



HENDRICKS COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

Hendricks County Parks & Recreation Board Meeting Minutes **Wednesday, July 3rd, 2019 * 2 to 4 p.m.** **955 E. Main Street, Danville, IN 46122**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:02pm

Board Members: Paul Miner
Matt Freije
Mike Hayden (absent)
Brad Eisenhart
Doug Moon (absent)
Gary Emsweller (absent)
Jeff Pell

Staff Present: Ryan Lemley
Eric Ivie
Carol Wickliff
Jim Holtsclaw

Guests Present: Ray Benson
Scott Lands
Tina Lloyd
Jim Bowling
Tom Williams
Doug Valmore

A. CALENDAR

A-1. Adopt Agenda

Eisenhart moves to approve agenda, Freije seconds; passes unanimously.

A-2. Approval of Minutes from June 5th, 2019 Board Meeting

Freije moves to approve minutes, Eisenhart seconds; passes unanimously.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/PRESENTATIONS

B-1. Public Comments

No public comments.

C. NEW BUSINESS

C-1. Vandalia Trail- Reveal Sealed Bids for Enhanced Drainage Plan

Lemley begins by opening bids for the Vandalia Trail Drainage Plan; first to reveal is Conexco with a bid price of \$175,326.22. Next, RJ Bowling LLC with an estimate of \$308,013.50. Clark Excavation & Utility estimates \$359,395. Finally, Yardberry Landscaping and Excavation estimates \$255,660. These bids will be reviewed by Doug Valmore to move forward in making a decision.

C-2. McCloud NP- Log Barn Update & Vote

Lemley states that the proposal of the log barn is still on the table and he would like the board to vote to be able to move forward on the future of the structure. Lemley states that the proposed plan for repurposing the log barn was a closed climate cabin that could be used for reservations and/or programs. Since there is a private donor, there would be no cost to the taxpayers for relocation of the structure. Miner states that the donor would like to keep the structure in the county for historical preservation. Lemley advises Powder Post Beetles were discovered while inspecting the structure; if treatment failed, the barn has the potential to infest the trees at McCloud. The board discussed the possibility of creating a maintenance fund to preserve the structure for future use. Freije motions for the board to vote to decline the offer of the log cabin and allow the owner to seek other opportunities for preservation. Pell seconds; motion passes 3-1, Miner opposed.

D. CONTINUING BUSINESS

D-1. McCloud Nature Park Update

Lemley informed the board that the security system under new contract has had a few hiccups but is up and running. Lemley received a quote on an epoxy floor covering for the Nature Center and will move forward during the week of September 6, 2019 while there are no school trips scheduled to McCloud. Lemley stated that the Parks Foundation will be covering this cost for the department. This new flooring will cover the lower level, both inside and outside bathroom and the stairs leading to the library at a cost of \$10,640.

The maintenance crew continues improvements throughout McCloud. Holtsclaw states that the reforestation seems to have around a 25% success rate.

D-2. Vandalia Trail Update

Lemley states that he is looking forward to beginning work on projects along the VT. He states that a completion date for the drainage improvements is estimated for some time in October, but no specific date has been set. Eisenhart asks if there would need to be a board vote to begin the project. Lemley informs the board that he believes a recommendation would be suitable so that they can start as soon as possible. Eisenhart makes a motion to permit Miner to sign the contract, after Lemley reviews the document with our legal department. Freije seconds; passes unanimously.

Lemley notes that the department has been working with a professional grant writer ahead of the second cycle of the Next Level Trails Grant submission. He informs the board of the conversation had with DNR representatives to discuss application improvements. It was stated, in that discussion, that by HCP&R not owning connecting land to build trails on was problematic

and impacted the decision. He states that HCP&R would need to acquire 7 more parcels of land to create a continuous trail. The board discussed the possibility of acquisitions that may be made by the next deadline of the Next Level Trails Grant.

Miner inquired about a parcel of land in Coatesville. Lemley states that it is an unused piece that does not currently serve the department. There is potential for the parcel to benefit the department in the future.

Lemley informs the board that infrared scanners will be installed at the trailheads in Amo and Coatesville in hopes to get a more accurate record of movement on the trail. Pell suggests the use of a few online resources that he has encountered that may be useful to estimate trail users.

D-3. W.S. Gibbs Update

Lemley states that the request made by Mr. Freeman (neighboring landowner) regarding a septic issue has been revisited and a plan has been developed to mitigate future issues.

Lemley states, with a full team, maintenance will be focusing on invasive removal at Gibbs and will be renting heavy equipment to do so. They hope to begin that project on July 22, 2019.

Due to the erratic weather this year, Searcy has been unable to plant any crops. This gives the maintenance team the opportunity to work without disrupting growth.

E. REPORTS

E-1. Superintendent Report

Lemley states that the budget hearing will take place on July 30th. He informs the board that funding for a replacement vehicle has been requested, although he does not expect to get any immediate approval. Lemley is hopefully for the increased allocation of \$100,000 for the development of county parks (W.S. Gibbs).

Lemley informs the board that a full-time maintenance tech, Jason Kittle, has been hired and will start on July 15th. He seems very passionate and knowledgeable about tasks pertaining to the position and HCP&R expects he will excel at the job.

Lemley informs the board of various publication news regarding HCP&R. He draws attention to an article published in the Icon. He stated the Fall issue of the Explorer is being created and its projected distribution date is August 19th.

Lemley informs the board that the policy committee has been working on creating and updating policies for HCP&R. The Naming policy is being updated along with other minor policies that need to be revised. The suggestion of some specific forms is made and Lemley states the option can be investigated.

E-2. Budget Report

Hendricks County Parks is right on track and has no concern of going over budget at any time.

E-3. Parks Foundation of Hendricks County Report

Eisenhart reports that there are around 1,500 participants that have registered online for the Summer Fun Run series. Since there is no incentive to register as in previous years, the Foundation is questioning whether to continue registration next year. Eisenhart states that the Foundation board is working towards expansion and is seeking new board members. The Foundation has given a \$500 grant for each property that has participated in the SFR series and each are using them for improvements of property or program in unique ways.

Pell addresses the board to introduce Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasive Management (SICIM), a non-profit wildlife education organization that would like to partner with HCP&R to educate the community of invasive species.

Lemley states that he has identified resources through the Land & Water Conservation Fund that can potentially be utilized for Gibbs park in the future. Although a deadline has passed for this year, he would like to bring attention to applying grants for 2021. A revised 5-year Master Plan would be necessary to attain any approval.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:47pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Hayden, Secretary

Next Meeting: Wednesday August 7, 2019