



## Park Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 7, 2021  
2:00pm

955 E. Main Street  
Danville, IN 46122

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2:07 p.m.

**Board Present:** Mike Hayden, President (arrived at 2:25 p.m.)  
Brad Eisenhart, Vice President (departed at 3:45 p.m.)  
Matt Freije, Secretary  
Bill DuMond  
Gary Emsweller  
Paul Miner  
Jeff Pell

**Staff Present:** Ryan Lemley, Superintendent  
Jim Holtsclaw, Park Manager  
Patty Seymour, Administrative Assistant

**Staff Absent:** Eric Ivie, Assistant Superintendent  
Sarah Wolf, Park Naturalist

**Guests:** None

### **A. CALENDAR**

#### **A-1. Adopt Agenda**

Miner proposed to add C-3. Property

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

#### **A-2. Approval of Minutes from June 2, 2021, Park Board Meeting**

**Miner moved to approve the minutes; seconded by DuMond; motion passed unanimously, with Eisenhart and Freije abstaining due to absence at the June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.**

## **B. PUBLIC HEARINGS / PRESENTATIONS**

### **B-1. Public Comments**

None.

### **B-2. Big Walnut Creek – Residential Request for Trespassing/Private Property Signage**

Lemley reported that Hendricks County Parks and Recreation (HCP&R) Department received an inquiry from a neighboring resident of McCloud Nature Park regarding a recent trespassing incident on their property. The resident requested HCP&R assistance with installing “private property” signage on the Putnam/Hendricks County line bridge. While conducting a site inspection, Lemley noted that no visible evidence was shown indicating park patrons departing McCloud Nature Park onto their property, however, they did discover a small footpath adjacent to the pull-off parking area north of the Putnam County line road/bridge area. Upon further investigation Lemley learned that Big Walnut Creek is not considered “navigable” waters according to District 3 Lieutenant, Angela Goldman, Indiana Department of Natural Resource (DNR) Conservation Officer. Goldman advised the resident to post signage along their property, along with applying purple paint to the area, and instructed the resident to contact law enforcement for assistance if they continued to experience trespassing on their property. After further discussion, the Park Board concluded that the Department is to provide information and install signage notifying park patrons of private property beyond Park property line.

## **C. NEW BUSINESS**

### **C-1. Tractor Purchase – Quote Disclosure & Request for Authorization to Proceed**

Lemley reported that HCP&R recently received bids from three separate vendors for the purchase of a tractor. With Edwards Equipment being the lowest bidder and meeting bid specifications, Lemley recommended Park Board approval to purchase a Kubota tractor from Edwards Equipment utilizing appropriated funding. **Miner approved Lemley’s recommendation; seconded by Emsweller; motion passed unanimously.**

### **C-2. Dog Training – Seminar Field Rental Request**

Lemley informed the Park Board that he has been contacted by Samantha Stinson who is with Controlled Chaos Dog Training Club and is requesting to reserve a space at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park to conduct upcoming dog training exercises in August or October, with the potential of becoming multiple and regular training occurrences in the future. Miner proposed to discuss such topic in terms of policy as he feels that the Department will continue to receive several of these types of requests as Gibbs Park is soon to be open to the public. Upon further discussion, the Park Board concluded to table the discussion and requested that Stinson attend a Park Board meeting in the future to provide additional information prior to making a final determination with such request. The Hendricks County fairgrounds were mentioned as a current viable option.

### **C-3. Property**

Miner notified the Park Board that he was approached recently by an anonymous party who asked him if the Park Board/Department would be interested in receiving a potential property donation. After some discussion, the Board determined they would consider such a donation and would like to proceed in further discussions with the owner.



## **D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **D-1. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park – Updated Status on Appraisal Reports**

Lemley reported that after meeting with Hendricks County Attorney, Greg Steuerwald, Hayden, and DuMond, Steuerwald advised Lemley, and the Park Board, to revisit the original November 2020 appraisal report conducted through Beam-Longest-Neff (B-L-N) for the 20-acre Gibbs residence property. Lemley went on to say that Steuerwald encouraged him to not seek a third independent appraisal and in doing so could be perceived as circumventing the state statute process and negatively impacting the already acquired property appraisals. Lemley explained to the Park Board that with the original B-L-N report being over eight months old, he reached out to B-L-N Certified Appraiser, Nathan Miller, to discuss available options on receiving an up-to-date appraisal of the original B-L-N report, concluding in the generation of a revised/updated report for Park Board review. After additional discussion, the Park Board instructed Lemley to proceed with discussing the outcome of the updated appraisal report with John “Chub” and Lydia Gibbs upon completion of such report, with him and Emsweller to follow up with a meeting to initiate and discuss purchase offer with Gibbs’.

### **D-2. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park – Grand-Opening Ceremony Invitations**

Lemley provided the Park Board with invitations to the grand opening ceremony for W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park to be held on July 21, 2021 at the Bluegill Shelter. Additional invitations were made available for Park Board members to distribute at their discretion.

### **D-3. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park – Land & Water Conservation Fund Applicant Visit**

Lemley informed the Park Board that he and Ivie are scheduled to meet with Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Grants Coordinator in mid-July for a site visit to review the Land and Water Grant application for W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park.

## **E. PROPERTY UPDATES**

### **E-1. McCloud Nature Park**

Lemley reported that the chip and seal roadway/parking lot enhancement project at McCloud Nature Park has been completed. Lemley expressed his gratitude to the Hendricks County Highway Department and noted that this project wouldn’t have been such a success without their assistance. Lemley informed the Park Board that parking blocks constructed of recycled material will be placed to finish out this improvement project. Miner added to Lemley’s comments giving praise to the Highway Department for their efforts in partnering with HCP&R to help make such improvements feasible. The Park Board requested that Lemley send a letter of appreciation to the County Highway Department.

Lemley informed the Park Board that the Mill Cottage sustained damage to the roof from fallen tree limbs during recent storms that passed through the area. The roof has been patched temporarily and is on the agenda to be replaced in the future as budget allows.

Lemley reported that DuMond and Wolf hosted a support and gear stop at McCloud Nature Park for the B&O bicycle ride in June. Wolf document 273 cyclists participating in the event.

Lemley expressed thanks to Tri-Kappa for donating 80 books for the Little Free Library

TRAFx counters documented 2,298 vehicles visiting the Nature Park this month.

### E-2. Vandalia Trail

Lemley reported HCP&R has been assisting the Town of Coatesville with an ongoing illicit discharge drainage way contamination incident. After multiple site visits and providing assistance to the Town of Coatesville with remediation measures, Lemley once again contacted the Hendricks County Clean Water (HCCW) Department, notifying them of current status and requested their assistance in hopes to finally resolve the problematic situation. After discussing with HCCW Director, a report was conducted. Lemley went on to say that he relayed this information to the Town of Coatesville Town Manager, Jerry Decker, and suggested that the Town of Coatesville conduct a courtesy, accompanied by the Coatesville Town Marshal, visit to surrounding residents in an effort to determine the point of discharge. The Town Marshal has since reported the courtesy visit was a success; the individual had admitted to dumping chemicals and agreed to stop immediately. Lemley commented that we will continue to monitor the area for compliance.

Lemley reported of downed tree limbs along Vandalia Trail from recent storms passing through the area. Lemley relayed to the Park Board that HCP&R staff has been working diligently to remove fallen limbs and potentially hazardous trees along our portion of the trail.

Lemley informed the Park Board that he has received multiple requests to place a memorial bench in honor of a deceased relative along the park trail. Lemley added that he feels these types of requests will continue to increase and proposed to further discuss in the fall. The Park Board agreed with Lemley and made note to add discussion topic to the agenda for this fall.

DuMond asked Lemley if he had prepared the letter previously discussed for Mr. Pringle. Lemley responded that he is still working on the letter and has not presented it to Mr. Pringle just yet.

Miner asked Lemley if HCP&R plans to utilize the existing property owned by the Park Board as natural and unnatural trail surface. Lemley responded that he is concerned with access to what would be considered the trail, further commenting that if the land is not to be utilized for a trail of some sort, suggested that the land be crop leased until the decision and funding has been made available to further develop that area for pedestrian traffic and at a minimum, through 2022. The Park Board agreed with Lemley's suggestion to crop lease.

TRAFx counters documented 2,479 patrons visited the Vandalia Trail this month.

### E-3. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park

Lemley expressed his gratitude and praised HCP&R operations staff in their ability to overcome the challenges faced as the department gets closer to the grand opening of W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park. Holtsclaw, Kittle, and their team's dedication is evident as we approach finalizing preparations for the upcoming grand opening.

Lemley provided construction status updates for contractual services on items still needing completion.

Signage installation for Gibbs Park is still a work in progress and is on track to be complete prior to the grand opening.

Lemley reminded the Park Board that some construction areas of the park will remain in place and



continues to be a work in progress but ensured the Park Board that the ground and perimeter around the shelter structures will be stabilized for the grand opening ceremony, with final restoration efforts taking place as installation of such improvements are complete.

Lemley reported that upon recommendation of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fish and Wildlife, he generated a letter of support on implementing more restrictive fishing regulations for the future consumptive fishery at Gibbs Park. Lemley noted that the letter does have to go in front of the DNR Commission for review and approval along with Lemley volunteering his time to speak at the said review. If approved, a “conservation harvest” regulation will be implemented to promote sustainable harvest of fish in small lakes in heavily populated areas. The ponds at Gibbs Park will be stocked by DNR beginning in September. Additionally, the synthetic aquatic habitat cribs provided by Eagle Scout troops have been strategically placed into the future fishery.

Reforestation efforts will take place in September with the planting of 300 3-gallon native trees in an open field located south of the main pond.

Lemley informed the Park Board that Chad Wright continues to contact him and revisit the topic of installing a fence along the property line shared between W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park and John “Chub” and Lydia Gibbs. Lemley provided the Park Board with a photo from April, and provided by Wright, showing two people walking in a field, that Wright claims, have entered through Park property. Lemley notified the Park Board that he communicated to Wright that HCP&R will install park boundary signage along the property line in question. Lemley presented Wright’s request to the Park Board to receive approval to retrieve game from Park property during hunting season. Lemley shared with the Park Board concerns he has with the subject matter along with Wright’s intentions and requested Park Board guidance on responding to Wright. After some discussion, the Park Board instructed Lemley to install park boundary signage along Park owned portion of property line shared with the adjacent property owners in addition to Wright seeking the adjacent property owner’s approval for allowing Wright to hunt on their property. The Park Board further clarified that they are open to discussion of the subject matter with adjacent property owners upon their request, as they are responsible for what happens on their property. The Park Board was in agreeance to deny approval to Wright’s request to retrieve game from Park property and instructed Lemley to draft a response letter to the adjacent property owners accordingly. Furthermore, future correspondence of the subject matter is to be communicated directly with the property owners eliminating any mediation with a third party.

Lemley updated the Park Board on shelter facility rental fees at Gibbs Park outlined below:

Bluegill Shelter: \$75.00 per day  
Firefly Shelter: \$50.00 per day

Lemley provided the Park Board with a final draft version of the W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park property trifold for input. Lemley informed the Park Board that the trifold will be complete and ready for distribution at the grand opening ceremony.

**Brad Eisenhart departed the meeting at 3:45 p.m.**

## **F. REPORTS**

F-1. Superintendent Report

Lemley reported that HCP&R received payment of \$86,675.34 from the Innkeeper's County Tax Collection.

Lemley informed the Park Board that HCP&R staff attended the annual Indiana park and Recreation Association maintenance exposition hosted by Washington Township Park in Avon.

The Naturalist team submitted a Robert A. Wood Environmental Education Grant request through the Parks Foundation of Hendricks County in hopes of receiving grant funds to provide the ability to expand the adventure backpack loaner program.

Miner expressed gratitude for the operations and maintenance personnel in their dedication and efforts toward the preparations of opening W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park

F-2. Budget Report

Lemley reported no day-to-day budget operation concerns at this time. Lemley notified the Park Board of specific non-reverting Land Acquisition budget line items that require him to request approval from Hendricks County Council at time those funds are to be utilized for appropriated expenditures.

F-3. Parks Foundation of Hendricks County Report

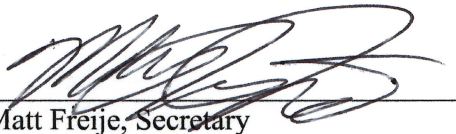
Emsweller reported that Cummings is doing a fabulous job with her new role as Executive Director and is pleased to see the direction she is taking the foundation in as we move forward.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**The meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.**

**The next Park Board meeting will be held on August 4<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m. at the Hendricks County Parks and Recreation Department Main Building Conference Room.**

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Matt Freije, Secretary