

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

Wednesday, April 4, 2018  
2:00pm

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2:11 p.m.

**Board Present:** Paul Miner, President  
Matt Freije, Vice President  
Gary Emsweller  
Mike Hayden

**Board Absent:** Bill Harrington, Secretary  
Beth Switzer  
Doug Moon

**Staff Present:** Jeremy Weber, Superintendent  
Eric Ivie, Assistant Superintendent  
Linda Brunner, Administrative Assistant  
Jim Holtsclaw, Park Manager  
Sarah Wolf, Park Naturalist

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

**A. CALENDAR**

A-1. Agenda

Emsweller requested the agenda be revised to include “Revisit Board Meeting Times,” which was added as item C-4. **Hayden moved to adopt the revised agenda; seconded by Freije, the motion passed unanimously.**

A-2. Approval of Minutes of January 3, 2018 Meeting

**Hayden moved to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Freije, the motion passed unanimously.**

A-3. Presentation of Minutes of February 9, 2108 Combined HCPR & PFOHC Meeting

**The “minutes” of the combined meeting on February 9, 2018 were distributed for the Board to review, but were not voted on as there was no quorum of park board members at that meeting.**

A-4. Review Current Budget Status

Ivie distributed a spreadsheet showing the current budget status and advised that the department was on track and in good shape for the first quarter of 2018. There were no questions. Hayden requested that future reports include the date they were prepared.

## **B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/PRESENTATIONS**

### **B-1. Public Comments**

Benson commented on learning of the Commissioners' overtures with regard to repealing the county council's Ordinance 2000-007, establishing the park board, and shared some history of the drafting of the state's Parks and Recreation law, IC 36-10-3, and the reasoning behind granting county park boards the powers that that law provides.

## **C. CONTINUING BUSINESS**

### **C-1. Joint Board Meeting Follow-up**

Miner encouraged board members to read the "minutes" from the joint meeting to familiarize themselves with the matters discussed.

### **C-2. Gibbs Memorial Park Update**

Weber advised that he has a meeting scheduled with a landscape architect from Hitchcock Design Group on the first phase of Gibbs Park on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Emsweller reported that he had been approached by a Guilford Township resident about a historic home in Plainfield and there was discussion of whether the board wanted to look into relocation of the house, now owned by Hendricks Regional Health, to Gibbs Park. Miner advised he was aware of a barn north of town that would also be available to move. Hayden volunteered to inquire about the house in Plainfield and report back to the board.

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

Weber updated the board on the drainage problems with the Vandalia Trail, preparation for construction, the punch list, the contractor's claim and his meeting with INDOT. Based on a third party review, it appears that BFS missed half of the drainage area around the sewage treatment plant in Coatesville. BFS is aware of its omission and is working on a remedy, but the cost of the repair will have to be borne by HCP&R, with BFS reimbursing that cost. Weber reported that he visited the site the previous day, during a 10-year rain event, and again the pipe overflowed. He stated the water needs to be diverted to a ditch south of the sewage plant. He reported there is also an area in Coatesville where he expects the wedding barn was flooded, but he has not heard from the landowner regarding that.

Weber reported that Miner, Weber, and Ron Francis (representing BFS) had had a preliminary meeting with landowner Corey Himsel regarding eastward expansion of the trail, and that Himsel is open to talking about it. Miner added that Himsel's only concern was his liability for any problem which may occur on the easement that would run through his property. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled, and Miner advised that Buck Arnold would be back this month and has indicated he is willing to talk about the trail upon his return and he will set up a meeting.

#### C-4. Revisit Meeting Times

Emsweller recommended it might be time to do some maintenance on the board. There was discussion about the fact that some board members do not attend meetings and there needs to be an effort to fix that problem. Board members discussed changing meeting times but there was no consensus on what days or times would better accommodate everyone's schedules.

### **D. NEW BUSINESS**

#### D-1. Foundation Development Committee (Matt Browning)

Browning was unable to attend the meeting.

#### D-2. Sodalis Moving Forward

Weber reported that he has learned that the Commissioners have met with representatives of the Town of Plainfield (TOP) following the transfer of ownership of the land including Sodalis Park from the IAA to the TOP, and that the TOP wants to run the park, and to turn over operations to the TOP by the end of the year. There was discussion of the timing of that termination, and of the termination provisions of the agreement. Board members discussed their thoughts on what that transition should look like. Emsweller shared his thoughts on the timing of the termination, and Weber advised that it is the opinion of the county administrator that the TOP might be willing to negotiate its early release from the License Agreement (LA). Board members discussed the termination provisions of the LA, classification of assets (i.e., permanent vs. non-permanent), and other items they would like included in the negotiations. Emsweller emphasized the importance of having a written notice of termination in the language specified in the LA drafted and delivered to the appropriate individuals at the TOP immediately, and there was continuing discussion of that timeframe.

**Emsweller moved, and Freije seconded, that within five (5) working days, the Hendricks County Parks and Recreation Board prepare and deliver a written notice of termination to the 'Authority' property owners of the premises known as Sodalis Nature Park in accordance with Article X of the License Agreement dated June 19, 2009, between both parties; the motion passed by a 3-1 affirmative vote.**

**Emsweller subsequently moved to amend his earlier motion to provide that the written notice of termination should be submitted within ten (10) business days; seconded by Hayden the motion passed by a 4-0 affirmative vote.**

#### D-3. B & O Trail

Weber reminded the Board of the request he had received to allow the HCP&R maintenance staff to assist with some maintenance work on the B & O Trail, and advised that the Commissioners had approved the request at their last meeting. He reported that the plan is to take out some small trees to widen the trail, and take a mower/bush hog through, then treat the stumps.

**Freije moved to allow 2 or 3 members of the maintenance team to assist with maintenance of the B & O Trail two (2) days a week for approximately two (2) weeks; seconded by Emsweller, the motion passed unanimously.**

#### D-4. Mission Statement

Brunner advised that certain language regarding individual health had been inadvertently omitted when the Board's mission statement was revised for inclusion in the last agency master plan update. **Emsweller moved to reinsert the language "and individual health" so the mission statement reads, in part "...and enhancing quality of life and individual health..."; seconded by Freije, the motion passed unanimously.**

## **E. REPORTS**

### E-1. Superintendent Report

Weber reported that Holtsclaw and his crew had attended a meeting at McCloud with a representative of the County's workers compensation insurance company discussing ways to reduce workers' comp costs. He stated that he had a meeting with Cardno regarding a grant for invasives removal. Regarding staff, he advised that the seasonal naturalist offer has gone out and that the part-time (302 hours/year) assistant naturalist and full-time maintenance positions are still open. He stated that he has been working primarily on the Vandalia Trail, then spoke briefly about the upcoming joint council/commissioners meeting. He reminded the board that the commissioners have been discussing a full takeover of the park board, allowing them to oversee contracts and have day-to-day management of all operations. Instead of repealing the enabling ordinance 2000-007, however, they have prepared an amendment which would require the park board to obtain the commissioners consent prior to exercising certain functions. Weber advised that the council will hold a public hearing on the amendment after its next regularly-scheduled meeting. A special meeting was called for April 11, 2018, at 2:00pm for the Board to discuss its plan of action for the May County Council meeting.

With the quorum lost by Freije's departure at 4:01pm, further minutes of agenda items E-2 President's Report, E-3. Youth Advisory Board, and E-4. Committee Reports were not taken.

Respectfully submitted,

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William O. Harrington, Secretary