



Park Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 2nd, 2022
2:00pm

955 E. Main Street
Danville, IN 46122

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Board Present: Mike Hayden, President
Matt Freije, Secretary
Gary Emsweller
Paul Miner
Jeff Pell (Via Telephone)

Board Absent: Brad Eisenhart, Vice President
Bill DuMond

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

Staff Absent: Jim Holtsclaw, Park Manager

Guests: Jim Diagostino, Mill Creek Community School Corporation
Joe Tierney, GRW Engineering

A. CALENDAR

A-1. Adopt Agenda

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

A-2. Approval of Minutes from January 5th, 2022, Park Board Meeting

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

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS / PRESENTATIONS

B-1. Public Comments

None.

B-2. Mill Creek Community School Corporation – Easement Request for Sanitary Sewer Install

Lemley introduced Jim Diagostino, Superintendent of Mill Creek Community School Corporation (MCCSC), and Joe Tierney with GRW Engineering, MCCSC project representative. Diagostino requested that the Park Board consider donating land for proposed sanitary sewer installation project along CR 500 South that the Park Board owns. The requested land donation of four acres is needed for a permanent utility easement. Tierney provided a summary of the proposed project and stated that four manholes, housing air release valves, will be installed along the requested easement path.

The Park Board advised that they want to be good neighbors and honor their request, but a formal proposal with a compensation rate of around \$6,800 per-acre (fair market value in the area) would be required for Park Board consideration in support of the project. Park Board discussed and provided multiple reasons in justifying such response in declining MCCSC donation request. One, being that taxpayers who support MCCSC are a small subset of constituents who pay for county parks. Additionally, the reduction in crop lease that currently generates \$180 per-acre and a reduction of 4-acres of land to house the sewer line and manholes for future development would be a loss indefinitely. The reduction of the four acres required for the sewer installation could negatively impact the tract of land, potentially making it less desirable to farm lease in the future.

Diagostino thanked the Park Board for their time and consideration of their request, commenting further that he will discuss options with MCCSC legal advisors and GRW Engineering and will provide communication in response to the Park Board compensation parameters.

C. NEW BUSINESS

C-1. McCloud Nature Park – 2022 Prescribed Burn Contract

Lemley requested Park Board approval to enter into agreement with Turner Forestry Incorporated not to exceed \$3,500.00 for the professional management of the 52-acre native prairie within McCloud Nature Park. Lemley noted that communication with Turner Forestry and adjacent landowners is essential for successful prescribed burn. Additionally, Lemley stated that he will communicate with the Division of Nature Preserves prior to the burn event. Lemley noted that DuMond previously provided comments regarding the wording of the agreement contract. The Park Board advised Lemley to revise contract to include DuMond's recommendation and review of amended agreement for Lemley to sign. **Miner moved to approve amended contract; seconded by Freije; motion passed unanimously.**

C-2. Vandalia Trail – 2022 Housekeeping Contract

Lemley requested Park Board authorization to enter a 2022 housekeeping contract for the Vandalia Trail public restrooms with Kim Cartwright. **Emsweller moved to approve contract; seconded by Miner; motion passed unanimously.**

C-3. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park – Align Civil Engineering Consultants – Proposed Trail Layout

Lemley presented the Park Board a proposal to implement a paved ADA compliant trail at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park. The proposed 8-foot-wide asphalt trail will be fully ADA compliant, circling both ponds

and providing easy access to the top of the outlook/sledding hill. Lemley highlighted that the proposed trail design avoids interference of potential hazards with the disc golf tee landings at the top of the outlook hill. Ivie added that the design keeps the slope of the north facing hill untouched for optimal sledding purposes. Lemley advised that Align Civil Engineering will provide construction administration for the project as well. The Park Board expressed their support for the trail and park enhancement proposal.

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

D-1. Rockies Express Pipeline, LLC – Update on Permanent Road Easement Contract

Lemley advised that with continued support and legal guidance from Graham Youngs and Park Board member Bill DuMond, he was able to provide a revised contract agreement to Jack Belew, Senior right-of-way agent with Liberty Core Real Estate & Land Services for the Rockies Express Pipeline permanent surface easement request along CR 500 South. Lemley added that Rockies Express Pipeline honored multiple contract revisions and returned the finalized agreement for Park Board consideration. With previous concerns being addressed the Park Board voted in support of the permanent surface easement with Rockies Express Pipeline and will donate \$5,000 to the Park Board for the easement support. Lemley provided Park Board President Mike Hayden three copies of the revised agreement for notarized signature. **Emsweller moved to approve easement agreement; seconded by Freije; motion passed unanimously.**

D-2. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park – Feasibility Discussion for Maintenance Hub

Lemley advised the Park Board that he has contacted Midland Post Frame Buildings and Morton Buildings to discuss the needs of a maintenance hub at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park. Preliminary bids and general design collected through Midland Post Frame Building in Danville came in at \$231,890 with an additional allowance of approximately \$75,000 for interior finishing work. Lemley added that additional needs to finalize the project would include a service roadway, HVAC, well, and septic installation. Lemley requested Park Board approval to continue to dedicate time and effort toward finalizing the design and collect formal bids for such maintenance facility. Lemley noted that department staff has been trying to connect with Town of Avon staff to request an in-person meeting with building and planning department to discuss project requirements. After some discussion the Park Board instructed Lemley to continue efforts toward this task and seek cost options for a 16-foot-tall building to accommodate future needs.

D-3. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park – Trailblazing Signage

Lemley advised that Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) completed the installation of the trailblazing sign project for W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park with the installation of the final directional signs located along US Highway 40 in Plainfield and US Highway 36 in Avon.

E. PROPERTY UPDATES

E-1. McCloud Nature Park

Lemley reported that the Naturalist team has been working toward expanding department programming with sponsorship opportunities and handed the conversation to Wolf to provide an update on the planning of a race event at McCloud. Wolf provided information outlining her findings with multiple race management companies that offer services to manage and coordinate timing, advertising, and registrations of race events such as these, with Racemaker Productions coming in with, what she feels is, the most reasonable quote. Wolf added that charging participants for such event will help to offset the

cost of bringing in a race management vendor. Hayden commented that he felt that Racemaker Productions quote seems reasonable considering everything they include with their services. Lemley added that they would target an event around the Fall Colors festival and will pursue a possible “Sap Run” event the following year during Maple Syrup days.

Lemley notified the Park Board that an act of vandalism that resulted in a dumpster fire at McCloud Nature Park had occurred on January 20th. Lemley went on to say that thankfully the culprit had relocated the dumpster prior to igniting flammable materials within the dumpster, otherwise the situation could have been catastrophic as fuel tanks were within close proximity of the dumpster. With help from security footage, the Sheriff’s Department was able to locate the vehicle captured on video and contacted the owner for further investigation.

As of Thursday, January 27th, TRAFx counters documented 903 vehicles visiting the park this month.

E-2. Vandalia Trail

Lemley noted that he spoke with Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Grant Coordinator for the Next Level Trails and commented that although the timelines for the future grant submittal is unknown, it will include federal funding within the grant award.

Miner asked what would need to be done to launch the five-year comprehensive plan for Vandalia Trail. Lemley responded that he and Ivie plan to revisit the topic with the Park Board. Miner offered to volunteer for such committee if one is created.

Hayden requested an update on the status of tree removal clean-up efforts for the dropping of trees along Vandalia Trail. Lemley stated that the vendor has been compensated for the entire project and that he and Holtsclaw are satisfied with the amount of dead and potentially hazardous trees that have been removed from the trail, along with the dedicated effort of cleaning-up related debris.

As of Thursday, January 27th, TRAFx counters documented 530 patrons visiting the Vandalia Trail this month.

E-3. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park

Lemley reported that a formal review of the Land and Water Conservation Grant (LWCG) application from the Division of Historical Preservation and Archaeology (DHPA) with the IDNR was complete. Per the requirements of DHPA, a more extensive historical site survey will be needed, collecting a full reconnaissance level archaeological survey in areas that were previously undisturbed. Align Engineering recommended two specific site locations to conduct such survey. Lemley advised that Cardno, who is a DNR approved certified vendor, is slated to conduct the required survey pending favorable weather and workloads. With revelation of this new information, it could potentially delay Federal approval of LWCG award until June or July of 2022.

Lemley reported that the Naturalist team has been working on efforts to expand department programming at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park. Assistant Park Naturalist, Joe Lembo, is spearheading efforts to prepare and successfully implement such programs and is proactively seeking event sponsorship and vendor support to offset associated costs and ultimately enhance the recreational experience for park patrons. One of the events being planned for is a fall festival at Gibbs Park to

complement the Fall Colors Festival at McCloud Nature Park.

Lemley advised the Park Board that the Hendricks County Disc Golf Club will be hosting a sanctioned couple's tournament on Saturday, February 12th. Lemley informed the Park Board that Hendricks County Disc Golf Club has a new league president this year. Wolf added that her team is currently planning some programming events with the Club.

As of Thursday, January 27th, TRAFx counters documented 1,276 vehicles visiting W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park this month.

F. REPORTS

F-1. Superintendent Report

Lemley reported that two formal request claims for previous property tax payments on Park Board Property has been submitted to the Hendricks County Assessor.

Lemley informed the Park Board that two new part-time employees have recently joined HCP&R staff team. Lemley noted they extended employment to an additional part-time maintenance technician, but the applicant declined the formal offer presented from Human Resources (HR). Lemley added that newly hired employees can only be hired in at 90% of the minimum hiring pay rate, which could have negatively influenced the decision of the third potential employee, as this new information was not provided prior to extending the position offer to the experienced candidate during the interview process. Ivie shared his concerns and frustration with the hiring process and the way it presented itself in this manner. Lemley reported that he has requested HR to repost the job vacancy through February 11th.

Lemley reported that the Naturalist staff is seeking event sponsors for upcoming Movie Night programs in the park. Wolf provided a summary of what the sponsorship opportunities will entail for such programs, with hopes of hosting the events in June and July of 2022.

F-2. Budget Report

Ivie reported no issues with the initial budget report of the year.

Lemley added that HCP&R staff is seeking guidance from the Hendricks County Auditor's Office to discuss the idea of selling quarter-page, half-page, and full-page advertisements in *The Explorer* publication.

F-3. Parks Foundation of Hendricks County Report

Emsweller reported that PFOHC is alive and well as they continue to review and revise the governing rules and by-laws with new roles and responsibilities for the organizational structure of the Foundation. Emsweller added that preparations are underway for the upcoming Summer Fun Run Series.

Ivie added positive comments toward PFOHC Executive Director Katy Cummings in communicating early on with HCP&R staff for scheduling the summer Fun Run events to be held at Hendricks County Parks locations.

Lemley noted that the Maple Syrup Days are coming up and additional progress has transpired with the pancake breakfast.

Emsweller commended the Naturalist team for their efforts in leading new and creative program events at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park and for representing Hendricks County Parks well.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Freije, Secretary