



## Park Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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  
Gary Emsweller  
Paul Miner  
Jeff Pell (Arrived at 2:13 p.m.)

**Board Absent:** Matt Freije, Secretary  
Bill DuMond

**Staff Present:** Ryan Lemley, Superintendent  
Eric Ivie, Assistant Superintendent  
Jim Holtsclaw, Park Manager  
Sarah Wolf, Park Naturalist (Departed at 3:15 p.m.)  
Patty Seymour, Administrative Assistant

### **A. CALENDAR**

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

**Park Board, by consensus, adopted the agenda.**

#### **A-2. Approval of Minutes from October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Park Board Meeting**

Miner requested edits to the minutes for section D-2. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park – Land Expansion Update, advising to include a summary on the outcome of the meeting. Upon discussing further, the Park Board instructed Seymour to edit October 6<sup>th</sup> Park Board Meeting minutes to reflect Miner's request. **Miner moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Pell; motion passed unanimously.**

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

### B-1. Public Comments

Lemley reminded the Park Board that two appointments will expire at the end of this calendar year and that Park Board President, Mike Hayden, and Park Board Vice President, Brad Eisenhart would need to generate renewal letters to their respected appointment authority prior to the end of the calendar year for consideration. Emsweller extended gratitude for their service and voiced his desire for Hayden and Eisenhart to serve an additional Park Board term. Both Hayden and Eisenhart agreed to accept their respective appointments subject to approval from each designated governing body.

Hayden notified the Board that he will be stepping down from the Parks Foundation of Hendricks County (PFOHC) effective the end of this calendar year.

### C. NEW BUSINESS

#### C-1. McCloud Nature Park – 2022 Pancake Festival

Lemley reported that as HCP&R staff work to finalize the 2022 winter/spring edition of *The Explorer*, he and Ivie met with PFOHC Executive Director, Katy Cummings, to discuss the Foundation's interest in hosting the annual pancake breakfast traditionally held the first two weekends in March and previously hosted by the PFOHC. With input from PFOHC Board President, Matt Browning, Cummings provided notification that the PFOHC board had previously eliminated the McCloud pancake breakfast from their wealth of responsibilities. Upon revisiting the topic, Cummings and Browning proposed the following options for the annual pancake festival:

1. Eliminate hosting the pancake breakfast altogether.
2. Hendricks County Parks and Recreation Department (HCP&R) host the breakfast as an event (not a fundraising event) and any proceeds would be filtered through the Hendrick's County Auditor's Office.
3. The PFOHC implements the event, with the following caveat: The PFOHC would hire a third-party event coordinator to organize and implement the pancake breakfast for a fee of \$600.00. Additionally, the PFOHC would retain a 3% administrative fee from the gross amount raised. Any additional funds would be deposited into our HCP&R account. If the cost of the event is more than what is raised, the PFOHC would invoice HCP&R for the difference.

Lemley requested Park Board advisement on their interest in hosting the annual Pancake Festival at McCloud Nature Park in the spring of 2022. Lemley added that Wolf is proposing to host a "Sap Run" on March 12<sup>th</sup>, regardless of PFOHC involvement as well as maintaining interpretive events surrounding the Maple Syrup Days. Lemley further noted that the content for the upcoming issue of *The Explorer* is essentially complete aside from advertising for the Pancake Breakfast and dependent upon Board advisement surrounding the event.

The Park Board discussed several options encompassing the Pancake Breakfast, all things considered, concluded that the event is a popular attraction that provides family-oriented fun to McCloud Nature Park while bringing the Maple Syrup Festival to a close. Given the Foundation's decision to no longer host the event, the Park Board agreed to host the 2022 Pancake Breakfast taking place at McCloud Nature Park on March 5<sup>th</sup> and March 12<sup>th</sup> respectively. Eisenhart noted that assistance will be needed in coordinating volunteers in addition to day-of-event preparations. Wolf added that she had previously assisted with recruiting volunteers using Sign Up Genius. Hayden advised that assistance from the PFOHC will be needed pertaining to funding options. Emsweller noted that he will reach out to his

contact for a possible maple syrup vendor for the event. Eisenhart volunteered to contact the PFOHC to discuss funding directive. In the instance that someone would like to donate toward the event, it should be directed through the PFOHC, upon their approval of such request. Eisenhart proposed to advertise the breakfast event to be held on March 5<sup>th</sup> and March 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:00 a.m. through 1:00 p.m. with the final sitting to be served at 12:30 p.m. The Park Board agreed with Eisenhart's proposal while concluding that the event will be free of charge for patrons but will accept donations at their discretion. Ivie was directed to provide a general advertisement for the event, as proposed by Eisenhart, in the winter/spring 2022 issue of *The Explorer*.

#### C-2. Vandalia Trail – Land Acquisition – Proposed Support through Greg Midgley & NRHT, Inc.

Lemley reported that while meeting with Greg Midgley and Mike Moody to discuss approaching Apple for potential trail contributions, he learned that Midgley has offered to provide financial support necessary to acquire land for future trail expansion through the PFOHC. Lemley presented the Park Board potential options to be put forth toward acquiring property for the expansion of Vandalia Trail. As Lemley emphasized his appreciation toward Midgley for his contributions in support of expanding the trail, he also shared with the Board some reservations he has of utilizing such measures in pursuit of acquiring the Pringle parcel now. Lemley requested Park Board advisement in approaching Greg Midgley or the Parks Foundation of Hendricks County for financial assistance in acquiring the Pringle parcel. Miner suggested that the Park Board take time to consider all viable options while Emsweller expressed concern of setting a perceived precedent for such acquisitions that may potentially result in unintentional consequences for future expansion endeavors. Furthermore, Emsweller suggested to examine the area east of Clayton. After some discussion, it was the Board's consensus to temporarily suspend land acquisition efforts west of Clayton currently and make overtures going east of Clayton toward Plainfield. Additionally, Miner requested that Lemley contact the Town of Clayton regarding the status of the sanitary sewer force main project for Cascade High School, while Hayden requested Lemley to follow up with the Town of Plainfield in researching their master plans for trail expansion moving forward. In response, Lemley stated that he will proceed accordingly.

#### C-3 W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park – Friends of Reservoirs – 2021 Mossback Habitat Grant

Lemley reported that the HCP&R department was one of three recipients to be awarded the Friends of Reservoirs 2021 Mossback Habitat Grant in the amount of \$1,500.00 for W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park public fishery and have since then, received the habitat structure kits from Mossback. Lemley emphasized that the grant application process was open to any Friends of Reservoirs member throughout the nation with only three applicants being awarded, one of which was a large United States Army Corps of Engineers project.

### **D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### D-1. Vandalia Trail – 2022 Crop Lease with Eric George

Lemley informed the Park Board that Eric George, current crop lease tenant for tillable land along CR 500 South, has agreed to Park Board terms necessary to extend the annual crop lease into 2022.

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

Lemley reported that after some delays, due to a nation-wide shortage in receiving parts to install electric service at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park, the HCP&R maintenance staff worked diligently to complete electric service installation for their portion of the project. The Town of Avon provided a satisfactory inspection status recently and Hendricks Power has been given the green light to proceed

with their portion of the installation project.

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

Lemley reported that after discussing fence installation requirements with the Town of Avon, he learned that if and/or when a fence is installed, it is to be installed on Park Board property, or private property, per Avon ordinance and requirements. Furthermore, the fence would become an asset of the respected landowner, along with the responsibility of maintaining the fence. Lemley reiterated that the fence between adjacent landowners would not be a shared asset, stating further, that if the Park Board decides to install a fence, it will be the Park Board's responsibility to follow Town of Avon ordinance and regulations, including getting a survey, if that is what the Board chooses to do. Likewise, it would be the responsibility of private property owners who wish to install a fence abide by the same rules and regulations set forth by the Town of Avon, as they are the governing entity in this matter.

### **E. PROPERTY UPDATES**

#### E-1. McCloud Nature Park

Lemley reported that the Fall Colors Festival hosted at McCloud Nature Park on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> was attended by an estimated 1,062 visitors. Lemley noted that attendance did not reach pre-COVID numbers, but the festival did generate a respectable number of patrons. Lemley voiced praise toward HCP&R staff for their teamwide efforts in creating a successful event that was enjoyed by many, further commenting, that the hayride generated \$465. Lemley commented that it seemed as though visitors were not necessarily making their way over to the arboretum area, which could have impacted the lower than usual attendance for the hayrides. Lemley went on to inform the Park Board that planning efforts for the 2022 festival are already underway, with the proposed date of event being October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Lemley reported that Ryan Mendenhall, Senior Staff Scientist with Cardno, has scheduled the supplemental seeding for the arboretum to be completed shortly. Once the related work is finalized, and upon final payment provided by PFOHC, the 2021 arboretum enhancement contract with Cardno will be concluded.

Lemley informed the Park Board that he received a complaint from a park guest who was upset over the abundance of photographers present at McCloud Nature Park taking photos and was concerned that it was taking away the beauty of the nature park. The Park Board took note of complaint.

TRAFx counters documented 2,785 vehicles visiting the park this month.

#### E-2. Vandalia Trail

Lemley reported that Cummins Trees Service has made substantial progress in removing dead and potentially hazardous trees along Vandalia Trail, with Phase I (approximately two miles of trail between SR 75 and CR 675) coming close to completion.

Lemley notified the Park Board that restroom facilities are now closed and winterized for the season.

Lemley informed the Park Board that Annie Brock has ordered the memorial bench in honor of her mother's memory and is expecting delivery within 15-18 weeks.

TRAFx counters documented 1,922 patrons visiting the Vandalia Trail this month.

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

Lemley reported that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Fish and Wildlife, has finalized the initial fish stocking for the public fishery at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park. The remaining fish arrived from Cikana Fish Hatchery at no charge to the department, with a total placement of 9,360 Bluegill; 3,130 Redear; 392 Channel Catfish in the ponds this month, with the expectation of restocking the Channel Catfish on a regular basis. It is their expectation that the Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, and Redear will naturally spawn, resulting in the ponds being readily stocked for future consumptive fishing.

Lemley reported that discussion has begun pertaining to the ADA asphalt switchback trail for the outlook/sledding hill and paving for the surrounding area trails around the ponds at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park with CECON Engineering. Lemley requested Park Board approval to enter a design and engineering contract with CECON necessary for the development of an asphalt ADA trail leading to the top of the property outlook/sledding hillside, along with an ADA asphalt trail surrounding both ponds, while noting that the construction portion of this project will be required to go through a public bid process. Engineering services will include permitting for water and sanitary sewer services as well as construction planning to accommodate for erosion control measures for the hillside. The quote did not include the design of a retaining wall, so if needed, the related work will be billed separately. Lemley pointed out that CECON provided construction management services in phase one, noting that it was a beneficial service and recommended that be included with the next phase as well. After some discussion, the Park Board approved Lemley's request. **Miner moved to approve Lemley's request, allowing him to sign the Engineering Services Contract, along with the Construction Management Contract with CECON; seconded by Emsweller; motion passed unanimously.**

Lemley highlighted that the maintenance team has successfully implemented a nature play area/trail that connects to the Nature Playground at Gibbs Park. The natural features have been created from recycled and reused oak timbers from the McCloud Nature Park truss-bridge, along with additional dropped trees from Gibbs Park. Such features include a balance beam, ring toss, stepping stumps, log climbing fort, teepee, and mulched trail. Lemley commended the maintenance staff for their efforts toward building a unique feature that is already gaining popularity amongst our youngest park visitors.

Lemley reported that the Hendricks County Disc Golf Club (HCDGC) hosted their "Glow Round" tournament on Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, and reported just under 30 participants for the tournament.

Lemley requested Park Board advisement on allowing the use of radio-controlled boats on the public fishery ponds at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park, as he recently received such request from a park patron. After discussing, the Park Board concluded that they do not object to this request specifically, while adding that if the use of radio-controlled boats become an issue in the future a policy will need to be developed to manage such inquiries. Pell raised the question asking if ice fishing has been an issue at the park in the past and is this something that will be permitted in the future. Lemley responded stating that "STAY OFF ICE" safety signage will be installed around the perimeter of each pond to deter visitors from attempting to enter the ponds if and/or when weather gets cold enough for the ponds to freeze over.

Lemley informed the Park Board that he received another email message from a family member of one of the neighboring landowners adjacent to the park, regarding retrieving wounded/dead game from Park Board property. Lemley reminded the Park Board that he has responded to multiple requests in the past

from the same person, and with previous Park Board directive, stating that retrieval of game will not be permitted on Park Board property. Lemley went on to notify the Board that the requestor had carbon copied the respective landowners, John (Chub) and Lydia Gibbs in the email, once again requesting to retrieve game from park property. Furthermore, the requestor went on to mention that they have requested assistance from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) on said matter. **The Park Board examined and discussed potential and hypothetical situations related to the inquiry and concluded that retrieval of game from Park Board property is still not permitted.**

Miner reported that the invasive group is planning another Weed Wrangle at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park. Ivie added that Wolf is coordinating volunteers and proactively planning for the event.

TRAFx counters documented 3,056 vehicles visiting W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park this month.

## **F. REPORTS**

### **F-1. Superintendent Report**

Lemley noted that they have initiated the purchase and installation of two Meyers snowplows for the Kubota UTV's therefore adding additional measures to assist with snow removal efforts in preparation of the upcoming winter season.

Lemley informed the Park Board that Sarah Wolf has been selected for the Project Learning Tree Facilitator of the year. The award will be presented to Sarah at the Hendricks County 4-H convention center in the coming weeks.

Lemley mentioned that he recently had the honor to participate within the Director's Spotlight for the Parks Foundation of Hendricks County and hopes that the article will generate more publicity for the Department and the Foundation.

Lemley noted that HCDGC retrieved 30 lost discs from the pond forebay at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park and is currently making efforts to return lost discs to their respective owners. Additionally, Lemley reported that through the UDisc website the W.S. Gibbs Disc Golf Course has received a 4.4 rating out of 5 with the rating being reviewed by 355 golfers to date. Lemley noted that UDisc rating tracks approximately 60% of players through their App with the remaining amount utilizing various other disc golf applications.

Lemley advised the Park Board to be prepared for election nominations for 2022 adding that he will provide Park Board packets on Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup> ahead of the Thanksgiving Holiday break.

### **F-2. Budget Report**

Ivie reported that they have recently submitted five requests for transfer of funds for County Council consideration. If approved the requests will transfer excess fuel and oil funds to maintenance and repair budget line funds, along with excess janitorial funds to office supplies budget line funds, with the other three requests focusing on professional fees budget line funds. Ivie noted that any funds remaining under Land Acquisition line item after final submittal of December claims is paid, will be rolled over to Park Non-Reverting Capital Fund for 2022 budget.

Lemley reported that the balance of \$128.82 remaining in the Hunt Palmer Fund was approved to be

utilized toward gazebo roofing repairs at McCloud Nature Park, therefore closing out this budget line.

Ivie concluded with notifying the Park Board that inter-departmental communication continues as the end of the calendar year ends.

F-3. Parks Foundation of Hendricks County Report

Emsweller reported that the PFOHC met at Arbuckle Acres for their annual meeting while sharing positive comments in support of Executive Director, Katy Cummings. Likewise, Ivie added to the discussion sharing positive comments toward Cummings and is pleased with her communication and insight she brings to the table.

Emsweller noted that the Executive Committee meeting was decided to be held in December instead of January with Board Members and Office terms to be voted on accordingly. Emsweller added that additional discussion took place related to Fun Run Series and the Pancake Breakfast, amongst other items of discussion including community outreach and involvement.

Emsweller reported that budgetary items and process will remain the same at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**The meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.**

**The next Park Board meeting will be held on December 1<sup>st</sup>, at 2:00 p.m. at the Hendricks County Parks and Recreation Department Main Building Conference Room.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Brad Eisenhart, Vice President