

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

Wednesday, July 19, 2017
2:00pm

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:08pm.

Board Present: Paul Miner, President
Bob Niemeyer, Vice President
Matt Freije, Secretary
Doug Moon

Board Absent: Gary Emsweller
Mike Hayden
Beth Switzer

Staff Present: Jeremy Weber, Superintendent
Linda Brunner, Administrative Assistant

Guests: Ray Benson

A. CALENDAR

A-1. Agenda

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

A-2. Approval of Minutes of June 14, 2017 Meeting

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

A-3. Review of Current Budget Status

Brunner distributed the current budget status spreadsheet and advised that the budget was in good shape and she had no concerns.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/PRESENTATIONS

B-1. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

C. CONTINUING BUSINESS

C-1. Phasing in W. S. Gibbs Park Development

Weber advised that he would like to form a committee to begin planning the phasing in of amenities at Gibbs Memorial Park. He stated the Board committee would need to decide exactly what we wanted to do and then get it in process. Weber suggested Miner and Hayden as the 2 members to serve on that committee. He reminded the Board that Hayden has knowledge of the property and a connection to the

Gibbs family. Miner advised that he or Weber would contact Hayden and set up a meeting and keep the full board apprised. Miner advised that he had visited the park and that the trails have been seeded and the grass is growing. Weber advised that the neighbor on the north side had ceased maintaining the area he had been mowing, and it is beginning to grow up. Weber said he talked with Jeff Banning about the survey work needed before the fence could be constructed, and Banning said his crews may not be able to get to it until the fall.

C-2. Vandalia Trail Update

Weber advised that there continue to be developments on the Vandalia Trail project. After the last Board meeting, we'd had our 3rd big rain event of the year. He stated that INDOT's criteria for trail design is based on a 10-year flood, but that we've now had at least 4 rain events in the 25-50 year flood range. He explained to the Board that the first 3 rains caused major flooding and erosion problems due to construction not being complete. He relayed the chronology of events as follows: right before Weber left on vacation Jerry Decker got the Commissioners and Drainage Board involved. They've come in and seen things after the fact, not knowing the details, or seeing the plans, or knowing the processes we've been going through with INDOT. Their information has been confined to the problems, and they are being told we're not doing what needs to be done to fix the problems.

Just before today's Park Board meeting, Weber received a call from Matt Whetstone, who directed that Weber, Miner, and BFS (the designer) come to the Drainage Board meeting next week. There was discussion about what the Commissioners expectations are and what consequences might arise for different scenarios. Weber said that once construction is finished, there should not be a problem. He advised there were solutions in progress that he feels confident will solve the problem. He advised that, during the last rain event, he spent a couple hours at the site so he could see for himself where the water was coming from.

He said he believes the solutions that have been discussed are good, and should be able to handle a 25-year storm. There was discussion of how the rain pattern this year has been unusual, and the problems that came up during construction were the result of that pattern. Weber advised that part of the problem is the land around the plant and that we have no control over that, other than figuring out a way to allow water to be diverted from the plant over the trail. There was further discussion about long-standing drainage problems in the area of the sewage treatment plant. Weber will meet with Eric Wathen, Bob Gentry, and Brad Wicker, as well as Dave Gaston, to provide them with information regarding what we're doing and to assure them we have things under control.

C-3. McCloud Nature Park Update

Weber reported that the Bee House is now done and that the bees have been in it for about two weeks. He said the signage still needs to be placed, but that the bees appear to be settling in and doing well. He reported that the Honeybee Festival is coming up at the end of August. He added that there will be a grand opening for the Arboretum on September 21st, a Thursday. Regarding the Wetland Mitigation, there are a few items on the punch list still to be done. He's been talking with the engineer at American Structurepoint, and the contractor, ERC, is scheduled to come back and finish those items. Still need to work on boardwalks, but have to wait for water level to recede.

E. NEW BUSINESS

E-1. American Structurepoint Release

Weber reminded the Board of the history of American Structurepoint's failure to obtain a permit to begin construction on the wetland mitigation area at McCloud last fall, and that as a result, the contractor had to demobilize and then remobilize when the permit was obtained. American Structurepoint had agreed to pay the costs associated with that demobilization/mobilization in the amount of \$10,555, because it was their error, but prior to reimbursing the Park Board that amount, they had requested that the Board sign a release stating that it would not hold Structurepoint responsible for any other monies related to that issue. It does not free Structurepoint from any liability for other issues that might arise.

Freije moved to approve the Board signing the release; seconded by Moon, the motion passed unanimously.

E-2. DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife Opportunity

Weber reported that he had been contacted by the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife about its interest in exploring the possibility of constructing an archery range in this part of the state. The vision for this project is that it could be a full, Olympic-size, staffed archery range. Weber and the DNR talked about various funding scenarios, grants, etc., and that the Park Board would need to put up a \$20,000 match for what could potentially be a \$400,000 range. He added that if we wanted to talk to an archery company about being a vendor at the range, that they could staff a pro shop on the premises, and the Board discussed the revenue generating possibilities. Weber brought up Gibbs Park, and was told that the DNR doesn't care which park it is located in as long as it would pull in visitors from the west side of Indianapolis. He said if we could get the right events, they can bring in thousands of visitors, and there are organizations that help out with those events. There was discussion that it could be used for AAU and professional groups. Asked whether there was a proposed timeframe, Weber replied that there was not. The Board discussed the pros and cons of different locations, and determined that Gibbs would probably be the best location. The Board agreed by consensus to move forward with exploring this opportunity.

E-3. BFS Supplemental Contract

Weber presented Supplemental Agreement No. 2 for Right-of-Way Services from Butler Fairman & Seufert for its participation in kitchen table meetings/public meetings/information meetings for various property owners along the National Road Heritage Trail project. He advised that the supplemental contract was necessary because it had been determined that those services were not covered under the original contract, although the Board may have thought they were, and INDOT regulations require that the consultant certify that the discussions take place legally. A discussion followed regarding misunderstandings and the difficulty of getting questions answered and other information from BFS as well as the history of communication and follow-through with BFS over the years. Weber recommended signing the contract and he agreed to explore options with INDOT for handling the situation with BFS.

Freije moved to approve BFS's Supplemental Agreement No. 2 for Right-of-Way Services, in an amount not to exceed \$15,000; seconded by Niemeyer the motion passed unanimously.

E. REPORTS

E-1. Superintendent Report

Weber advised that the current problems with the Vandalia Trail have been consuming nearly all his time and as previously discussed, he is diligently working towards a solution. He spoke briefly about the teacher interns from Avon schools who had worked with the department over the summer. He said it was a learning

experience for them, they were very enthusiastic and asked a lot of good questions. They talked about using parks as educational tools and bringing their students out for service projects. They also were able to help Jim and Sarah during their week with the department.

E-2. Youth Advisory Board

Freije advised that he and Brunner were sending out the applications and letters to Hendricks County High School principals. He said he is also working on the By-Laws, and informed Board members that the youth are interested in doing more volunteering this year. Freije talked about the busy schedules of the youth and that it is difficult to get everyone together.

E-3. Committee Reports

Miner advised that the policy committee had met and is finalizing the special event policy and application and will get it to the Board for review in the near future.

He also reported that he was working on connecting the Board's vision statement to projects in the 2016-2020 Comprehensive Master Plan.

E-4. Foundation Report

Weber reported that the Foundation has two new members, one from Duke Energy and one from Pros Consulting. He also reported that the Foundation had hired a new employee, Meghan Stritar, who formerly worked for Hendricks County Parks & Recreation, to fill the vacancy. He stated the Foundation is currently meeting every other month.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Freije, Secretary