

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

Wednesday, August 2, 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
Bob Niemeyer, Vice President
Matt Freije, Secretary
Mike Hayden

Board Absent: Gary Emsweller
Doug Moon
Beth Switzer

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

Guests: Ray Benson

A. CALENDAR

A-1. Agenda

Miner requested that the agenda be amended to add “D-2. Russell Property”. **Niemeyer moved to adopt the amended agenda; seconded by Freije, the motion passed unanimously.**

A-2. Approval of Minutes of July 19, 2017 Meeting

Freije moved to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Niemeyer, 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 there were no concerns at this time.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/PRESENTATIONS

B-1. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

C. CONTINUING BUSINESS

C-1. Vandalia Trail Update

Weber reported that he and Miner had gone to the meeting of the Drainage Board as requested by the Commissioners, and that the trail designer from Butler Fairman Seufert had also attended. After Weber and BFS presented information to the Drainage Board, it gave its “blessing” to continue with the construction as planned, with no work stoppage. Weber then advised that there is a new issue, the restrooms. The trail plans include two restrooms, one at the trailhead in Amo and one in Coatesville. The original plans show a hook-up to the water main in Amo, but that main is non-functioning. Since there is no public water in Amo, Weber said we would need to dig a new well, or tap into the existing well at the Depot. He said there is not enough room to meet IDEM’s required offsets, but he has spoken with Ron Travelstead, representative of the Town of Amo, who stated he has no problem with HCP&R digging a new well off the easement ROW, or tapping into the water source for the Depot. Weber said we would need an exception from IDEM for either method, and that he’s been in contact with IDEM about that. He added that we could take the restrooms out of the plans, but it is unclear whether INDOT would cover the cost of the removal. He stated that fabrication of the restrooms from the date of order would be about 90 days, and official approval by IDEM could take 30 days. Weber told the board we have a good relationship with IDEM and are doing what we can to expedite the process and that he is cautiously optimistic approval will be forthcoming soon. Weber advised that the paving of the trail is almost done, with the exception of the parking lots. Also, there are a couple spots that did not pass the compaction test, and those will be done when the paving crew comes back to do the parking lot.

Weber reported that when he and Miner met with Plainfield representatives, they expressed interest in connecting their section of the Vandalia Trail with HCP&R’s. He advised that the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (IMPO) extends out and encompasses 100’ of HCPR’s portion of the trail, and representatives from Plainfield stated they would work with IMPO to go beyond their town limits.

C-2. McCloud Nature Park Update

Weber advised that the Arboretum is nearly completed, with the exception of the interpretive signs and a few minor items. The grand opening has been scheduled for Thursday, September 21st, at 10:00am. He added that invitations will be sent to our partners and elected officials, among others, and we will promote the event on social media.

Weber informed the Board that he had scheduled a site visit at the Wetland Mitigation area with American Structurepoint and Environmental Remediation Contractors the following week. They will go over the items that need to be finished, and the webbing that needs replacing. Then Holtsclaw and his crew will finish the boardwalks.

C-3. Sodalís Nature Park Update

Weber advised that he and Miner had met with Plainfield representatives, and Weber provided them information on HCP&R’s operating costs for Sodalís. Weber informed them that the IAA had stated that maintenance equipment would be included in the management arrangement. Weber advised the board that there are still 12 years left on the lease, but added there is a 30-day option on either side to cancel.

There was discussion about building a nature center on unprotected land and use of the Public Works shed to store equipment. Weber relayed comments from Council members about what type of arrangement they would and would not support, and there was discussion about the need for an entrance from Marion County and Morgan County, which Plainfield would have the resources to build.

D. NEW BUSINESS

D-1. Special Events Policy and Application

Miner distributed the policy committee's draft of a proposed Special Events Policy and draft of an Application for Special Event. He advised that this policy would give the Board the ability to increase revenue and give people the opportunity to participate in more activities and conduct more events at our parks. He asked board members to review the policy and contact Weber before the next board meeting with any comments or suggestions.

D-2. Russell Property

Miner reported that he had been contacted by Mrs. Russell's agent who informed him that she was still interested in selling some of her property to the park board. This offer would carve out the house, pole barn, pond and 20 acres, and would consist only of 210 acres of woods and trails. There was discussion of the expense of putting in an entrance and parking area, and the fact that the board had lost momentum, in addition to the Bicentennial Nature Trust Grant. Miner stated the board should not overlook the historical and economic development potential of the property, and the board agreed to remain open to possibilities, but to table the matter until such time as a lower sale price was offered.

E. REPORTS

E-1. Superintendent Report

Weber reported that the Council had approved the park board's share of the Innkeepers fund for 2018, and that the budget hearing earlier in the day had gone well and that most of the department's budget requests for 2018 had been approved. He further reported that the fall issue of *The Explorer* was due in the office the following week, and that the 2018 wall calendar contest had concluded. He informed the board that he would be out of the office on vacation August 23rd to September 4th, Brunner would be out August 28th to September 8th, and that Ivie will be in the office during that time.

E-2. Youth Advisory Board

Freije reported that the schedule for the 2017-2018 school year was completed, and that Brunner would be sending recruiting packets to high school principals in the next couple weeks. He stated he was working on organizational matters for the YAB.

E-3. Committee Reports

Miner reported that the Policy Committee would be taking up a naming rights policy next.

Weber scheduled the first meeting of the Gibbs Phase-In Committee August 15th at noon. He advised that he would check with Jeff Banning to see how soon he could survey the portion on the north side of the park that needs to be fenced.

E-4. Foundation Report

Weber reported that Meghan Stritar has now begun working for the Foundation, and that the Foundation Board would be meeting soon, at which time two new members would be voted on.

ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment Miner led a discussion about park board terms and the fact that an enthusiastic community leader had expressed interest in serving on the park board. He asked whether any current board members had considered stepping down at the end of their term, as two terms would be expiring in January of 2018. Several members offered to consider the possibility, and Miner asked that they think about it and get back with him.

The meeting adjourned at 3:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Freije, Secretary