



# HENDRICKS COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

## **Hendricks County Parks & Recreation Board Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, January 2, 2019 \* 2 to 4 p.m.**

**955 E. Main Street, Danville, IN 46122**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Miner called the meeting to order at 2:06pm

**Board Present:** Paul Miner  
Matt Freije  
Gary Emsweller  
Mike Hayden  
Jeff Pell

**Board Absent:** Doug Moon

**Staff Present:** Jim Holtsclaw  
Sarah Wolf  
Carol Wickliff

### **A. CALENDAR**

#### **A-1. Adopt Agenda**

Freije moves to adopt, Hayden seconds; motion passes unanimously.

#### **A-2. Approval of Minutes from Dec. 5, 2018 Board Meeting**

Miner suggested a rewording for clarification in C-4, regarding Sodalis Nature Park. Emsweller moved to adopt after revision, Freije seconded; motion passes unanimously.

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

#### **B-1. Introduction of Ryan Lemley**

The board recognizes Ryan Lemley as the new superintendent for Hendricks County Parks & Recreation, as of February 11, 2019. Lemley speaks of his experience and activity in his previous years at Raccoon Lake. He also speaks to his commitment in his move to Hendricks County. The board welcomes Lemley with enthusiasm and encouragement.

#### **B-2. Public Comments**

No public comments

### **C. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **C-1. 2019 Park Board Officer Elections**

Freije moves that Miner remains as President of board and he remain as Vice President. Emsweller nominates Hayden for Secretary. After a discussion regarding the absence of Moon, the decision of 2019 officers comes to a close with Miner as President, Freije as Vice President and Hayden as Secretary. Freije motions for the new appointments, Emsweller seconds; motion passes unanimously.

#### **C-2. New Park Board Member (County Council Appointment)**

Ivie was asked not to make the board vacancy public, the council's office have a short list of candidates. Commissioners have already reached out to a few people and have tabled any decision until next month's meeting.

## **D. CONTINUING BUSINESS**

### **D-1. McCloud Nature Park Update**

The pedestrian bridge on the Sycamore Bend trail is completely done and the maintenance crew has turned their attention to re-decking the truss bridge over Big Walnut Creek. Ivie comments that the method the crew will use on the bridge will keep the bridge open to park patrons and they will not have to close off the entire bridge at any time.

Ivie notes that he is pursuing various leads on finding AED and First Aid kits for McCloud Park.

### **D-2. Sodalís Nature Park Update**

Miner informs the board that an offer of \$300,000 is suggested from the Town of Plainfield so that they might be able to begin managing operations at Sodalís Park. Plainfield has asked that these funds go toward the development of Gibbs Park. Miner suggests that a representative of the Park Board be present during the final negotiations regarding Sodalís Nature Park. Emsweller addresses his concerns on the negotiations by reiterating the importance of removing Hendricks County specific inventory.

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

Ivie directs attention to the superintendent report for updates. He informs the board that after negotiations, the commissioners are ready to close contract deals regarding previous construction projects. Ivie gives an overview of the flood concerns on the property, stating that inclement weather has been creating issues with property development.

Ivie mentions that the Parks is awaiting some paperwork from Beaty Construction before the parks move forward in new development projects.

Miner informs the board about the progress of the Buck Arnold property. He states that after a land adjustment, expanding the acreage, Arnold is still satisfied with the original offer and would like to move forward in the acquisition process.

Miner informs the board on the continued process of acquiring a grant towards the expansion of the trail system, Ivie speaks to the specifics.

Miner suggests a negotiation for a MOU be arranged between HCP&R and the City of Amo pertaining to the well addition to the Vandalia Trail property.

Ivie presents the drainage plan from BFS to the board. There is a concern of Crittenden Creek bank erosion and the proposed project would help reduce the flow and impact that rain, runoff and treated wastewater has on the creek.

### **D-4. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park Update**

Ivie refers to the previous talks of adding an addendum to the Searcy cash farm lease. Ivie asks for clarification since there are no immediate plans for construction projects. The board discusses the ongoing projects that could happen without disrupting farm fields, and how the park can work with landowners. Emsweller inquires on the progress of the RFP for Gibbs Park. Ivie and Holtsclaw discussed the requirements and how they have been able to assemble the available one. Ivie states that he will create a more comprehensive draft for the board to review.

Miner states that he has been able to discuss the process to bring a historic log cabin to the Gibbs Park property. Miner states that the cabin would benefit the proposed archeological area within the park. Ivie expressed concerns of possible complications and the future maintenance having to do with this addition. Pell expresses concerns with the financial dedication that will go towards maintaining the structure, the purpose of the structure, and how it will benefit the park.

## **E. REPORTS**

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

Ivie states that the majority of the report has already been discussed. He states that all encumbrances had been approved by the Council. He states that there was roughly \$200,000 that will roll over into the 2019 budget to use towards Gibbs. He states that the Parks Foundation will be reimbursed for previous costs by January 9<sup>th</sup>.

Ivie mentions the possibility of the Parks Foundation taking over the Summer Fun Run series that had been an annual event organized by HCP&R. Ivie expressed concern that by allowing the Foundation to organize the series, HCP&R visitation statistics would greatly reduce. While supporting the idea, he would like the Parks to remain part of the series as support and not lead.

### **E-2. Budget Report**

Ivie refers to the handout of the budget report. Ivie justifies the funds drop due to the various conferences that staff has already committed to. Ivie points to the 'promotional' account noting the large cost for the publication of the Explorer magazine.

Miner questions the specifics of some funds. Ivie states that HCP&R should be able to use the Harlos fund for improvements for the truss bridge and he plans on bringing it to the Foundation board. Ivie requests a vote from the board on how to manage remaining funds to then be able to ask the Foundation for approval. Hayden motions that all remaining funds could be left to roll over into a spendable fund. Emsweller seconds, passes unanimously.

Miner proposes that the board allow him to request financial support for reforestation efforts along the Vandalia Trail during the joint meeting between the Foundation and the Parks boards. Miner suggests that he will arrange a brief document addressing the need.

Ivie states that there had been a recent community request about the possibility of using the boardwalk for a special event. Since the boardwalk has never been included in rental properties, Ivie inquired how the board would like to address the request. Frejie expresses that it would be in the best interest for HCP&R to charge a reservation fee for the structure, just as the other reservable structures. Ivie suggests that it be set at a fee of \$50, as are the other structures. Wolf suggests an updated version of the event policy for staff. Miner states that he would like to see the policy committee meet after Lemley's start date to update and begin discussions.

### **E-3. Parks Foundation of Hendricks County Report**

No official Foundation Report due to the absence of Stritar

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 3:56pm

Respectfully submitted,

---

Paul Miner, President

**NEXT MEETINGS:** January 15, 2019, at 11 a.m. (Joint Meeting at Washington Township Park)  
February 6, 2019, at 2 p.m. (regular Park Board Meeting)