



HENDRICKS COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

Hendricks County Parks & Recreation Board Meeting Notice

Wednesday, December 4th, 2019 2 to 4 p.m.

955 E. Main Street, Danville, IN 46122

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:01p.m.

Board Present: Paul Miner, President

Matt Freije, Vice President

Mike Hayden, Secretary (absent)

Brad Eisenhart

Gary Emsweller

Jeff Pell

Doug Moon

Staff Present: Ryan Lemley, Superintendent

Eric Ivie, Assistant Superintendent

Carol Wickliff, Assistant Administrator

Jim Holtsclaw, Park Manager

Sarah Wolf, Senior Naturalist

Guests Present: none present

A. CALENDAR

A-1. Adopt Agenda

Eisenhart moves to adopt the agenda, Emsweller seconds; motion passes unanimously.

A-2. Approval of Minutes from November 6th, 2019 Board Meeting

Freije moves to approve the minutes, Emsweller seconds; motion passes unanimously.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/PRESENTATIONS

B-1. Public Comments

There were no public comments. Jerry Decker, the Town Manager of Coatesville, was invited to discuss matters relating to the sewage lift stations along the Vandalia Trail, but was unable to attend.

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

C-1. Vandalia Trail- Hazardous Tree Removal Agreement with Brian Stephenson

Lemley states that an agreement had been made between HCP&R and Brian Stephenson to manage over 700 dead and hazardous trees along the Vandalia Trail. Stephenson is a local business owner that approached HCP&R about cutting trees, free of cost, for firewood. To mitigate injury of trail-users, Lemley has proposed that parts of the Vandalia Trail be closed during the time in which Stephenson is working. Stephenson plans to create small burn piles along the trail to manage brush. Decker and Coatesville Volunteer Fire Department have been informed and will remain updated on procedures to ensure community safety. Stephenson would begin this process in Coatesville and move eastward towards Amo before he moves to isolated spots along the remaining trail. Stephenson can begin when available and the contract ends on April 1st 2020. Miner shares his concerns with small burn piles along the trail. Lemley states that piles can be left for habitat but has discussed possibilities and referred to Stephenson's recommendations and experience.

C-2. Vandalia Trail- Next Level Trails Grant Update

Lemley reports to the board the conversation regarding the Next Level Trails Grant that he had with Nathaniel Simmons, a DNR Trails Coordinator. The Next Level Trails Grant is an opportunity that would allow HCP&R to continue development of the Vandalia Trail. Simmons states the concern of safety on a non-continuous trail that would force trail-users onto a busy county road with high speed limits. HCP&R owns large sections of land along the projected trail way, but the land is separated by property owned by local farmers that are not supportive of the development of the trail. Simmons suggests that HCP&R apply for the development of the trail starting in Clayton and moving west to the Edmonson property, giving the department a continuous 1-mile length of trail. This would create a large gap in the trail itself but would be progress towards a finished trail. The board discussed possible benefits of developing the trail in Clayton. Lemley states that the current application requests funding for 75% of the development while the department will fund the remaining 25% of development.

Lemley states that the Edmonson's have been nonresponsive to the department regarding any matters. Holtsclaw states that the Edmonson's acquired that portion of land from Buck Arnold right before the department acquired land from Buck Arnold. Emsweller suggests that members reach out to the Edmonson's personally and ask for discussion.

The board discusses the use of the rights-of-way, and if it would be a viable option. The rights-of-way (ROW) refers to the right to make a way over a piece of land, usually to and from another piece of land. Land that is applicable for ROW extends from the middle of the road to at least 20' in a lateral direction. Lemley states that he would like to explore more about the topic. Members of the board suggest that Lemley turn to John Ayers, the Hendricks County Engineer, for assistance and guidance in this matter.

Miner suggests the department hire a local ROW, INDOT-certified agent to assist with furthering land acquisitions. Lemley suggests that he research and present his discoveries on agencies to the board in a future meeting. Emsweller suggests the department apply for the smaller section to be developed. **The consensus of the board is to expect the current application to be rejected and amend the application for round 3 to only include the section of land that is 1-mile west of Clayton and stops at the eastern border of the Edmonson property.** This would allow additional time for the department to contact landowners and inform them of the proposed future of the trail.

C-3. Vandalia Trail- Eric George 2020 Crop Lease

Lemley states the 2020 Crop Lease for Eric George is ready to be signed at the board's request. George is a local farmer that has been leasing land from HCP&R for crops while the land is yet to be developed.

Eisenhart moves to allow Lemley to pursue an additional Crop Lease with George if the application for round 2 of the Next Level Trails grant is denied, Emsweller seconds; motion passes unanimously.

C-4. W.S. Gibbs- Adoption Consideration for Final Conceptual Plan- Phase 1

Lemley presents to the board a draft of the final conceptual plan and cost estimates for W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park. The previous concerns over parking have been clarified by reviewing the regulations. Lemley was informed that the park could accommodate 260 parking spots total and the intention of 135 parking spots are being added in Phase 1. Lemley and consultants from Cecon will review plans with representatives of the Town of Avon. Lemley states that he has had shelter houses added in Phase 1 and he believes it would be beneficial for visitors. He informs the board that the estimated final cost for Phase 1 is \$1.3 million. He states that the department has encumbered \$500,000 in the Food & Beverage budget and feels confident asking the County Commissioner to reallocate funds for remaining costs. Lemley states that more amenities will be added in Phase 2, projected to start in 2021.

The consensus of the board is to support the current plan and allow Lemley to move forward with development. Board members suggest the department request separate RFPs for road/trail development and a shelter house.

D. NEW BUSINESS

D-1. Vandalia Trail- Sewage Lift Station Fencing Request (Coatesville & Amo)

Lemley reports to the board of an issue at the sewage lift stations along the Vandalia Trail. Jerry Decker has informed the department of a recent incident where the Amo station had been tampered with and there are concerns of future incidents at both the Amo and the Coatesville stations. Due to the proximity to the Vandalia Trail, Decker has asked HCP&R for assistance to fund the installation of a fenced containment unit around the perimeter of the stations. Lemley presents to the board quotes for the Amo lift station (\$5,530) and the Coatesville lift station (\$5,830), both quoted by K and K Fence Co., Inc. **Eisenhart moves to assist in funding up to \$3,000 per location to install chain-linked fencing. Emsweller seconds; motion passes unanimously.**

D-2. 2020 Park Board Meeting Schedule

Ivie presents to the board a proposed draft of the 2020 schedule of Park Board meetings. Ivie states that the board will remain meeting at the same time (first Wednesday of the month, 2-4pm) each month, with the exception of January. The scheduled board meeting would fall on January 1, 2020. The office will be closed this day due to a holiday. The first meeting is proposed to be the following week on January 8th, 2020. **Freije moves to keep accept the schedule, Emsweller seconds; motion passes unanimously.**

D-3. 2020 Program Fee Schedule

Ivie presents a proposed draft of the 2020 Fee Schedule. He states that all present fees will remain the same. **Freije moves to keep accept the fee schedule, Eisenhart seconds; motion passes unanimously.**

E. CONTINUING BUSINESS

E-1. McCloud Nature Park Update

Lemley informs the board of an incident out at McCloud Nature Park involving an unknown driver making donuts in the open yard near the pavilion. This incident occurred twice, and it believed to be the same driver. After addressing the concern with local law enforcement, that driver has been caught. Luckily there was no serious damage to the property. The landscaping concerns are easily repaired in spring.

Lemley informed the board of another year of successful wreath-making workshops at McCloud Nature Park. The workshops are one of the more popular winter events. In 2019, the department raised the fee from \$12 to \$15 and added a fourth workshop.

E-2. Vandalia Trail Update

Lemley reports the department's intention to learn more about the BeWell bike share program that is organized by Hendricks Regional Health. This program allows trail visitors to rent a bike from a share station for a limited amount of time before it is returned to a share station. The town of Plainfield has recently implemented this program and it has had some success. Lemley would like to discuss possible accommodation at the Vandalia trail heads for a small bike share station.

Lemley reports that the recycling receptacles that were funded by a grant from Hendricks County Solid Waste Management District have been received. One of the two received has already been installed at the Amo trailhead. A small slab may have to be poured to accommodate the other one in Coatesville.

Lemley states that counters for pedestrian traffic have been installed and are recording movement on the trail. The Amo trailhead has averaged around 750 monthly visitors that have passed since July 2019. Holtsclaw states that he would like to make some adjustments to the directional reader.

E-3. W.S. Gibbs Update

Lemley reports that he has scheduled a meeting with Brad Baldwin, a DNR mitigation specialist, regarding possible stream and wetland mitigation projects that could be implemented at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park within the next two years. DNR mitigation projects are evaluated on a point system; each improved acre equals a point. Previously farmed land can receive additional points, which is a target for DNR. Cardno has been

contracted by DNR to assist with the process, including evaluating viable project sites. Lemley advised the potential partnership could be a huge win if selected, significantly improving the nature park at no cost to the Department.

F. REPORTS

F-1. Superintendent Report

Lemley discussed all relevant information in previous reports.

F-2. Budget Report

Ivie states the county's fiscal year ended November 26th and the HCP&R team has been able to collaborate to make sure the remaining budget was spent well and responsibly. He points out the early pays, which are primarily utilities, are being paid out of the 2019 year's budget. Some finances were shifted into Maintenance & repair funds to purchase the stump grinder needed for trail/property improvements.

Lemley reports that there is an expected \$113,000 yet to be received from Butler, Fairman & Seufert (BF&S), and John Brand, the president of BF&S, has been problematic in moving those procedures forward. BF&S is a consulting firm hired to address a drainage issue on the Vandalia Trail near the Coatesville wastewater treatment facility; that drainage issue is now resolved.

F-3. Parks Foundation of Hendricks County Report

Eisenhart informs the Park board that Carol Wood has joined the Parks Foundation Board. Wood has been a long-time supporter of Hendricks County Parks as well as a former teacher in the community. She is believed to be an asset and a champion for parks and environmental education in Hendricks County.

Miner notes the continued efforts of the transportation subcommittee. The county planning website has uploaded maps and documents that highlight trails as a primary community need.

Emsweller requests a project review of 2019 to share with community leaders. Miner suggests adding the action plan from the 5-yr Plan for comparison.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:54pm

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Miner, President

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 8th, 2019