



Park Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 3, 2021
2:00pm

355 S. Washington Street
Danville, IN 46122

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m.

Board Present: Mike Hayden, President (via telephone)
Brad Eisenhart, Vice President
Matt Freije, Secretary
Bill DuMond
Gary Emsweller
Paul Miner

Board Absent: Jeff Pell

Staff Present: Ryan Lemley, Superintendent
Eric Ivie, Assistant Superintendent
Sarah Wolf, Park Naturalist

Guests: None

A. CALENDAR

A-1. Adopt Agenda

Emsweller moved to adopt the agenda; seconded by Freije; motion passed unanimously.

A-2. Approval of Minutes from February 3, 2021, Park Board Meeting

Miner moved to approve the minutes with edits suggested by DuMond on one section and one typo in another section; seconded by Emsweller; motion passed unanimously. Freije abstained.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS / PRESENTATIONS

B-1. Public Comments

None.

C. NEW BUSINESS

C-1. Vandalia Trail – 2021 Restroom Cleaning Contract

Lemley requested the Park Board's permission to offer the 2021 cleaning contract for the Vandalia Trail restrooms to Kim Cartwright, since she has done a fantastic job cleaning them in each of the last two years. **Miner moved to allow Lemley to offer Kim Cartwright the 2021 cleaning contract for the Vandalia Trail restrooms and to enter into that contract if she accepts; seconded by Freije; motion passed unanimously.**

C-2. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park – Shelter House & Concrete Construction Bid Opening

Lemley informed the Park Board that bids were solicited from John Hall Construction, Spiker Excavating, CRM Excavating, and Presley Concrete for construction of the two shelter houses at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park and some concrete work at the park. John Hall Construction and Spiker Excavating submitted bids, and John Hall Construction was the lowest bid at \$48,410, while Spiker Excavating's bid was \$48,857.

Lemley advised that Hendricks County Parks & Recreation (HCP&R) still hasn't received the engineer-approved construction plans from the company that is manufacturing the shelters, so there may be some modifications to the contract amount once the plans are received.

Lemley recommended to the Park Board that John Hall Construction be awarded the contract.

Emsweller moved to award John Hall Construction the bid on the shelter house construction and concrete work at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park; seconded by Freije; motion passed unanimously.

C-3. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park – Fishing Dock Award

Lemley reported that bids were solicited from Floating Dock Manufacturing, Deaton Docks, and Thomas Dock for a 20' x 35' ADA-accessible fishing dock to be professionally installed at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park with a 40' long bridge assembly from the shore to the dock. Bids were received from Floating Dock Manufacturing (\$38,819.70) and Deaton Docks (\$49,951.92). Thomas Dock did not submit a bid.

With the Park Board's prior approval, Lemley awarded the contract to Floating Dock Manufacturing. He expects the dock to be installed sometime in June of 2021.

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

D-1. Vandalia Trail – Update on Request to Purchase Park Board Property

Lemley informed the Park Board that two appraisals were done on the property next to the Vandalia Trail that Aaron Montgomery is interested in purchasing. The appraisals were completed by Bowman & Associates and by Lawson & Company. Both companies appraised the value of the lot at \$12,000.

Lemley discussed these appraisals with Aaron Montgomery's mother this morning, and she indicated that she feels the appraised value is higher than they expected, so they want to think about it and then get back in touch with Lemley.

Lemley reminded the Park Board that the Montgomery family paid for the appraisals.

D-2. Youth Protection Plan Update

Lemley provided the Park Board with information from Lisa at Travelers Insurance indicating that she is satisfied with HCP&R's Youth Protection Plan. Hendricks County Attorney Greg Steuerwald is now reviewing the document before it is made public.

D-3. 5-Year Comprehensive Master Plan – Final Draft and Submission

Ivie informed the Park Board that a Public Presentation of the 2021-25 Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP) was held on March 1, 2021, at the Hendricks County Government Center and seemed to be well-received. Ivie is now going to write up a summary of the Public Presentation at the end of the CMP and then send the entire updated CMP to the Park Board for their review during the month of March.

If the Park Board is happy with the CMP and by consensus, gives Ivie permission at the April 7 Park Board meeting to submit the final draft to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Ivie will do that ahead of the April 15 deadline.

Once the DNR approves the final draft, Ivie will have Hayden and Freije sign a couple of forms that go into the CMP, send those forms to the DNR, and then the project will be done. Ivie will also create an Executive Summary of the CMP that will allow for quicker and easier reading.

E. PROPERTY UPDATES

E-1. McCloud Nature Park

Lemley advised that Maple Syrup Days are scheduled for March 6 and March 13 at from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day at McCloud Nature Park.

Lemley and Ivie will be meeting with the new Executive Director of the Parks Foundation of Hendricks County, Katy Crichlow Cummings, on March 4 to meet her, give her an overview of HCP&R, answer any questions she has, and share information. They are also going to invite her to sell any remaining McCloud Maple Syrup at Maple Syrup Days.

Lemley informed the Park Board that the County Commissioners declared a weather emergency on Feb. 16 and closed all County Government Offices due to heavy snowfall, but Maintenance Foreman Jason Kittle came in to work anyway and plowed the main office parking lot and the entrance road and parking lots at McCloud Nature Park. Lemley helped him by doing some shoveling. Lemley expressed his great appreciation for Kittle's initiative and dedication to the department and its park guests.

Kittle earned compensatory time for working during the weather emergency, but Lemley said that he is going to request a small overtime budget from the County Council during the 2022 budget hearings to be able to financially compensate employees for situations just like this one.

Lemley informed the Park Board that Wolf's father recently rebuilt the Little Free Library at McCloud, and there will be a Garlic Mustard Pull conducted by Girl Scouts at the park soon.

Lemley advised that a researcher from Purdue University has placed some recording equipment inside McCloud Nature Park to record the songs of the Carolina Chickadee as part of his graduate program. The researcher worked with Wolf to place the recording equipment within the park, and it will stay there for about two weeks. Park guests will not see or be aware of the equipment.

Lemley stated that HCP&R's snowshoe rental program at McCloud was a big hit after the heavy snowfall in mid-February.

Lemley plans to further investigate replacing the HVAC system within the McCloud Nature Center, chip-and-sealing the McCloud roadway and parking lots, and replacing the railroad ties used as wheel-stops in the parking lots with bollards at some point this year as HCP&R has funds available in this year's budget.

Lemley reported 834 vehicles visiting McCloud Nature Park from Feb. 1-24, 2021.

*****NOTE: Emsweller left the meeting at 2:45 p.m. to attend to a previously scheduled commitment. Eisenhart, Miner, DuMond, and Freije remained present in person, and Hayden remained present on the telephone, which retained the quorum and allowed the public meeting to continue.**

E-2. Vandalia Trail

Lemley informed the Park Board that Kittle also plowed the Vandalia Trail after the heavy snowfall in mid-February. Lemley realizes that HCP&R normally leaves the trail unplowed, but the snow was so deep and the temperatures were going to rise quickly, so Kittle wanted to remove the snow before it became a slushy, icy mess as everything melted. The plowing was well-received by trail users, so Lemley would like to plow the trail in the future after especially heavy snowfalls.

Lemley reported that Lyle Pringle has requested professional staking be done on his property where HCP&R proposes that the trail go through, so that he can get a better visual of how much land HCP&R is trying to acquire access to. Lemley approved the cost of that project up to \$1,000.

*****NOTE: Hayden arrived in person at the meeting at 3:06 p.m.**

Lemley reported that 419 people were counted on the Vandalia Trail from Feb. 1-24, 2021.

E-3. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park

Lemley reported that he has driven past John "Chub" and Lydia Gibbs' house several times recently to talk to them about the property line fence and to give them updates on the park, but he hasn't seen any signs of life at the house lately, so he hasn't stopped by or knocked on the door or anything. Hayden suspects that they're simply hunkered down for the winter.

F. REPORTS

F-1. Superintendent Report

Lemley advised that Stacy Roeder has been hired to replace Robin Wambach as the Part-Time Administrative Assistant after Robin's resignation in February. Stacy will start to work on March 15.

Lemley further advised that Wolf is currently in the process of hiring a Part-Time Seasonal Naturalist for two months in the summer.

The Summer 2021 issue of *The Explorer* is almost done and will go to print later this month.

Lemley informed the Park Board that he has been working with the County Council and other department heads on discussions about revamping the County's compensation system. He has already resolved one salary-related issue with some of HCP&R's part-time employees, and he has two additional issues to address with the compensation study committee.

Lemley stated that HCP&R is investigating tractors that the department may purchase with funds that were allotted in the 2021 budget for that purpose. The maintenance crew is still in the process of simply gathering information at this point.

Lemley completed a podcast interview with the *Hendricks County ICON* a few days ago, and it went well. He is investigating a possible advertising opportunity through the *ICON*.

F-2. Budget Report

Ivie reported no problems with the 2021 budget so far.

F-3. Parks Foundation of Hendricks County Report

Eisenhart advised that Katy Crichlow Cummings has been the new Executive Director for about two weeks now, and Eisenhart is having lunch with her tomorrow. Hayden is having lunch with her later this month. Hayden stated that they've had some preliminary discussions about the 2021 Summer Fun Run Series. Lemley and Ivie will discuss the Summer Fun Runs in more detail and will coordinate dates for all three of HCP&R's properties with Katy when they meet with her tomorrow morning.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

The next Park Board meeting will be held on April 7, 2021, at 2 p.m. at the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Freije, Secretary