



Park Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 6th, 2022
2:00 p.m.

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
Matt Freije, Secretary
Bill DuMond
Gary Emsweller
Paul Miner
Jeff Pell

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

Guests: Lee O'Connor, RaceMaker Productions

A. CALENDAR

A-1. Adopt Agenda

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

A-2. Approval of Minutes from March 2nd, 2022, Park Board Meeting

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

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS / PRESENTATIONS

B-1. Public Comments

Lemley informed the Park Board that he received notification that long time park supporter and volunteer, Mary Benson, passed away on April 5th, 2022. Visitation is scheduled for Sunday, April 10th,

2022, at Hampton Gentry Funeral Home in Plainfield. Ivie requested permission to create a social media posting in honor of Mrs. Benson's memory on behalf of the Hendricks County Parks and Recreation (HCP&R) Department. The Park Board approved Ivie's request.

B-2. RaceMaker Productions – Request to Host Beaver Trace Trail Race at McCloud N.P.

Lemley introduced Lee O'Connor with RaceMaker Productions, LLC to the Park Board. O'Connor recently approached HCP&R staff concerning their desire to host the 2022 Beaver Chase Trail Race event at McCloud Nature Park on August 13th, 2022. O'Connor provided the Park Board a proposal with information pertaining to his request and stated that RaceMaker Productions is an event management company based out of Plainfield, Indiana and has been operating since 2010, managing race events. O'Connor went on to say that they have been strongly considering a site change for the annual Beaver Chase Trail Race owned by RaceMaker Productions. O'Connor stated that historically, this race has hosted anywhere from 250 to 450 participants traveling from six to 12 states and has traditionally taken place in downtown Indianapolis at the Urban Wilderness Trail over the past seven years. O'Connor provided the Park Board with additional information and requested their consideration in approving RaceMaker Productions request to host the 2022 Beaver Chase Trail race at McCloud Nature Park in August. This race typically offers three different events: quarter marathon, half marathon, and a full marathon. O'Connor noted that a portion of the proceeds raised from the event has traditionally been donated to the host site partner to aide with trail maintenance.

O'Connor pointed out that alcohol has been served at several of their race events afterward and that they are experienced with working with excise officials, including filing for a Beer/Wine Permit. O'Connor requested special consideration from the Park Board to serve alcohol at the event if the event is favorable to the Park Board. Additionally, O'Connor inquired about the possibility of offering a limited amount of overnight primitive tent camping (no fires) at McCloud Nature Park for event participants. Lemley voiced concerns with overnight camping for the initial event but is willing to revisit the discussion for following events. Lemley and the Park Board denied O'Connor's request to serve alcohol at the event as alcohol is prohibited at the park. Additionally, it was decided that overnight camping will not be an option for the initial event, but the Park Board will consider it for future events.

O'Connor stated that parking/traffic control will be provided by RaceMaker staff but would welcome assistance from HCP&R volunteers familiar with McCloud event parking and traffic control for the race event. Lemley advised that the Naturalist team may be able to have a staff member available to assist with parking for the event. Further extensive discussion occurred regarding a variety of topics relating to the subject matter including fees for the event, funding options, marketing and advertisement, restroom facility provisions, logistics, coordination, and management of the event as well as trail restoration after the event. O'Connor provided references of previous events managed by RaceMaker to the Park Board.

Lemley asked O'Connor if RaceMaker would consider partnering with HCP&R and The Parks Foundation of Hendricks County (PFOHC) for potential future race events to coincide with existing recreational events the department hosts. O'Connor replied favorably to Lemley's inquiry and recommended further discussion to create a work plan proposal for each event if this is something that all parties involved would be interested in doing. Upon further discussion the Park Board provided consensus in general support of hosting the event at McCloud Nature Park, limiting participant capacity to a maximum of 400 participants, but will make a final decision upon reviewing a completed proposal during the May 4th regularly scheduled Park Board meeting.

C. NEW BUSINESS

C-1. McCloud Nature Park – Property Investigation (Bill DuMond)

DuMond initiated discussion on potentially expanding the land-ownership footprint at McCloud Nature Park. The adjacent parcel encompasses a little over 32 acres of undeveloped woods and a 1,000 square foot cabin. Miner provided some historical information about the subject parcel. It was noted that this parcel was a portion of the original McCloud Nature Park, and the mature woods/trees would serve well for park expansion and forest preservation in the future if the opportunity presents itself.

DuMond requested Park Board consideration to initiate discussions with the owner of the parcel if they are in support of potential park property expansion. DuMond proposed to have Lemley communicate with the property owner of the Board's desire to have the opportunity to make an offer to potentially purchase the parcel if the owner(s) were to reach a point in which they would want to sell it.

Emsweller added to the discussion saying that he believed at one time an agreement existed with the property owner(s), giving the Board the opportunity to have first right of refusal if the owner(s) were to part ways with the property. Emsweller went on to say that the agreement came about for the same reasons DuMond presented. Emsweller suggested to re-visit the topic with the property owner to communicate Park Board's interest in acquiring the parcel if the opportunity were to be made available. It was determined that Lemley would communicate Park Board intentions with the property owner to maintain interest in acquiring the parcel.

C-2. Vandalia Trail – American Rescue Plan Act Subrecipient Application

Lemley advised that with recent support and guidance from several leaders throughout Hendricks County, the decision was made to apply for a Vandalia Trail expansion project that would potentially be funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and managed by local subcommittee consisting of Hendricks County Officials. If the application receives support, the capital investment project would provide the department the ability to expand HCP&R section of the Vandalia Trail, installing approximately two miles of paved trail from Lambert Park in Clayton, westward, to just short of County Road 250 West, along County Road 500 South. The requested amount would cover all or most of the cost for this trail expansion project, including engineering/design and asphalt pavement.

C-3. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park – Playground Swing Set Proposal

Lemley reported that HCP&R staff has dedicated time to explore options to implement a large commercial swing set (adult, infant, special needs, and tire) within the playground area and connecting to the existing playground equipment of W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park later this year. Lemley provided proposals from two playground vendors, Bears Playground and Play Pros. Preliminary quotes include safety surfacing package and shipping, with Bears Playground quote coming in at \$21,073.80. Lemley explained that Play Pros did not provide a formal quote submittal but provided information for swing features with costs significantly higher than the allotted budget. Lemley requested Park Board approval to purchase the proposed playground swing set from Bear's Playground using dedicated donation funds through The Parks Foundation of Hendricks County (PFOHC) to fund the majority of the cost while utilizing funds from the unrestricted PFOHC account to cover the remainder. **Eisenhart moved to approve the purchase of playground swing set from Bear's Playground and to approach Parks Foundation of Hendricks County to request financial assistance per Lemley's request; Seconded by Freije; motion passed unanimously.**

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

D-1. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park – Proposed Revisions for Annual Crop Lease

In preparation for the installation of a maintenance facility at W.S. Gibbs Park, Lemley advised the Park

Board to consider revising the Cash Farm Lease with tenant farmer Jason and Dan Searcy. Lemley requested Park Board approval to reduce the original lease of 42.3 tillable acres to 34.5 tillable acres to accommodate for the future installation of the maintenance facility, security fleet fence, and service roadway. Lemley noted that since Searcy had already submitted the spring payment per the original lease agreement, the fall payment will be adjusted to reflect the proposed lease agreement revisions. After additional discussion **Eisenhart moved to reduce the crop lease tillable acres from 42.3 acres to 34.5 acres; seconded by Freije; motion passed unanimously.**

D-2. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park – Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant Update

Lemley informed the Park Board that John Flood, Assistant Staff Archaeologist for Cardno, submitted the W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park (phase 1) archeology report to the Indiana Department of Historical Preservation and Archeology (DHPA) on March 11th, 2022. Lemley said that DHPA has until April 11th to respond with their recommendations and will carbon copy the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) within their response. Flood has recommended to the DHPA that the project proceed with a minor adjustment to the initial installation site on the northern restroom location, to avoid disturbing ground within the areas that artifacts were located. Furthermore, DNR Grants Section Chief Coordinator, Bob Bronson, will continue to follow our application packet review process closely and is hopeful that the submittal of the grant application packet to the Federal Government will occur soon thereafter. Lemley will follow up with Bronson on April 11th for an update.

E. PROPERTY UPDATES

E-1. McCloud Nature Park

Lemley thanked the Park Board for their dedication to the Department in support of the Pancake Breakfast hosted at McCloud Nature Park on March 5th and 12th. Eisenhart said that approximately \$2,100.00 was collected through donations from attendees and mentioned that they would like to see the Pancake Breakfast continue in the future. Lemley noted that donation funds will be utilized for Nature Center enhancement projects that will occur later in the year. Eisenhart added that it would be a good idea to create a public relations type of volunteer position next year for someone to engage and communicate with breakfast attendees throughout the course of the event in an effort to better connect with park patrons.

Lemley stated that Turner Forestry and several volunteers were successful in conducting the 52-acre prescribed burn on the McCloud Nature Park prairie on March 28th. Lemley informed the Park Board that toward the end of the prairie burn, a crew member discovered a large dead branch within a Sycamore tree that had caught on fire. The branch was elevated about 35+ feet and was connected to a large hollow tree. Lemley contacted Eel River Township Volunteer Fire Department for assistance with eliminating the potential wildfire danger. The maintenance team will be removing volunteer woody growth from the prairie over the next several weeks. Lemley also mentioned that even though the prairie quality is improving, Turner Forestry recommends conducting a prescribed burn for an additional year. Ivie expressed some reservations regarding Turner's recommendation. Lemley stated that they will revisit the discussion before a final determination is made.

As of Thursday, March 31st, TRAFx counters documented 1,673 vehicles visiting the park this month.

E-2. Vandalia Trail

Lemley reported that he had the opportunity to meet with Clayton town resident and business owner, Anthony Murrain to review with him HCP&R's desire to expand the Vandalia Trail into the Town of Clayton. Murrain owns two businesses that would be in proximity of the future trail. Lemley went on to

say that Murrain was supportive of the trail being developed along CR 500 South, south of his businesses but will not support the trail being routed through Michigan Street in front of his residence. Lemley stated that additional design work may be needed to accommodate the route. Lemley requested Park Board approval to have Right-of-Way Agent with Beam, Longest & Neff (B-L-N) survey the area and provide information pertaining to fair market value for the perpetual easement through Murrain's business parcel(s) abutting CR 500 South.

Miner asked Lemley what the next proposal would be with routing the next section of future trail through Clayton. Lemley responded stating that in order for the Town of Clayton to support HCP&R trail expansion, would be to get the trail to Lambert Park and then route the trail pathway utilizing existing sidewalks and crosswalks, as well as installing new sidewalks, to create pedestrian connectivity within the limited confines that presents itself through a portion of Clayton, then making a way to the Clayton Town Hall, and finally connecting to an existing large Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) sidewalk along SR 39. From there, the path route will follow existing sidewalk through downtown Clayton. Lemley noted that the Town would like this to be part of an economic development project to include signage to direct patrons through Clayton. The Park Board approved Lemley to work with Ryan Buckley, Right-of-Way Agent with B-L-N, to survey the area and provide information pertaining to fair market value for the perpetual easement through Murrain's property.

As of Thursday, March 31st, TRAFx counters documented 1,574 patrons visiting the Vandalia Trail this month.

E-3. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park

Lemley advised that the maintenance team installed electrical services within the two pavilions at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park. While working on this task the maintenance crew was able to install drainage tile to divert excess rainfall from the pavilion locations. To finalize the project, Lemley said that seamless gutters/downspouts, fascia trim, gutter guards, and snow guards will be installed by No. 1 Exteriors, with the work scheduled to be completed on April 12th, 2022.

Lemley informed the Park Board that the Naturalist team is working on bringing new programming activities and events to W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park. The installation of an archery safety net and purchase of related equipment will provide the ability to host Introduction to Archery events.

Lemley reported that HCP&R staff has prepared and submitted a grant application to the Hendricks County Recycling District for consideration within their spring 2022 grant application process. The awarded grant, if approved, will focus on a tree reforestation project within the only idle field at Gibbs Park and will provide the department the ability to purchase 271 native trees.

Lemley shared that he had the opportunity to meet Shaun Miller, Director of Operations for Heritage Interactive Service LLC, during the initial day of the Maple Syrup Day/Pancake Festival, as Miller was actively seeking a local host site for his team to conduct a community engagement project for the upcoming Earth Day on April 22nd. Miller's team will be assisting with general spring landscaping projects throughout the park, while also donating and planting a variety of approved tree species throughout Gibbs Park.

Lemley informed the Park Board that additional Eagle Scout projects are being evaluated for potential use at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park, one of which is a Gaga Pit.

Lemley advised that he received a short notice disc golf tournament request recently from Jason Nowakowski with Disciple Disc Golf, LLC. Nowakowski is seeking approval to hold a sanctioned Professional Disc Golf Association tournament on April 30th, 2022. Lemley noted that Nowakowski has worked with Hendricks County Disc Golf Club in the past and appears to be in good standing relationship with them. Seymour added that the proposed tournament will have approximately 35 to 40 participants, but will max out at 72, and will run from 9:00 a.m. until approximately 4:00 p.m. The Park Board directed Lemley to authorize the event at his discretion. Additionally, the Board provided Lemley the authority to approve future disc golf tournament event requests accordingly.

As of Thursday, March 31st, TRAFx counters documented 2,900 vehicles visiting W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park this month.

F. REPORTS

F-1. Superintendent Report

Lemley reported that he and Legal Counsel Attorney, Greg Steuerwald, discussed the recent invoice HCP&R department received from Steuerwald, Witham & Youngs, LLP. Steuerwald notified Lemley that it had been decided that each department within the County will be responsible for paying for legal fees out of their respective individual department budget. Steuerwald recently received notice that this new procedure will be standardized throughout the County going forward. Lemley notified the Park Board that funding for this invoice can be provided out of Professional Services. The Park Board approved to provide payment for such invoice to Steuerwald, Witham & Youngs. Ivie added that they will request additional budget line item to cover costs for legal fees at the next budget hearing with Hendricks County Council.

Lemley reported that full event sponsorship from two local vendors, Katie's Dog Grooming and Bug-Out, HCP&R staff have successfully procured movie licenses from Swank Motion Pictures necessary to advertise and host two free movie night events at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park this summer.

F-2. Budget Report

Ivie reported no issues or concerns with the budget report to date.

Ivie brought to the attention of the Park Board that the funds currently provided in Land Acquisition line item and Non-Reverting Capital (Land Acquisition) Fund is a finite amount of money, further explaining that Land Acquisition line item will begin to deplete as Vandalia Trail expands. Ivie advised the Park Board to consider how future land acquisitions between all Park Board owned properties will be prioritized. Lemley added to the discussion saying that as the Park Board prioritizes the master plan related to land acquisitions, that they take into consideration that the funds available in Park Non-Reverting Capital (Land Acquisition) Fund will require approval from Hendricks County Council for use of funds.

Ivie and Lemley stated that the Comprehensive Master Plan Review will be discussed at the next Park Board meeting.

F-3. Parks Foundation of Hendricks County Report

Emsweller and Eisenhart advised that there isn't anything new to report.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

The next Park Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 4th at 2:00 p.m. at the Hendricks County Parks and Recreation Department Main Building Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Freije, Secretary