



HENDRICKS COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

Hendricks County Parks & Recreation Board Meeting Notice

Wednesday, January 8th, 2020 * 2 to 4 p.m.

955 E. Main Street, Danville, IN 46122

CALL TO ORDER

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

Board Present: Mike Hayden, President
Brad Eisenhart, Vice President
Matt Freije, Secretary
Paul Miner
Gary Emsweller
Jeff Pell
Bill DuMond

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

CALENDAR

Lemley and Miner take a moment to introduce the newest board member, Bill DuMond. DuMond was appointed to the board by the County Council on 1/7/2020, he previously worked with the development of the B&O Trails and is dedicated to land conservation. The department feels like he will be an asset to the board and have valuable experience and input. Miner encourages introductions from board members and staff.

A-1. Adopt Agenda

Miner proposes the board move A-3. Board Officer Elections to later in the meeting due to Hayden running behind. **Freije moves to adopt the agenda with amendment, Emsweller seconds; motion passes unanimously.**

A-2. Approval of Minutes from December 4th, 2019 Board Meeting

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

A-3. Board Officer Elections

Emsweller moves to nominate Hayden for President, Eisenhart seconds; motion passes unanimously. Freije moves to nominate Eisenhart for Vice President, Emsweller seconds; motion passes unanimously. Eisenhart moves to nominate Freije as Secretary; motion passes unanimously. The newly elected board officials for 2020 are Mike Hayden as President, Brad Eisenhart as Vice President, and Matt Freije as Secretary. Emsweller takes a moment to thank and show appreciation to all the work the previous officers have done in the past year.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/PRESENTATIONS

B-1. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

C-1. Vandalia Trail- Sewage Lift Station Fencing Update

Lemley states that he has informed Jerry Decker that HCP&R will assist in up to 50% or \$3,000 in new fencing for each lift stations (totaling \$6,000) along the Vandalia Trail. Decker, the Town Manager for Coatesville, has contracted K&K Fence Company to complete these projects and the board will reimburse the needed cost. The completion of both projects, together, are expected to total approximately \$11,360. This need was due to the tampering of exposed stations; by gating the equipment, it will eliminate any future issues.

C-2. Vandalia Trail- BLN Right of Way Agent

Lemley informs the board that he has been seeking a Right-of-Way (ROW) agent to assist in the expansion of the Vandalia Trail. After a discussion with County Engineer, John Ayers, he has contacted Ken Fleetwood of Beam-Longest-Neff (BLN). BLN is a civil engineering company out of Indianapolis and comes highly recommended to the department. Lemley has asked Fleetwood to create a contract to be presented to the board during the February meeting. Lemley reports that Fleetwood would be contracted on an hourly rate due to the unknown timeline of the project. Ayers is supportive of the department's use of the available ROW and suggests using barriers on specific roads. Lemley is awaiting the results on the most recent round of Next Level Trail grants; if the department is not rewarded, Lemley suggests the department move on to utilize the ROW as an option. DuMond asks if there were a possibility of connecting a smaller segment of the trail if the Next Level Trails grant was not received. Lemley states the recommendation to him from the DNR representative, Nathaniel Simmons, was to, instead, connect a 2-mile segment connecting the trail in Clayton. This possible connection would not connect to the main trail managed by HCP&R.

C-3. W.S. Gibbs- 2020 Crop Lease (Jason Searcy)

Lemley states that Searcy, a local farmer, will continue to use the undeveloped land on the Gibbs property for farming in 2020. Due to development starting this year, the available lots will be half of what he farmed on in 2019. This lease will generate \$8,415 to go towards the development of the property. Searcy has signed a Crop Lease that Lemley presents to the board. Lemley asks for the board to allow the current president (Miner) to also sign the Crop Lease. The board had no objections, the Searcy Crop Lease is signed by Miner.

D. NEW BUSINESS

D-1. 5 Year Comprehensive Plan

Lemley states he would like a new 5-year plan created for the department. He asks that he and at least 3 other board members work together to form a committee to achieve a new 5-year plan moving forward for 2021-2026. Lemley informs the board that an up-to-date plan is required from some

funds, including land conservation. Miner asks to assist on the committee. Eisenhart and DuMond also join the committee. Lemley inquires if there are any board recommendations on design companies to collect data and create a plan. The board has no immediate responses and informs the room that the department will have to advertise to have access to multiple company options.

D-2. DNR- Fish & Wildlife Fisheries Agreement

Lemley states that he has found an option to stock the pond offered by DNR. This would allow HCP&R to offer consumptive fishing in 2021 which is unlike all other 'catch & release' ponds in the HC area. DNR will manage the fishery, which would include a variety of available fish, and HCP&R will manage the land and habitat. Lemley states that he has registered HCP&R as a member of Friends of the Reservoirs, a non-profit volunteer group that is dedicated to improving fish habitats in reservoir systems. Eisenhart inquires about the sustainability of the pond; Lemley assures the board the DNR is able to do so. Lemley seeks for support from the board to move forward with a contract. Lemley informs the board that if this arrangement is made, the department would have to follow state bag limits unless special considerations are made. Freije inquires about possible additional insurance and liability; Lemley states, as he understands, there would be nothing additional needed. The consensus of the board is to proceed and continue to create an agreement with DNR.

E. CONTINUING BUSINESS

E-1. McCloud Nature Park Update

Lemley states that he and Holtsclaw have met with Cardno to discuss invasive mitigation in the Arboretum at McCloud Nature Park. In 2019, Williams Creek was contracted to manage the area; the department will not be continuing that partnership in 2020. Lemley emphasizes the invasive concern and the possibility of adding more plugs and new plants. Eisenhart states that he believes there are still Foundation funds that are appropriated to assist in Arboretum improvements.

Hayden arrives to the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Lemley states that a reforestation area at McCloud has become a home for beavers. They have damaged about 50 small trees that were planted a few years ago. The maintenance team has been proactive by applying pest control preventatives but informs the board that the department has attained a 2020 Nuisance Wild Animal Control Permit. Various board members inform Lemley of some local reliable resources if issues persist.

Lemley informs the board that the department staff is working through security issues. They are working with both the phone and alarm company to maximize their functionality. Lemley states that the staff is looking into alternative options to alleviate issues in the future. The maintenance team has installed 2 additional cameras and looking into additional in-house methods.

Lemley reports that Putnam County will begin a rehabilitation effort on the truss bridge on CR 900E, that borders McCloud Nature Park. This road gives the maintenance team access to the north portion of the Nature Park. This has been a much-anticipated project and the department looks forward to the finished result.

E-2. Vandalia Trail Update

Lemley states he has continued to contact John Brand, the president of BF&S, about the reimbursement of \$113,000 to HCP&R. BF&S is a consulting firm hired to address a drainage issue on the Vandalia Trail near the Coatesville waste-water treatment facility. The project went

overbudget and the end cost of the entire project was \$226,400.68, due to miscalculations on BF&S' part during the project. Lemley states that Brand has been receptive and is working with their insurance team; Lemley is hopeful that issue will soon be resolved.

Brian Stephenson is to start working along the VT to manage dead and undesirable tree this month. He will close isolated sections during the day and then keep the trail open at night and on the weekends. Stephenson, a local business owner, is a highly recommended person and ally to trails in Hendricks County.

E-3. W.S. Gibbs Update

Lemley informs the board that he and representatives from CeCon met with the Town of Avon's planning staff to seek clarification on development requirements. CeCon (Civil Engineering Consultants) is a local consulting firm that has been hired to assist in the development of Gibbs Park. Avon has a great deal of requirements and policies that HCP&R hasn't dealt with and the department wants to make sure they are in compliance. Lemley intends to present to the Avon planning commission the Phase 1 plans in March. To do so, Lemley would like to present an RFP for February board meeting, have all bids collected by the March meeting and be prepared for the Avon meeting on March 24th, when HCP&R will present plans for Gibbs for approval. If Avon approves, development can start as early as May.

Lemley states that he has been working with DNR in planning a possible future mitigation plan that will assist the department in managing the undeveloped portion of Gibbs Park. It has been suggested that the department not take any measures to begin land management until that decision is made by DNR. The DNR requires private contractors to improve 30 +/- acres of land throughout the state each year. Since Gibbs is a large property and seems to meet all stream and wetland mitigation needs, it is a property that DNR is assessing. The assessment will be presented to a selection committee in the spring. If the property is rewarded HCP&R can move towards working with a contractor in 2021 for no additional cost from the department.

Lemley states that Phase 1 planning is moving forward. A disc golf course is to be developed and he and Holtsclaw plan to meet with Tim Dombrosky for assistance in designing that course. Dombrosky is the county director planner and an interest in this project. Trail development plans will begin in the remote areas that will not be affected by contractors. A fecon rental will be needed to manage the land and invasive control. A nature playground will also be added to Phase 1. Lemley states that the Foundation has already collected \$17,000 designated specifically for the playground. In hopes to get a younger perspective, ACORN members will to be asked for input in the creation of the playground.

Lemley has continued to keep the Gibbs family up to date on the development and plans for the property. He states that he recently met with the family and presented them a copy of the plan for Phase 1. The possibility of a 3-wire fence was inquired about, Lemley stated that it had been brought up before in previous meetings. The family inquired if the department still had interest in purchasing the house and Lemley was relieved that the family was still open to the opportunity. There is a continuing concern of deer hunting near the property. Lemley hopes to educate homeowners to mitigate any future issues.

F. REPORTS

F-1. Superintendent Report

The department received a \$2,000 donation from John McCoy. McCoy is a long-time friend of HCP&R and assisted in the development of McCloud Nature Park. This donation will be put in the non-reverting operations fund for department use.

Lemley reports that the department will receive \$157,000 from the Innkeepers tax generated over the previous 6 months. The Innkeepers tax is generated from hotels/Inns in Hendricks County and the parks department receives around 25% from that total amount, sharing with the Tourism board (50%) and the HC Fair board (25%).

Lemley informs the board that the department is expecting to receive a new 1-ton dump truck for the maintenance team to utilize as soon as March. This new vehicle will replace the 2011 Dodge dump truck the department had been using.

Lemley discusses the most recent ACORN meeting. During the meeting, the staff explained the variety of tasks that are performed in the office on a daily basis. ACORN is the teen program offered through HCP&R and exposes members to a variety of career fields within Parks & Recreation. ACORN members are planning the JEEP program and have chosen to organize a day-long trip to Brown County State Park. JEEP is a one-day event that will be open to high school age teens and will take them to an Indiana destination adventure that is planned by ACORN.

Lemley reports that the County Council granted the department's requested encumbered funds to go towards the development of Gibbs. The department was also allowed to encumber \$97,000 for land acquisition.

Lemley informs the board of the changes in the Commissioner positions and the appointment of Bill DuMond to the board.

Lemley reports the department is looking to fill some open positions. The maintenance team has a part-time tech position open and the Naturalist team has 2 seasonal naturalist position to fill for the summer. The maintenance team will also receive a seasonal tech in the summer.

Lemley reports the county has adopted BambooHR, a new software that is used by supervisors. All applications for open positions will be accessed through this software. The fact that board members are not county employees is a concern that Lemley has expressed. He has been assured by Larry Scott that the county is working to alleviate the concern and it is most likely that only the current president of the board will have access for superintendent evaluations. Scott is the Vice President of the County Council in Hendricks County.

Lemley reports that he has submitted 3 reports to the Foundation, all would benefit Gibbs Park. These are project proposals for 2020 and project costs range from \$250-\$10,000.

F-2. Budget Report

Ivie states the presented budget is the final one from 2019. He states the expected encumbered funds have rolled over to the 2020 budget funds. These funds will be used on the development of Gibbs. Hayden inquires about the fiscal end. Ivie explains the current budget is on a calendar year and we are currently spending from the 2020 budget. DuMond points out the department seems to have been

under-budget; Ivie explains that it seems that way due to gaps of personnel, but the department was able to utilize it's 2019 budget well through staff communication.

F-3. Parks Foundation of Hendricks County Report

Eisenhart informs the board that there has been nothing new to report. The Foundation will meet later in the month to discuss plans for the year.

Eisenhart refers to Lemley's project proposal to the Foundation. He advises Lemley to seek support from the Solid Waste Management District to fund picnic tables. He mentions that the district had supported those purchases in the past and undoubtedly will do it again.

Lemley brings some wording in the Naming Rights policy to the board's attention. He had the county attorney, Greg Steuerwald, review the policy. He states that there was a concern with how the policy is currently written and that it could be problematic. Eisenhart suggests the policy be reworded to state "sole discretion of the board" be used in the policy. The consensus of the board is to use a reworded phrasing and exclude the responsibility of the superintendent.

Miner informs the board of the annual meeting of the Hendricks County Soil & Water district. It will take place on January 28th at 6:00pm at the HC Fairgrounds.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Freije, Secretary

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 5th, 2020