

**Hendricks County Parks & Recreation Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 \* 2 to 4 p.m.**  
**955 E. Main Street, Danville, IN 46122**

**AGENDA**

**CALL TO ORDER 2:02pm**

**Board Present: Paul Miner**

**Matt Freije**

**Mike Hayden (absent)**

**Brad Eisenhart**

**Gary Emsweller (absent)**

**Jeff Pell (absent)**

**Doug Moon**

**Staff Present: Ryan Lemley**

**Eric Ivie**

**Carol Wickliff**

**Jim Holtsclaw**

**Guests Present: Ray Benson**

**Steven Moore**

**Mary Hallinan**

**A. CALENDAR**

A-1. Adopt Agenda

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

A-2. Approval of Minutes from July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 Board Meeting

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

**B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/PRESENTATIONS**

B-1. Public Comments

Ray Benson takes a moment to thank those responsible for the new issue of *the Explorer*, stating that they are doing an excellent job. Steven Moore introduces himself stating that in a previous conversation with Superintendent Lemley, he was very impressed with how he has been handling his position.

B-2. Mary Hallinan- Hendricks County Cisma Establishment

Hallinan introduces the board to SICIM (Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management), a non-profit organization that focuses on engaging the community, invasive management, and plant education. She states that there are only 5 regional specialists and they assist 35 counties throughout the state of Indiana. Hallinan is hoping to interest the board to assist in expanding into growing communities. She speaks to the importance of land surveys to help property owners understand how invasives inhibit the health of native species. Miner inquires about various funding issues and equipment qualifications. Hallinan states that those inquiries are determined by a third party and there are a few stipulations, such as an annual profit of more than \$900,000.

Hallinan would like to create events open to the public to encourage involvement in invasive management efforts. She states the popularity of Weed Wrangles, which is a national campaign, and with hopes of offering these events on HC properties in spring and fall.

Hallinan mentions legislative acts that have been favorable to the continued efforts. At this point 44 species have been flagged as invasive or noxious in Indiana.

Hallinan states that, not only are invasive plants harmful to the environment, they are costing the state millions of dollars in management control. This is a recognized threat on a federal level and attempts are being made all over the United States. Due to this costly effort, many invasives are prioritized, while others go untreated.

## **C. CONTINUING BUSINESS**

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

Lemley informs the board that the space for a future nature playground has been selected. This was brought to the naturalists at McCloud by an Eagle Scout, and it has been an ongoing collaboration. This space is located between the Nature Center and the lower parking lot, around the area of the Siberian Elm tree, on the left side of the drive. Osage Orange lumber, taken from Gibbs, will be used for the development of this space.

Lemley reports there was a faulty contact sensor within the alarm system at the barn that has been replaced. After contacting the alarm company, FE Moran, it was decided to proceed with an in-house replacement for \$52 a sensor.

Lemley reports that the Foundation has funded the flooring in the Nature Center, as well as offered an additional \$1,800 for a new exhibit of the department's choosing. This improvement project will include the lower level floor, the steps leading to the library and the outdoor bathrooms. This project is scheduled to begin on September 9<sup>th</sup>. The exhibit has yet to be determined but is being discussed by the naturalist team.

Lemley reports that Williams Creek is making some progress, but he expresses his dissatisfaction in the visual impact that he was hoping to see. He is hoping that with the addition of Jason Kittle to the team, progress will increase.

Miner expresses concerns over the increased interest in metal detecting and his concerns with patrons doing so at McCloud. Lemley states that staff is revisiting policies and it will be addressed in the near future.

### **C-2. Vandalia Trail Update**

Lemley informs the board that Conexco has begun progress on the Enhanced Drainage Plan along the Vandalia Trail that is estimated to be around \$205,000. He states there is expected to be a temporary trail closure during the process of this project. He states that he has maintained contact with neighboring landowners and kept them informed during the process. BF&S has asked for an update on the revised settlement agreement that Miner had signed prior to Lemley's hiring. He states there was a \$39,000 reimbursement from Beaty Construction that was part of a previous agreement.

Lemley discusses development on the Next Level Trails Grant application. After collaborating with Donna Taylor, a grant writer assisting on the grant, he feels that her input has become minimal and he would like to rely on in-house support. He states the INDOT funding will expire on 10/06/19 and the department has around \$50,000 left to utilize towards land acquisition. He and Miner have scheduled meetings to discuss a property that connects to the already acquired Buck Arnold property. He hopes to be able to reduce the timeline of any possible construction required for trail expansion. He and Ivie will attend a workshop about grant submission before the deadline of November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Lemley informs the board of the accomplishments of the maintenance crew. HCP&R team took extra care of the trail before the Cruising in Coatesville event. They removed potentially hazardous trees and addressed a problematic lock issue. Ivie reports that after some additional work was done on some of the lock mechanics, restrooms at both trailheads were accessible before the event.

Lemley reports that he has updated all HCP&R information regarding the Vandalia Trail with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization. He states this had not been updated since 2015.

Lemley informs the board that Holtsclaw has installed an infrared traffic counter at the Amo trailhead with plans of an additional device installation at the Coatesville trailhead soon.

Lemley proposed an idea to assist in the removal process of dead trees along the trail. He suggests the department create a Firewood Cutting permit that would require patrons to sign a waiver of liability for a low-cost tree cutting opportunity. He explains that the maintenance crew would drop the trees, then allow patrons to be able to cut trees for personal usage of firewood. He explains that this was an opportunity that he managed in previous years during his time at Raccoon Lake. This would be a dual-purpose option that would assist in tree removal and create revenue for the parks.

Freije inquires about possible bridge construction projects in the future. Lemley states that there are some improvements needed to the existing bridges, but nothing has been determined at the moment.

Miner brings to the board's attention that he has been made aware of a possible land purchase on the east side of Clayton. He is uncertain if the department is able to pursue but suggests maintaining contact with the current landowner.

Ivie reports the occurrence of the next Summer Fun Run event will take place on the Vandalia Trail. He and Holtsclaw have taken time to clean up the property in hopes to create another successful event.

### C-3. W.S. Gibbs Update

Lemley states that the maintenance team has rented a Fecon machine to assist in clearing brush and undesirable trees. This machinery ran consecutively throughout the week and has cleared approximately 13 acres. He notes how pleased he is with the appearance in the property compared to before the land was cleared. He reports the estimate for the development of the anticipated 6-acre pond. A removal of an estimated 80,000 cubic yards of earth is needed and has been quoted at \$500,000. He states that this cost would be removal only and he and Holtsclaw have discussed storage possibilities to utilize the dirt for future projects. Freije inquires of those options and states he may be able to assist in alternative options. Intertek-Professional Service Industries will do a soil test prior to development. He explained the forebay will act as part of a wetland treatment to naturally filter the water as it settles into the pond. The pond development, along with roadways and trails will be the majority of Phase 1.

Lemley states that he has maintained contact with Dale Kruse regarding the tile installation that has previously been discussed in prior meetings and will be giving approval for that project to begin.

Lemley states that he has discussed crop planting concerns with Jason Searcy, as the extremely wet spring prevented Jason's ability to successfully plant for the 2019 season (preventative planting practiced). Searcy states that he had to alter the way he treated the land due to the weather (now turning soil, rather than applying herbicide), but the department will receive the scheduled fall payment installment of \$7,527.22 on time and in full.

## **D. REPORTS**

### D-1. Superintendent Report

Lemley reports that he and Mike Hayden (of the Park & Foundation Boards) were able to meet with John & Lydia Gibbs and family to discuss the maintenance and future of the Gibbs park.

He announced that Rocky Turner has proposed donating a barn to the department. This barn has both a below level storage space and a floor level storage space; they are only in discussion about donating the upper portion of the barn. This barn is located in the town of Avon, west of Dan Jones Rd. He explains that the town of Avon has purchased 40 acres of land, that includes the parcel this structure was built upon and has no future plans for the barn. Although the barn, itself, would be a free of cost donation, the estimated

cost to relocate this barn is reported at \$94,000, and funding for transportation is yet to be determined. He imagines this barn to be placed on the Gibbs Homestead portion of the property. Lemley would like the board to consider taking a vote as to whether or not to accept this donation in a future board meeting.

Lemley reports the success of the budget hearing with the County Council. The Council unanimously voted to approve the requested additional amount of \$100,000 to be utilized toward the development of Gibbs.

Lemley reports the completion of *the Explorer* issue for Fall 2019 ahead of schedule.

He reports his approval of Jason Kittle's performance thus far and has been satisfied with how he works with and manages the rest of the maintenance team.

Lemley reports that Wickliff will host a booth at the Big Go Block Party event in Brownsburg on August 20<sup>th</sup> and will represent HCP&R. He notes this to be an opportunity for the department to reach new patrons and engage in the community.

Lemley reports that a compensation study has been completed and it is assumed that qualifying county employees will get the annual 3% pay increase for 2020.

Lemley reports that there have been continual issues with the F250 Ford truck. Lemley hopes to convince the County Council of the necessity of a replacement truck for next year. The condition of the underbody is deteriorating and is causing persistent issues.

Lemley states that he contacted Jerry Decker to discuss options for a vacant lot that is the property of HCP&R. This is an unmaintained 0.5-acre lot in Coatesville. They also discussed security measures at the sewage treatment plant along the VT.

Lemley reports the intentions of placing a closure gate along the temporary entrance at Gibbs.

#### D-2. Budget Report

Ivie reports that with the success of the budget hearing, the department has been allotted the additional \$100,000 requested to put towards improvements of park properties, as well as the standard budget requests.

Ivie states that budget spending is on schedule. Ivie reports the request for the separation of Sodalis payments to its own line on the budget in order to track spending of Gibbs development.

#### D-3. Parks Foundation of Hendricks County Report

Eisenhart reports the continued progress of the Summer Fun Run series; the most recent being Arbuckle Park that brought approximately 440 people that checked in for the event. He states, though the numbers for participants are not as high as previous years, the financial impact has been the highest this year.

Eisenhart inquires to HCP&R about the Cecon contract for a created timeline for Gibbs park. He hopes to attain one as soon as possible to assist in fundraising opportunities. Ivie states that it was requested but has not received one yet.

Eisenhart states that the Foundation is holding a Friends & Volunteers picnic at McCloud on the evening of September 7<sup>th</sup>. This would be open to all parks departments and park volunteers in the Hendricks County area.

Lemley inquires about administrative costs and how that will be divided throughout the parks. Eisenhart assures him that it is being addressed. He states that there will be a separate operating fund and much of the remaining will be placed in a fund specifically for HCP&R.

Miner asks Eisenhart if there have been any additional pursuits toward land acquisition by the Foundation. Eisenhart responds stating that they are working with various people to encourage acquisitions for future development. Eisenhart requests that HCP&R expedite the completion of the naming rights policy. Lemley states that he intends to present that to the board in the next meeting.

Wickliff informs the board the Instagram account has been revived and is being utilized as a wildlife education platform.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**The meeting adjourned at 4:09pm**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

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**Mike Hayden, Secretary**

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019