



Park Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 1, 2021
2:00pm

955 E. Main Street
Danville, IN 46122

CALL TO ORDER

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

- Board Present:** Matt Freije, Secretary
Bill DuMond
Gary Emsweller
Paul Miner
Jeff Pell
- Board Absent:** Mike Hayden, President
Brad Eisenhart, Vice President
- Staff Present:** Ryan Lemley, Superintendent
Eric Ivie, Assistant Superintendent
Jim Holtsclaw, Park Manager
Sarah Wolf, Park Naturalist
- Guests:** Paul Cummins, Cummins Tree Service

A. CALENDAR

A-1. Adopt Agenda

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

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

Emsweller requested an edit to the first sentence of the second paragraph of F-3 to clarify that the Parks Foundation of Hendricks County (PFOHC) meeting in December is its annual meeting, rather than its Executive Committee meeting. **Emsweller moved to approve the minutes with the noted correction; seconded by Miner; motion passed unanimously. DuMond abstained.**

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS / PRESENTATIONS

B-1. Public Comments

None.

C. NEW BUSINESS

C-1. 2022 Park Board Elections

Emsweller moved to retain the 2021 officers in 2022 (Mike Hayden as president, Brad Eisenhart as vice president, Matt Freije as secretary); seconded by DuMond; motion passed unanimously.

C-2. 2022 Park Board Meeting Schedule

The Park Board briefly discussed adjusting dates and times of 2022 meetings but eventually settled on the proposed schedule of 2 p.m. meetings on the first Wednesday of each month. **DuMond moved to adopt the proposed 2022 Park Board Meeting Schedule; seconded by Pell; motion passed unanimously.**

C-3. Vandalia Trail – Cummins Tree Service Request for Compensation Increase

Lemley advised the Park Board that Paul Cummins of Cummins Tree Service is requesting an increase of \$5,000 for Phase II of the Vandalia Trail tree removal project. Cummins explained that Phase I took longer than anticipated and required some unexpected heavy equipment rental to down and remove the dead trees because Cummins was concerned that burning the downed trees along the trail would be dangerous. Removing the dead trees from the trail was the better option. Ivie advised that he has no concerns with the budget if the Park Board approves this request. **DuMond moved to increase the contract amount on Phase II from \$10,000 to \$15,000 and to allow Lemley to sign the revised contract; seconded by Pell; motion passed unanimously.**

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

D-1. Vandalia Trail – Review of Eastern Expansion Map

Lemley presented a large map of landowners and the proposed expansion route of the Vandalia Trail to the Park Board. The map was developed and printed by Civil Engineering Consultants, Inc. (CECON) at Lemley's request.

Lemley advised that the Town of Plainfield has no plans at this time to expand the Vandalia Trail any further west. He suggested working with the Hendricks County Planning Department to see if they are going to allow further residential or business development between Plainfield and Cartersburg, and if so, if they would be willing to require developers to install the Vandalia Trail through the property they are developing. The Park Board agreed that this would be a good plan of action.

Lemley stated that there are 44 land parcels between Clayton and Plainfield, so contacting the pertinent landowners and potentially acquiring land or right-of-way from them will be a lengthy process. There are three (3) landowners between Cartersburg and Plainfield town limits.

Lemley plans to meet with Clayton Town Manager Jeff Eder after the holidays to see if he'd be willing to help with Hendricks County Parks & Recreation (HCP&R) acquiring right-of-way through a handful of parcels that are owned by the Town of Clayton. Lemley is also hopeful that Eder can assist with discussing the trail with landowners located within Clayton town limits.

The Park Board had further extensive discussion about a variety of topics relating to the eastward expansion of the trail.

By consensus, the Park Board instructed the HCP&R staff to orchestrate contacting landowners through Ryan Buckley of Beam, Longest & Neff (BL&N) from Clayton eastward through Cartersburg to the western town limits of Plainfield.

D-2. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park – Trailblazing Signage Update

Lemley advised that there are three trailblazing signs to W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park that will be placed in various spots around the general vicinity of the park. The Town of Avon and the Hendricks County Highway Department has already given permission to place one sign within each of their jurisdictions. However, the proposed sign within Plainfield town limits must be approved by the Plainfield Town Council, and Lemley believes that the topic will be addressed at the Town Council's December meeting.

Ivie said that he spoke with Terry Jones from the Town of Plainfield last week, and there is some question as to the process for getting on the Council's agenda, but it sounds like Jones and Jason Castetter of Plainfield Department of Public Works will talk to each other to get this worked out. Ivie doesn't get the impression that there is any resistance to putting the signs up – the sticking point is simply about procedure.

HCP&R Administrative Assistant Patty Seymour has already talked to Castetter, and she knows Jones, so Lemley will have her follow up on this soon to make sure that HCP&R is doing what's expected of it to get approval for the signs.

E. PROPERTY UPDATES

E-1. McCloud Nature Park

Lemley advised the Park Board that the Hunt Palmer gazebo at McCloud Nature Park has had its roof replaced. Lemley praised Oather Duncan III and Caleb Hawkins of the maintenance crew for their work on this project.

Lemley stated that Cardno has fulfilled its 2021 contract regarding maintenance of the McCloud Arboretum. They have presented a proposed contract for 2022 at the same price they charged in 2021 (\$4,500), and Lemley is inclined to accept it because he's pleased with the work that Cardno has done. He'll present it to the Park Board in January. At DuMond's request, Lemley gave a detailed explanation of the scope of work that Cardno does, and Ivie gave a brief history of why HCP&R uses Cardno. At Pell's request, Lemley and Ivie gave an overview of the purpose of arboretum.

Lemley gave an update on the planning of a "Sap Run" at McCloud on March 12, 2022. He feels that the cost proposed by Racemaker Productions is more than he's willing to risk on turnout to the event – especially given the unpredictable weather in early March and the remote location of the park. He and Ivie outlined some other ideas that have been considered instead of a McCloud Sap Run, but nothing has been settled on. Emsweller suggested discussing this with Hayden, since Hayden is a runner and is more familiar with events like this. He may know of another provider so that HCP&R can compare pricing.

Lemley reported 1,414 vehicles visiting McCloud Nature Park in November.

E-2. Vandalia Trail

Lemley advised that the Coatesville Town Council plans to put up security cameras around the trailhead in town to try to eliminate the regular vandalism to the inside and outside of the building.

Lemley reported that the pedestrian crossing sign has been replaced at the grocery store in town after it had been hit by vehicles several times. Coatesville Town Manager Jerry Decker also striped a crosswalk after street repairs were completed.

Freije asked if Kim Cartwright has been approached about continuing to clean the restrooms in 2022. Lemley and Holtsclaw stated that both she and HCP&R expect a renewal of that contract. Lemley praised Cartwright for her work and for her above-and-beyond care for the buildings.

Lemley advised that 1,171 people were counted on the Vandalia Trail in November.

E-3. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park

Lemley stated that 17 people attended the Weed Wrangle® at Gibbs in November. Wolf said that most of the attendees were from a softball team. Ivie suspects that it was a team from the Indiana Smoke organization, since one of the Smoke coaches recently contacted him about doing a community service project with the players, and Ivie referred her to Wolf.

Lemley advised that the maintenance crew rented a vibrating roller to smooth some of the terrain in the park.

Lemley said that the Hendricks County Bluebird Society will be placing some bluebird houses within Gibbs. The Park Board was presented with a map that was prepared by Holtsclaw with the locations of the bird houses.

Lemley reported that Miner donated 15 Shumard oak trees to be planted at Gibbs, and long-time volunteer Gene Ardeel got them planted in spots throughout the disc golf course that the Hendricks County Disc Golf Club (HCDGC) recommended, with an eye on how the mature trees in the future would impact the course.

Lemley asked if the Park Board wants to approve every tournament that the HCDGC is proposing at Gibbs in 2022, or if they're okay with Lemley approving them. The Park Board would prefer Lemley to approve them and simply inform the Board of when the tournaments will be held.

Lemley advised that HCDGC has asked about holding a disc golf tournament at McCloud Nature Park. The Park Board would prefer that disc golf tournaments be held only at Gibbs.

Ivie presented the Park Board with the proof of the cast bronze plaque that he has ordered to commemorate the opening of Gibbs. HCP&R will store the plaque until a structure is in place at Gibbs for it to be mounted upon. Emsweller suggested that the plaque could be mounted on a large rock in the park, too, as an option.

Lemley advised that 1,993 vehicles visited W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park in November.

F. REPORTS

F-1. Superintendent Report

Lemley reported that Ivie updated some information about W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park and McCloud Nature Park with the Town of Avon for their records.

Lemley advised that the Winter/Spring 2022 issue of *The Explorer* has been completed and is expected to arrive within the next week or two. Ivie advised that Assistant Park Naturalist Joe Lembo did a great job of developing some new and exciting programs for the winter and spring and, at Miner's request, Ivie detailed some of the programs. Ivie said that Lembo was tasked with tapping into his recreational education, background, and creativity and "wowing" Lemley and Ivie with programs, and he delivered.

The naturalists recently received a \$1,500 grant through the Robert A. Wood Environmental Education Fund with the PFOHC and have used that money to create five new Adventure Backpacks.

Lemley updated the Park Board with the plans for a new full-time maintenance technician position to begin in January, as well as two current part-time job openings – a maintenance tech and a naturalist.

Lemley advised that HCP&R is still waiting on Hendricks Power to install electricity at Gibbs. The maintenance crew has done their part to get set up for the project.

Lemley and Holtsclaw are meeting with members of Brownsburg Parks & Recreation tomorrow to discuss erosion control along creek banks.

F-2. Budget Report

Ivie reported no problems with the 2021 budget. There is only one claims cycle left in the budget year, so he and Holtsclaw and Wolf remain in constant communication.

Ivie also detailed the planned encumbrance requests for Professional Fees (County General) and Other Park Improvements (Food & Beverage). Any excess monies in those two budget lines from 2021 will be added to the respective budget lines in 2022 to be used on improvements to Gibbs that are encompassed within the Land & Water Conservation Fund grant. Any remaining money in Land Acquisition (Food & Beverage) will be rolled into Fund 1178 at the end of this budget year.

F-3. Parks Foundation of Hendricks County Report

Emsweller advised that there isn't anything to report, as the PFOHC has not met since the last Park Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

The next Park Board meeting will be held on January 5, 2022, at 2 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Freije, Secretary