



Hendricks County Parks & Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 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 Present: Paul Miner
Jeff Pell
Doug Moon
Gary Emsweller
Mike Hayden
Matt Freije
Brad Eisenhart

Staff Present: Ryan Lemley
Eric Ivie
Jim Holtsclaw
Sarah Wolf

Guests Present: Ray Benson

A. CALENDAR

A-1. Adopt Agenda

Freije motions to adopt the agenda, Eisenhart seconds; passes unanimously.

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

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

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/PRESENTATIONS

B-1. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

C. NEW BUSINESS

C-1. Contract Recommendation- Phase 1 Design & Planning for W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park

Lemley informs the board of the success of the review phase to select a contract for Phase 1. He stated that after much discussion, the recommendation to the board would be to offer CECON the opportunity to execute Phase 1. Lemley elaborates on the decision process stating, although other

companies had lower costs, there were many hidden costs that the parks did not expect. With a vote of 3-2, they decided CECON was the best choice at this time. Lemley states that at the end Phase 1, Gibbs Park will be equipped with a parking lot, drainage for foundation building, reforestation areas, picnic area, and a green space. Freije motioned to accept the recommendation of CECON, Pell seconded; passed unanimously.

C-2. Glen “Buck” Arnold Property

Lemley states that after with the assistance of Miner, the property purchase of \$527,050 was for 66 total acres. Lemley states his intentions of working with the recorder’s office in order to move forward properly.

C-3. Crop Lease Approval

Lemley states that a lease agreement has been prepared with Eric George for the tillable acreage within the Buck Arnold property. The lease will create \$9,600 more in revenue to be paid bi-annually.

Lemley states that after a meeting with Jason Searcy, Searcy has agreed to recommendations brought to him by HCP&R and a lease agreement has been prepared. This would be a bi-annual payment of \$1,545.60.

The board agreed by consensus to allow Miner to sign lease agreements for Eric George and Jason Searcy.

C-4. Log Barn Update

Lemley states some board members and staff were able to meet and discuss the log barn that has been a topic in previous board meetings. Lemley notes the infestation of powder post beetles and the cost involved in treatment. Emsweller suggest holding a meeting with Comer regarding any future plans when all parties are present and able to discuss. There were various possibilities for the use of the barn discussed by the board.

D. CONTINUING BUSINESS

D-1. McCloud Nature Park Update

Lemley reports of the completion of the truss bridge re-decking and that HCP&R plans on repurposing as much wood as possible. Holtsclaw reports on the success of the wetland’s reforestation effort. Lemley suggests the idea of an addition of a launch dock into Big Walnut along the bottom parking lot.

Lemley states that William’s Creek has begun work within the Arboretum to focus on invasive control. They will continue to assist HCP&R over the next few years until the native flora establishes itself.

Lemley states that Turner Forestry will conduct a prairie burn before May 31st.

D-2. Sodalis Nature Park Update

Lemley states that HCP&R will terminate the lease at the park. He will be meeting with Jason Castetter, of Plainfield Department of Public Works, to discuss specifics on the terms. Emsweller notes that he would recommend the removal of the Sodalis name from the property. Miner notes that HCP&R signed a lease to occupy the property until 2029, HCP&R will be vacating April 30th 2019, leaving the park a decade early.

Ray Benson stood before the board and stated that he feels the public has had little knowledge of the management change regarding the park. He feels that it affects many schools and communities and is concerned of a public pushback. He has concerns over a possible strain in the relationship that HCP&R has developed with the fish & wildlife and hopes it continues with Plainfield. He also states his concern for the wellbeing of the bat species that has populated the area and hopes Plainfield has care for them while developing the area.

Freije moved to sign documents terminating lease, Emsweller seconded; passed unanimously.

D-3. Vandalia Trail Update

Lemley states that Kim Cartwright began her work on the restroom and has done an excellent job, so far. He states that the original signs along the trail will be removed due to weathering. He reports that a group of volunteers has worked to pull undesirable plants and clean up along the trail. He states that he intends to address land owners directly during future expansion efforts. The board suggests creating a post for social media to inform the public of how much progress HCP&R has made in the expansion of the trail.

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

Lemley comments on the service drive the maintenance crew is currently using. Lemley states the need for a driveway access permit needs to be obtained before a permanent drive is to be added to the property. He notes that this drive should be addressed as part of Phase 1. The board mentions the possibility of creating a sign to promote the future site of Gibbs Park along the property. Miner states that due to lack of enthusiasm from the board, he feels that the offer of an archery range is unnecessary to the park and DNR should be contacted and informed.

The board discusses the main entrance of the park and comes to the understanding that it will be further north than the original plans represented, and will be a standard entrance drive. Lemley hopes to be able to explore diverse parking opportunities throughout the park rather than a single parking lot.

Lemley states that HCP&R has moved forward on debris removal of undesirable growth with Paul Cummins and his crew. Completion is projected within 8 days of beginning the task.

E. REPORTS

E-1. Superintendent Report

Explorers are projected to arrive in the next week. Ivie notes the variety of summer programming.

HCP&R staff has had the opportunity to review and interview applicants for various positions. An applicant, Kurt Moore, was hired for the maintenance tech position and will be starting on Tuesday. He states that Rachel Felling will fill one of the available seasonal naturalist positions.

He notes that AED bags have been ordered, along with trauma bags, for county vehicles. There is a possibility to obtain additional AED bags for the office from Hendricks Regional Hospital. Trauma bags and first aid kits were purchased with the help of the government center to offset costs from HCP&R expenses.

Lemley comments that Senator Crane has donated 100 trees and they will be distributed at the Nature Center as patrons visit.

E-2. Budget Report

Ivie clarifies that the purchase of Gibbs property was pulled from edit project funds. Ivie reports that although the final purchase of the Gibbs property was prior to the board meeting, it occurred after the report was created, so that purchase is not represented on the current report. Ivie states that he has recently verified all costs with the auditor's office, so all reports would be accurate.

E-3. Parks Foundation of Hendricks County Report

Hayden reports some specifics pertaining to the Summer Fun Run series. He states that tee-shirts have been designed and are available for purchase, and online registration is available. He noted the expansion of the number of runs as being 12 this year. Ivie states that after PFoHC made an announcement on social media, HCP&R shared that post and it turned into a popular post having roughly 3,500 views. Others reported that other community parks have also shared the post.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:48pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Hayden, Secretary

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 1st, 2019