



Park Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 6th, 2021
2:00pm

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 (arrived at 3:26 p.m.)
Matt Freije, Secretary (departed at 3:32 p.m.)
Gary Emsweller
Bill DuMond
Paul Miner
Jeff Pell

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

Staff Absent: Sarah Wolf, Park Naturalist

Guests: Timothy Barnes, Hendricks County Disc Golf Club President
Nick Dombrosky, Hendricks County Disc Golf Club

A. CALENDAR

A-1. Adopt Agenda

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

A-2. Approval of Minutes from September 1st, 2021, Park Board Meeting

Miner moved to approve the minutes; seconded by DuMond; motion passed unanimously with Hayden, Freije, and Emsweller abstaining due to absence of the September 1st Park Board Meeting.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS / PRESENTATIONS

B-1. Public Comments

None.

B-2. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park – Hendricks County Disc Golf Club – “Glow Round” Request

Lemley requested Park Board guidance on Hendricks County Disc Golf Club’s (HCDGC) request to host a “glow-round” disc golf tournament at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park on October 29th, 2021, with proposed timeframe beginning at 8:00 p.m. and ending at midnight. Lemley voiced his support for this type of event while sharing some concerns. With this event being held outside of regular park hours, Lemley requested HCDGC to further address concerns such as other patrons entering the park but not attending the tournament thinking that the rest of the park is open during the event and how will this be controlled. Secondly, and more importantly, what measures will be taken to minimize potential injuries and hazards with hosting a nighttime event such as this. Additionally, Lemley requested HCDGC to specifically address precautions that will be taken to minimize potential safety issues specific to the Overlook/Sledding Hill disc golf hole number five and hole number seven.

Lemley introduced, and turned the discussion to HCDGC President, Timothy Barnes, and HCDGC Member, Nick Dombrosky. Barnes expressed gratitude to the Park Board and Hendricks County Parks and Recreation (HCP&R) staff members for their partnership thus far. Barnes provided general information regarding past tournament attendance and future HCDGC programs. Barnes further stated that with this type of tournament being one of the most requested events of the year, HCDGC is prepared to address concerns previously shared by Lemley and Park Board as well as proposing to implement the following safety measures.

1. Each disc basket will have some sort of illumination, such as glow light device, battery powered dim light device, or a variation of both devices.
2. Glow in the dark golf discs used in combination with personal black-light flashlights and small battery-operated black light devices strategically placed throughout the course to provide additional illumination of golf discs.
3. Adjust layout of the course and eliminating disc baskets for hole number five and seven so that tournament attendees are not provided access to the outlook/sledding hill.

Lemley asked Barnes how HCDGC will respond to potential compliance issues during the event. Barnes responded stating that first, directive by the Club will be given to any potential non-compliant attendee(s) by verbally requesting that they leave the premises. Barnes went on to say that if an issue were to arise where an attendee(s) does not comply with verbal request, Barnes would contact HCP&R staff to assist. If further action is needed, they would seek assistance from law enforcement. Lemley added that cameras are located throughout the park and are examined regularly by Park staff.

Miner asked if signage would be provided for this private event. Ivie suggested posting some sort of temporary signage with “private event” – type of message be placed at the entrance during the event. Additionally, Holtsclaw suggested having HCP&R staff member be available to assist with monitoring private event entry during the event as well. After additional discussion, Lemley suggested HCDGC invite local law enforcement presence during the event.

DuMond provided comments along with some concerns and questioned if alcohol consumption has been

an issue with this type of event previously. Barnes responded saying that historically, he has not witnessed alcohol consumption and/or other illegal activity occurring previously and does not foresee it being an issue at Gibbs Park but noted, in general, occurrence of illegal activity is a possibility at any event. Barnes went on to ensure the Park Board that it will be clearly stated that alcohol consumption is prohibited during this event and especially on Park property. Barnes further clarified that HCDGC is an insured organization. Both Lemley and the Park Board requested HCDGC specifically identify and name Hendricks County Parks & Recreation Department and Hendricks County Park Board as Insured Party for such event. While additional discussion took place, Ivie provided positive remarks pertaining to the care and ownership HCDGC has taken in partnering with HCP&R from previous events and is encouraged that they will continue to be a good partner.

Lemley advised the Park Board that with an event of this nature requiring Park Board review and approval he is in support of HCDGC “Glow Round” subject to afore-mentioned discussion items and commitments. **Miner moved to approve Hendricks County Disc Golf Club “Glow Round” request for a first-time event only; seconded by Emsweller; motion passed unanimously subject to the following conditions.**

- **The Outlook/Sledding Hill will be off limits subsequently altering hole number five and seven accordingly.**
- **HCDGC will notify local law enforcement agencies to request their presence during the event.**
- **HCDGC to provide insurance naming Hendricks County Parks and Recreation Department and Hendricks County Park Board as Named Insured for such event in an amount to be determined.**

Hayden brought up additional discussion inquiring about logistics of event related to signage and event entry management. Ivie commented that HCP&R staff could offer to place “private event” signage at the park entrance at the end of the workday on that Friday afternoon. Holtsclaw added suggestions to help keep event entry consolidated by strategically placing temporary traffic barriers to discourage non-participants from entering the rest of the park after hours. Ivie commented that the logistics will be worked out and coordinated with the Club accordingly.

B-3. Vandalia Trail – Request to approach Apple for Vandalia Trail Expansion Support

Lemley requested Park Board advisement of potential interest in approaching Apple for financial support for the eastern expansion of the Vandalia Trail. Lemley shared that he received a recent inquiry from National Road Heritage Trail member, Greg Midgley and Plainfield resident Mike Moody regarding potential support to aid in expanding Vandalia Trail within Hendricks County limits. Midgley and Moody has raised the idea of HCP&R staff approaching Apple to discuss the possibility of such funding options. While the Park Board expressed appreciation and enthusiasm toward their efforts, they feel that this request does not align with the department’s long-term goals at this time. The Park Board advised Lemley to communicate their appreciation toward Midgley, welcoming such suggestions and to encourage them to keep thinking of creative funding options for the future.

C. NEW BUSINESS

C-1. Vandalia Trail – 2022 Crop Lease Proposal from Eric George

Lemley reported that after reviewing the Indiana cash rent recommendations published by Purdue

University, he proposed the per acre cash rent payment be increased from prior years lease agreement for the tillable acreage along County Road 500 South. Lemley recommended to update and renew the 2022 crop lease agreement proposal from Eric George to \$175-\$180 per acre. After discussion, the Park Board agreed with Lemley's recommendation. **Miner moved to approve crop lease agreement with Eric George at \$180.00 per acre; seconded by Emsweller; motion passed unanimously.**

C-2. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park – 2022 Crop Lease Recommendation with Jason Searcy

Lemley presented to the Park Board his recommendation to consider entering a 2022 revised annual cash rent lease agreement with Jason Searcy for the 42.3 tillable acreage at \$210.00 per acre total. Lemley added that given the size and location of this farm field, he believes it justifies support of such proposal. Hayden provided positive comments toward Searcy and favors to continue such partnership. **Freije moved to approve 2022 crop lease agreement with Jason Searcy at \$210.00 per acre total; seconded by Miner; motion passed unanimously.**

C-3 W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park – Liability Signage

Lemley reported that with more usage of the sledding/outlook hill, he is requesting Park Board advisement for placement of liability signage. Lemley thanked DuMond for assisting with research of possibly adding additional sign language comparable to other sledding hills located in the County. Upon seeking legal advisement from Hendricks County Attorney, Greg Steuerwald, Lemley learned that extensive language is not necessary. After further discussion, Emsweller proposed signage to simply state "SLED AT YOUR OWN RISK". The Park Board agreed that two (2) "SLED AT YOUR OWN RISK" signs be implemented and directed Lemley to install such signage.

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

D-1. Vandalia Trail – Land Acquisition Update

Lemley reported that Beam, Longest and Neff (B-L-N) Right-of-Way agent, Ryan Buckley, continues to negotiate proposed land acquisition for the Pringle parcel. Lemley notified the Park Board that while Pringle politely refused Park Board's initial acquisition directive presented through Buckley, dialogue with the property owner continues with hopes of a successful outcome. Lemley informed the Park Board of recent discussions with County Engineer, John Ayers, regarding other viable options available to the Board as a governing body. The Park Board continued further discussion relating of said topic.

D-2. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park – Land Expansion Update

Lemley reported that he and Emsweller met with John (Chub) and Lydia Gibbs along with their five children on September 18th to discuss potential land expansion options involving the remaining 20-acre parcel that Chub and Lydia own and currently reside in. Emsweller and Lemley provided an overview of what took place during the meeting.

D-3. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park – Park Boundary Fence

A member of the Gibbs family requested a property fence be installed soon by HCP&R staff. Emsweller opened the topic for discussion. Topic was discussed. It was determined that no further action will be taken at this time.

E. PROPERTY UPDATES

E-1. McCloud Nature Park

Lemley reported that with the upcoming Fall Colors Festival rapidly approaching, HCP&R staff

continues to work diligently in expanding on the event by welcoming a variety of vendors with hopeful expectations of increasing festival attendance.

Lemley reported that Cardno is approaching the final treatment session of the 2021 Non-Native and Invasive Species contract.

With the drastically reduced attendance for the Summer Fun Run Series events hosted by the Parks Foundation of Hendricks County (PFOHC) this year, Miner raised the question about revisiting the event approach. Lemley added that he provided recommendations to the Parks Foundation of Hendricks County Director, Katy Cummings, recently. Hayden welcomed Miner's request and provided information in response to topic of discussion.

TRAFx counters documented 2,677 vehicles visiting the park this month.

E-2. Vandalia Trail

Lemley reported updates on Vandalia Trail while highlighting that the crosswalk sign that was previously damaged will be replaced shortly as sign materials are on back order.

Lemley reported that Indiana Department of Transportation recently implemented a "No Passing Zone" along State Road 75 in Coatesville.

TRAFx counters documented 2,692 patrons visiting the Vandalia Trail this month.

E-3. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park

Lemley requested Park Board approval to move forward in planning efforts for Phase II of Gibbs Park master planning. Park Board approved Lemley's request.

Lemley informed the Park Board that he received notification that HCP&R department will be one of three candidates to receive the Friends of Reservoir Moss Back grant award of \$1,500.00. Lemley highlighted that the HCP&R competed with several other candidates nationally and will speak more on the topic at next month's meeting.

Lemley reported that DNR, Division of Fish and Wildlife, have stocked both ponds at the park with largemouth bass, placing 1,750 fish in the large pond and 750 fish in the smaller pond. Lemley further noted that Bluegill, Redear, and Channel Catfish will be placed into the ponds by DNR later in the month.

Lemley reported that HCP&R staff have installed the remainder of property boundary signage and informed the Park Board that additional signage will be placed along the tillable boundary line once the crops are harvested.

Lemley provided an update on the status of electric service installation within the park to be placed at each shelter house location and at the main parking location.

TRAFx counters documented 4,039 vehicles visiting W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park this month.

F. REPORTS

F-1. Superintendent Report

Lemley reported that as the submittal deadline of the Next Level Trails grant application for round III approaches, he is seeking advisement from the Park Board to prioritize HCP&R tasks. Lemley shared his concerns with meeting the criteria required for a successful award. Ivie added that with recent developments with land acquisition efforts to expand Vandalia Trail to the west, he too shares the same concerns as Lemley. Ivie further laid out reasonable and realistic options available in moving forward. After weighing the pros and cons it was the Park Board's consensus that HCP&R will not apply for round III of the Next Level Trails Grant but will maintain communication with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding future grant opportunities. Additional discussion took place regarding developing a strategy for HCP&R next steps moving forward in acquiring what is needed to expand Vandalia Trail.

F-2. Budget Report

Ivie reported no problems with the 2021 budget so far while noting increased communication efforts with staff members as we get closer to ending the last quarter of the budget year.

Ivie voiced that large priority budget line items will need to be addressed as we move forward into 2022 and beyond.

Ivie reported that the remainder of the Hunt Palmer Fund will be used toward roof repairs for the gazebo at McCloud Nature Park.

Discussions took place about financial options for potential land acquisition in the future.

F-3. Parks Foundation of Hendricks County Report

Ivie raised the question asking if the Pancake Breakfast previously provided by PFOHC will occur in 2022 in anticipation of advertising for the event in the upcoming Explorer Publication. Hayden, Emsweller, and Eisenhart said that they would follow up at the next Foundation meeting to see if event will occur in 2022.

Eisenhart advised no additional information to report from PFOHC at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

The next Park Board meeting will be held on November 3rd, at 2:00 p.m. at the Hendricks County Parks and Recreation Department Main Building Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Hayden, President