



Park Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 1st, 2021
2:00pm

955 E. Main Street
Danville, IN 46122

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:06 p.m.

Board Present: Brad Eisenhart, Vice President
Bill DuMond
Paul Miner
Jeff Pell

Board Absent: Mike Hayden, President
Matt Freije, Secretary
Gary Emsweller

Staff Present: Ryan Lemley, Superintendent
Eric Ivie, Assistant Superintendent
Jim Holtsclaw, Park Manager
Sarah Wolf, Park Naturalist
Patty Seymour, Administrative Assistant

Guests: Ryan Buckley, Beam, Longest & Neff

A. CALENDAR

A-1. Adopt Agenda

Miner moved to adopt the agenda; seconded by Pell; motion passed unanimously.

A-2. Approval of Minutes from August 4th, 2021, Park Board Meeting

Miner moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Pell; motion passed unanimously.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS / PRESENTATIONS

B-1. Public Comments

None.

B-2. Ryan Buckley, Beam, Longest & Neff, - Vandalia Trail Land Acquisition

Lemley reported that Lyle Pringle has recently changed his approach on selling land to the Park Board and instead convey property rights as an easement with recurring lease payments in addition to several other requests. Lemley conveyed said requests to the Park Board and introduced Ryan Buckley, with Beam, Longest & Neff (BLN), to expand further on discussion topic. After additional discussion took place, it was the Park Board's consensus to deny the property owner's request to convey land as an easement through lease payments. The Park Board instructed Lemley and Buckley to proceed with offering Lyle & Bobbie Pringle fair market value for land acquisition as an outright purchase transaction.

C. NEW BUSINESS

C-1. McCloud Nature Park – Nature Center HVAC Replacement Quotes

Lemley reported that bids were solicited for the replacement of the HVAC unit at McCloud Nature Center. The bid specifications were written to include replacement of the lower-level system and the attic system. Rinehart, Mowery, and Bassett were the three local vendors that were included with the bid process, with Rinehart and Bassett being the two vendors that provided bids for this project as Mowery was a 'no bid'. The outcome of each bid packet is as follows:

Bassett - \$17,900.00
Rinehart - \$15,130.00
Mowery - No Bid

Lemley recommended the Park Board award the bid to Rinehart in the amount of \$15,130.00 as they met all bid specifications and was lowest bidder. **Miner moved to award Rinehart the bid on replacing the HVAC system; seconded by Pell; motion passed unanimously.**

C-2. Vandalia Trail – Request for Installation of Memorial Bench

Lemley reported that he has been in discussion with Annie Brock regarding installation of a memorial bench to be placed along Vandalia Trail in honor of her mother. Brock was an original trail committee member and regularly volunteers on trail support projects with Greg Midgely. Brock and her family have longstanding ties to Vandalia Trail. Lemley requested Park Board approval to grant Brock's request to purchase and install a memorial bench in honor of her mother. Lemley noted that Brock has agreed to cover all costs associated with bench purchase as well as labor for installation. After some discussion, Ivie mentioned that in house HCP&R staff is competent to clear trees and install concrete pad for bench placement. Lemley added that previous memorial bench placements were purchased by the requestor and labor for site work to prepare for bench placement was provided in house by HCP&R staff. The Park Board agreed to approve Brock's request to purchase memorial bench. Associated material costs (concrete, forms, etc.) should also be covered by the Brock family, with installation/labor being provided free of charge. Additionally, Lemley proposed that approval of future inquiries of such requests be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. The Park Board agreed with Lemley's proposal.

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

D-1. Vandalia Trail – Agreement for Removal of Potentially Hazardous Trees

Lemley updated the Park Board on previous discussions regarding hazardous trees along Vandalia Trail and the necessity to enter into contractual services agreement for removal of such trees. After conducting a site visit with Paul Cummins, Cummins Tree Care, he authorized Paul and his crew to begin work with the most problematic section beginning at State Road 75, heading east until County Road 675 West, identified as Phase 1. Lemley noted that if the work is completed in a timely and sufficient manner, he is prepared to seek an additional agreement to clear the next section, Phase 2, of trail beginning at County Road 675 West heading east to Amo.

D-2. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park – Hendricks Power Electrical Service

Lemley updated the Park Board on the status of electric service installation at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park. After he and Ivie met with Hendricks Power Cooperative representative, David VanWye, they were informed that HCP&R is responsible for purchase of three pre-approved specified meter base sockets before Hendricks Power will begin design and construction of such service line installation. Due to nationwide shortage of specified meter bases Hendricks Power does not have the product in stock, subsequently delaying the project further. Fortunately, HCP&R staff was able to secure two of the meter bases that meet Hendricks Power specifications, therefore allowing the project to move forward without delay. Upon receiving the product, Lemley informed the Park Board that Hendricks Power has committed to begin design and installation of the main service line feed into the park. Alternative electrical runs feeding both shelter house locations will occur after the installation of the main line is complete. The proposed service lines will be bored under roadways and trenched along exposed ground.

E. PROPERTY UPDATES

E-1. McCloud Nature Park

Lemley informed the Park Board that Lori Gates, with Burke Engineering, conducted a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) inspection with HCP&R staff at McCloud Nature Park, with the maintenance garage being the emphasis of the good housekeeping portion of the inspection. Lemley reported that the inspection went well and expects to receive positive results.

Lemley reported that wheel stops, constructed of recycled material have been installed throughout the parking lots at McCloud Nature Park finalizing the roadway/parking lot enhancement project.

Lemley handed the discussion over to Sarah Wolf to apprise the Park Board on the outcome of the annual McCloud Nature Park Bee Fest that took place on August 28th. Wolf reported that 123 people were counted at the greeter's station, further noting that the two honeybee keeper vendors scheduled to partake in the festival had cancelled at the last minute due to emergencies and were unable to attend the event. Ivie questioned why attendance was so low compared to previous years' attendance ranging from approximately 1,000 to 1,500 patrons, in which Wolf responded stating that she was not certain of the decrease in attendees this year. Wolf further commented that she and staff are working toward the upcoming Fall Colors Festival which will be held on Saturday October 16th from 10:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. Lemley added that it is the department's intentions to create more of a festival type of environment, adding food vendors and possibly other vendor types along with activities building on to what has previously been established and to enhance the overall festival experience.

Lemley provided an update regarding the Chickadees research project, upon Miner's interest in said

study. The study is being conducted by a student as part of his Doctorate studies at Purdue University. Lemley reported that a message board was installed recently at McCloud Nature Park. Lemley reminded the Park Board that the message kiosk was purchased with funds received from The Parks Foundation of Hendricks County through the Summer Fun Run grant.

As of Friday, August 27th, TRAFx counters documented 2,006 vehicles visiting the Nature Park this month.

E-2. Vandalia Trail

Lemley expressed his appreciation of Indiana Department of Transportation's (INDOT) efforts in clearing impeding tree limbs along State Road 75 at the Vandalia Trail crosswalk located in Coatesville. Lemley reported that trail signage is more visible from both the north and south bound approaches.

Lemley notified the Park Board of an aggressive animal complaint the department received recently. After following up with the complaint the owner of the animal is actively responding to the issue and taking action to prevent possible future instances.

Lemley updated the Park Board on the status of round III of the Next Level Trails grant process with new requirements for submittal.

Ivie reported that Greg Midgley who is with Friends of the Vandalia Trail posted positive comments on their social media page commending HCP&R maintenance crew for their quick and responsive action in clearing the downed trees along the trail after the weekend storms that had passed through that area. Ivie expressed appreciation for the maintenance crew in planning ahead with preventative maintenance measures taken to prioritize their work in anticipation of the scheduled bike ride, which subsequently aided in their efforts during the emergency response of clearing the trail due to the damaging storms.

TRAFx counters documented 2,246 patrons visited the Vandalia Trail this month.

E-3. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park

Lemley reported that he has not received the final numbers from the Summer Fun Run Series events coordinated by The Parks Foundation of Hendricks County as our (HCP&R) final event within the series just recently took place. Lemley informed the Park Board that Wolf set up a table during the opening day of the event hosted at Gibbs Park, with Avon High School Cross Country team enjoying the park during the event.

Lemley informed the Park Board of upcoming events scheduled for the end of September to take place at Gibbs Park including Avon Junior Day of Caring and hosting the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association (IPRA) Southern District meeting. Lemley went on to mention that he and Emsweller are prepared to meet with the Gibbs Family as well. After additional discussion, Lemley said he will provide an update upon conclusion of meeting.

Lemley provided updates on the pond treatment measures taken in response to remedy the quickly growing mat-forming algae within the pond forebay at the park. Lemley also notified the Park Board that HCP&R submitted a Friends of Reservoir aquatic habitat grant for the future fishery, stating that if the application is awarded, it will allow for the expansion of the aquatic habitat plan by adding a

professional MossBack structure within the fishing pier area at Gibbs Park.

Lemley reported that the concrete work has been completed by John Hall Construction within Phase I of the park development including repair work at the fishing pier and sidewalk replacement at the Bluegill Pavilion.

Lemley notified the Park Board of a problematic issue regarding the roof height of the Bears Playground system at Gibbs Park as well as remarking that the manufacturer is actively pursuing a solution to remedy the issue.

Lemley provided an update of the Hendricks County Disc Golf Club tournament that was held at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park Disc Golf Course on August 28th, emphasizing that 89 participants attended the tournament on the 90-degree day and noted that the TRAFx counter numbers received for this month does not include attendance from the tournament weekend. Those numbers will be included in next month's count.

Lemley advised the Park Board that Hendricks County Disc Golf Club has requested to host a fund-raising type of tournament on September 25th as a contingency site if Washington Township Disc Golf Course is unable to meet the Club's request. Lemley is in support of this request. Additionally, the Club is planning their end of year tournament and requested to host it at Gibbs Park. Lemley offered October 30th or November 6th as possible dates. Lemley added that Wolf is coordinating a beginner's disc golf event with the Club with more information forthcoming. Holtsclaw implemented a "Tossed and Found" box on site for lost discs to be returned to their respective owners. Ivie further stated that Holtsclaw was present on site during the event, on his own personal time, and reported how well the Club coordinated the event and was pleased with the way they left the course upon conclusion of the tournament. Ivie went on to discuss comments and feedback he had received through various social media outlets whereas the public seems to be very pleased with Gibbs Park Disc Golf Course and how the course continues to be held in high regard within the disc golf community.

As of Friday, August 27th, TRAFx counters documented 3,935 vehicles visiting W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park.

F. REPORTS

F-1. Superintendent Report

Lemley reported that the Hendricks County Commissioners provided official authorization to dispose of junk equipment that is of no value at their regularly scheduled August 24th Commissioner's Meeting.

HCP&R continues to move forward with preparing submittal packet for permitting for INDOT way-finding signage for W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park. Right-of-way permits are required by the local entities where additional signage is proposed to be placed.

Lemley informed the Park Board that the department has received the newly purchased zero-turn radius mower.

Lemley highlighted that the Prairie Maze at McCloud Nature Park is scheduled to be cut into the shape of the Brood X Cicada in preparation of the September 4th opening weekend of the Maze.

Lemley reported that two seasonal/part-time employees have recently concluded their employment with the department. Both employees successfully fulfilled their employment terms and have since resumed college. This leaves one remaining seasonal/part-time employee who is scheduled to conclude employment during the second week of October.

F-2. Budget Report

Ivie reported that all budget lines are not projected to exceed available funds while highlighting a few budgeted line-item transfer of funds.

Ivie gave an update on the status of multiple fund balances, while noting that the department has not received updated information on the Harlos Fund from The Park Foundation of Hendricks County yet.

Lemley notified the Park Board of the process for miscellaneous budget transactions and department procedure for such transactions.

Discussions took place about how to finance potential land acquisition as well as property development pertaining to invoicing.

F-3. Parks Foundation of Hendricks County Report

Eisenhart advised nothing new to report.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

The next Park Board meeting will be held on October 6th, at 2:00 p.m. at the Hendricks County Parks and Recreation Department Main Building Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Freije, Secretary