no other questions regarding the budget status.

**B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/PRESENTATIONS**

B-1. Public Comments

Miner introduced Nikki Lawson to the Board, who was welcomed to the meeting.

Benson reported that he and his family enjoyed their experience at the March 4th PFOHC Pancake Breakfast at McCloud and complimented the staff on an excellent event.

## **C. CONTINUING BUSINESS**

### **C-1. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park Task Force Recommendations**

Dennis Gibbs, Chairman of the W.S. Gibbs Park Special Task Force gave a comprehensive presentation of the findings and recommendations of the task force committee, which included contributions from auxiliary advisors, with a view toward accelerating the opening of the park in such a manner as to significantly impact the community. He stated that the research that was conducted included studies on national trends in recreational activities and activity participation by age groups, and focused on activities that would differentiate Gibbs from other parks and would draw participants, adults and children alike, to engage with nature. He presented several examples of what those activities might be, and talked about how they could be phased in. Miner advised that the Board would study the plan at an upcoming meeting and make decisions regarding how and when to proceed. Gibbs was commended on his task force presentation as well as his years of service on the Hendricks County Park Board and the Plainfield Planning Commission.

### **C-2. W. S. Gibbs Cash Farm Lease Update**

Weber advised that he had not yet been able to meet with Dan Searcy to renegotiate the terms of the Gibbs Cash Farm Lease, but hopes to meet soon to renegotiate the price per acre and inclusion of some of the recommendations made by Dennis Gibbs at the February park board meeting.

### **C-3. Vandalia Trail Update**

Weber reported on his meeting with Miner and representatives of the Town of Clayton and Butler Fairman & Seufert regarding their expectations and how to move forward with the extension of the Vandalia Trail. He advised that there are a couple small parcels owned by the Town that the Board could acquire with grant funding. He informed the Board that the Town is working on drainage areas, and it looks promising to put the trail through the town. The town wants the trail to run through Lambert Park, and there was discussion of which parcels would need to be acquired, and of town officials talking to landowners in advance of BFS.

### **C-4. McCloud Wetlands Update**

Weber updated the Board on the status of the Wetland Mitigation project at McCloud. He stated that there were some sloughing issues on the bank, which he had reported to Ben Harvey at American Structurepoint. Harvey has gone out to the park to evaluate the issue, but Weber said he had not yet received his report. He also advised that the willow stakes are in, and that park staff will plant them, along with 150-200 trees remaining to be planted. He stated that he and Harvey are working on a punch list of items remaining to be completed, and that the project is close to being completed.

## **D. NEW BUSINESS**

### **D-1. Russell Property Discussion**

Weber shared with the Board the offer that had been received from Mrs. Russell for the acquisition of her property. He went through the details of the offer, and advised that it represented a starting point for negotiations. Board members discussed the offer and it was decided that it would be prudent to go to the County Council (at their April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting) and the Commissioners (at their March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting) to gauge their support before putting together a counter-offer. Miner stated new funding sources also need to be developed. The Board agreed by consensus that Weber would need to determine whether the Council and Commissioners were onboard, and if so, could proceed to make a counteroffer.

## **E. REPORTS**

### **E-1. Superintendent Report**

Weber told the Board that he had placed a call to Tony Perona at the Town of Plainfield, and had also talked to the county attorney regarding signing an extension of the MOU. Weber said that he will advise the Board after he talks with Plainfield. Emsweller stated that he would like to see a commitment from the IAA regarding what they plan to do with regard to assistance, and what the appraisals looked like, before meeting with Plainfield. Weber added that he and Miner plan to meet with the IAA in the near future.

Weber reminded the Board of the combined Foundation and Park Board retreat approaching on March 17<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 to Noon at the Hendricks Regional YMCA. He also reported on Ivie's recent communications and marketing efforts.

Miner reported on his outreach efforts with Steve Patterson, Hendricks County 4-H director, and the Hendricks County Economic Development Partnership, who will link to our website to ours, and place park information in their packets for distribution.

Weber reported that the well is almost finished and is pumping 5-gallons a minute at a 200-ft. depth. He also reported on a meeting the previous night with the B & O trail group, and discussed the possibility of connecting the B & O and Vandalia trails through McCloud Nature Park.

Weber also advised that Bob Gentry's wife, Donna, had passed away.

### **E-2. Youth Advisory Board**

Weber advised that the Youth Advisory Board would be volunteering at the upcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of the Pancake Breakfast at McCloud.

### **E-3. Committee Reports**

There were no committee reports.

### **E-4. Foundation Report**

Hayden and Weber gave a brief report on the first weekend of the PFOHC Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser at McCloud. Hayden stated that, overall, this is a good event to have, and reported on Foundation volunteers who would be supervising the second weekend of the event.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**The meeting adjourned at 4:24 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

---

Matthew Freije, Secretary