



Park Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 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 (Departed 3:55 p.m.)
Matt Freije, Secretary (Departed 3:55 p.m.)
Bill DuMond (Arrived 2:12 p.m.)
Paul Miner
Jeff Pell (Arrived 2:04 p.m.)

Board Absent: Gary Emsweller

Staff Present: Ryan Lemley, Superintendent
Eric Ivie, Assistant Superintendent
Joe Lembo, Assistant Park Naturalist
Patty Seymour, Administrative Assistant

Staff Absent: Jim Holtsclaw, Park Manager
Sarah Wolf, Park Naturalist

Guests: James Curry, Tallgrass Energy
Brian Brozek, Indianapolis Admirals Sailing Club
Peter Pippen, Indianapolis Admirals Sailing Club

A. CALENDAR

A-1. Adopt Agenda

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

A-2. Approval of Minutes from May 4th, 2022, Park Board Meeting

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

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS / PRESENTATIONS

B-1. Public Comments

Lemley informed the Park Board of a request he received from Brian Brozek, Director of the Indianapolis Admirals Sailing Club, concerning the club's desire to utilize the main pond at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park for their radio-controlled sailboat events. Lemley introduced Brian Brozek and Pete Pippen to the Park Board. Brozek explained to the Park Board that Indianapolis Admirals Sailing Club has been in existence for 35 years and has utilized a pond at Grand Park in Westfield Indiana for their events for the past nine years. Grand Park is the host site for the Indianapolis Colts summer camp during this timeframe. For this reason, Brozek said that the club is currently without a site to host their events. Brozek explained that the radio-controlled sailboats make minimal noise except for the flapping of the sails during their racing events. The events are typically held on Saturdays beginning around 10:00 a.m. and sailing until about 3:30 p.m. with approximately 10 to 12 participants racing.

Lemley thanked Pippen and Brozek for attending the meeting and bringing in an example of the sailboat for the Park Board to view. Lemley encouraged the sailboat club to reserve the Bluegill Shelter for their events if approved by the Park Board. Brozek and Pippen said that the main pond near the Bluegill pavilion would be sufficient for their use and see no reason to utilize the smaller pond. Brozek stated that they foresee three areas for staging the boats for a wet launch within the pond area and is aware that the pond was built with a safety ledge. Lemley reminded the Park Board that the ponds have been stocked by Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fish and Wildlife for consumptive fishing and that this is something to take into consideration for the future if the request is favorable to receiving Park Board approval as well as notifying Pippen and Brozek of the submerged fish habitats located within the pond. Pippen stated that the club will provide a Certificate of Liability Insurance as well. Lemley requested Park Board approval for Indianapolis Admiral's request to utilize the main pond at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park for their late summer sailboat events to occur on 7/30, 8/6, 8/13, 8/20, 8/27 and possibly 9/3. **Eisenhart moved to approve Lemley's request; seconded by Freije; motion passed unanimously with DuMond abstaining.**

B-2. Jim Curry – Easement Request for Duke Energy

Lemley advised the Park Board that James Curry, a representative from Tallgrass Energy, has approached our department concerning an additional power and communication line utility easement through Park Board owned property of the future Vandalia Trail expansion along County Road 500 South. Tallgrass Energy is representing Duke Energy for the proposed easement request. Lemley provided the Park Board a copy of the proposed easement request from Tallgrass Energy highlighting potential concerns within the easement document per legal counsel review with Hendricks County Attorney, Greg Steuerwald. Lemley introduced James Curry to the Park Board and invited him to join the discussion topic.

Curry explained to the Park Board that he has been tasked with securing easements for Duke Energy to supply power to the methane gas pipeline ran by Rockies Express Pipeline to electrify the valve structures in order to shut off the mainline valve for the natural gas pipeline within a 15-minute timeframe. Curry stated that all work within the requested easement area is underground with no above ground structures. Miner asked Curry if the future paved trail was in place, would it be damaged in any way. Curry responded saying no that it would not be impacted. Curry requested the Park Board to red line the easement document he provided from Duke Energy and return to him for Duke Energy's review. The Park Board agreed to Curry's request.

DuMond brought to the discussion consideration for easement. Curry responded in saying that historically Duke Energy has not been known to compensate for the use of easements but continued to say that Rockies Express Pipeline and/or Tallgrass Energy may consider paying for the easement up to

\$1,000.00. DuMond asked Curry if this is a for profit project. Curry replied saying yes, they are a for profit company. DuMond pointed out to Curry that any time the Park Board secured easements, they were required to compensate for such easement. Curry mentioned that they did compensate Waste Management for an easement recently but could not disclose the amount.

Hayden asked Curry what the depth and voltage of proposed power line would be. Curry replied saying that he did not have that information but would find out and provide it to the Park Board. Eisenhart asked Lemley what he would recommend doing, going forward. Lemley recommended that the easement document be updated per legal counsel recommendations while adding any Park Board comments and changes to said document to provide to Curry for Duke Energy review and approval. If the updated document does not meet Duke Energy's approval, it should be tabled and brought back to review at the next Park Board meeting. Upon further conversation it was decided to table the discussion for later in the meeting allowing Curry to gather additional information prior to the Park Board voting on such request.

Hayden invited Curry back to the discussion upon returning to the Park Board meeting. Curry presented to the Park Board that they are prepared to provide compensation of \$1,500.00 for proposed easement, while adding an additional \$1,500.00 payment from Rockies Express Pipeline for proposed easement to bury the 240/120 single phase power line at a depth of 48 inches, including final restoration efforts from construction of such power line installation, with all installation being underground within the easement area. **Freije moved to appoint Hayden as easement signatory subject to easement document revisions per Park Board and Hendricks County legal counsel recommendations, and subject to \$3,000.00 compensation for such easement; seconded by Eisenhart; motion passed unanimously.**

Lemley agreed to provide a redlined easement document to Curry, per Park Board and legal counsel revisions and will hold easement compensation check upon Duke Energy review and approval of such easement revisions.

C. NEW BUSINESS

C-1. McCloud Nature Park – Revised Deed Language Honoring L&WCF Grant

Lemley notified the Park Board that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Grants Coordinator, Lisa Herber, recently contacted him concerning a request for specific Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant language to be included within the property deed for McCloud Nature Park. Lemley explained that a large portion (123.82 acres) of the nature park was originally purchased with support from the LWCF grant in combination with the Indiana Heritage Trust Fund. The proposed revised property deed will include a brief paragraph pertaining to the LWCF grant, required from the National Park Service, to ensure that this portion of the nature park remains a public outdoor recreation facility in perpetuity. Lemley requested Park Board approval to revise the property deed for McCloud Nature Park to include specific language to meet the Department of Natural Resources requirements. **Miner moved to approve Lemley's request; seconded by Freije; motion passed unanimously.**

C-2. Vandalia Trail – Request to Host High Ropes Training (Danville Fire Department)

Lemley informed the Park Board that he received a request from Danville Fire Department to utilize the Vandalia Trail bridge at Crittenden Creek for high ropes rescue training. The goal for this exercise is to simulate the rescue of a patron that had fallen over the bridge railing into the creek. Dummy victims will be utilized within the training session and the metal bridge railing will not be impacted through this exercise. Several surrounding Fire Departments will participate in the specialized and insured training process and will receive the highest rope technician certification upon successful completion of such training. Lemley requested Park Board approval to allow Danville Fire Department to utilize a portion of

the Vandalia Trail for high ropes rescue training on July 13th, 2022. **Miner moved to approve Lemley's request; seconded by Freije; motion passed unanimously.**

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

D-1. Vandalia Trail – American Rescue Plan Act Grant Award

Lemley advised that with support from the Hendricks County American Rescue Plan Act selection committee, Hendricks County Commissioners, and the Hendricks County Council, the department received a \$990,000.00 award to support the eastern expansion of the Vandalia Trail from the Town of Clayton to a point west along County Road 500 South. Lemley reminded the Park Board that the land needed for the future trail expansion has previously been acquired, apart from one parcel whereas current discussion is taking place with the owner who appears to be in favor of the proposed expansion of the trail. Lemley made the Park Board aware that construction costs have increased significantly over the past several months, but it is the department's goal to solicit for engineering and designs services later this year, with the request for proposal to include project parameters of construction and layout of the proposed trail. Miner requested that any drainage issues that may impact the future trail be addressed. Lemley assured Miner that engineering site and design will take that into consideration, especially for placement of trail location. Lemley requested Park Board consensus to proceed with the request for proposal for engineering and site design for the eastern expansion of Vandalia Trail. **By consensus, the Park Board approved Lemley's request.**

D-2. Vandalia Trail – Easement Status

Lemley advised that with the assistance of Beam, Longest, and Neff (B-L-N) Right-of-Way Agent, Ryan Buckley, and Align Civil Engineering, engineering documents necessary to secure access for the future trail development through the Murrain parcels have been prepared. Lemley reminded the Park Board that parcel owner, Anthony Murrain, owns the commercial property where the future trail development will connect to Lambert Park in Clayton. Lemley went on to say that the existing right-of-way along C.R. 500 South will be sufficient for trail development, however an easement on the portion of Murrain's land (Clayton Self Storage, LLC.) will be required to cover the amount of property needed to construct an ADA compliant paved trail as it turns north heading toward Lambert Park. DuMond encouraged Lemley to discuss the proposed trail placement that would be encompassed within the portion of the existing road right-of-way along C.R. 500 South with Hendricks County Engineer, John Ayres. Lemley responded stating that he would discuss with Mr. Ayres. Lemley requested Park Board approval to approach Anthony Murrain with a fair market value offer for easement along Lot 3 of the parcel he owns, to allow for the construction of the future expansion of the Vandalia Trail. **Miner moved to approve Lemley's request; seconded by Pell; motion passed unanimously.**

Lemley reported that B-L-N Right-of-Way Agent, Ryan Buckley, has gained some traction with acquiring an easement through the Pringle parcel. Although no formal agreement has been reached with the recent on-site meetings with Mr. Pringle, Lemley expressed that Mr. Pringle is entertaining selling a 30-foot easement to the Park Board through the parcel he owns along C.R. 500 South between Amo and Clayton. Lemley provided a list of items, provided below, that Pringle would like addressed by the Park Board as part of negotiations for providing an easement to the Board.

1. Tree barriers visually separating Pringle's property from the future trail, that does not include maple trees.
2. Release of liability issued to the Pringle's for any liability from anyone entering the trail through the easement area of the property.
3. Provide assurances that a trailhead would not be constructed to the east and west of the Pringle parcel.

4. Existing culvert/drainage pipe accommodations.
5. Excavated earth/soil to be disposed of on Mr. Pringle's occupied residential parcel.

Lemley advised the Park Board of Buckley's recommendation to concur with Pringle's requests except for the third topic item, whereas Buckley suggested to provide assurances to not construct a trailhead within a certain distance east or west of the Pringle parcel, and not indefinitely. After much discussion the Park Board conceptually agreed with Buckley's recommendations and agreed to allow provisions for Lemley to be flexible with providing length parameters pertaining to Pringle's topic item number 3. **By consensus the Park Board gave Lemley approval to allow Buckley to move forward with approaching Mr. Pringle to secure easement for future expansion of Vandalia Trail as outlined above.**

D-3. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park – Maintenance Hub

Lemley updated the Park Board that he and staff had met with a soil scientist along with Align Civil Engineering Consultants to view and collect soil samples necessary for the W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park maintenance hub septic system. Due to the nature of the soil in this area, along with compaction from previous farming activities, the soil scientist is recommending that the septic field can only be installed at a depth of approximately 36 inches, as drainage would be poor, at best, beyond this depth. Lemley went on to explain that the maintenance hub septic can remain within the planned area, but a septic perimeter drain with pump to a small retention pond for a holding area will most likely be required. The septic application along with the soil analyses has been submitted to the Indiana Department of Health for their review in which they have at least 30 working days to review the application.

E. PROPERTY UPDATES

E-1. McCloud Nature Park

Lemley reported that a portion of the Maintenance team has started the task of replacing deteriorating siding and two exterior restroom doors on the McCloud Nature Center. The deteriorating siding is being replaced with Hardie Plank concrete siding on the east and west side of the building, as well as enhancements being made to the awning overhang to make it more inviting.

Lemley thanked Park Board member, Paul Miner, for successfully securing a full sponsorship of \$1,500.00 to cover associated department costs for the 2022 Fall Colors Run that will take place this fall in conjunction with the Fall Colors Festival at McCloud Nature Park.

TRAFx counters documented 2,405 vehicles visiting the park this month. Lemley noted that visitation totals include attendance from Memorial Day weekend, as the information was not captured within the June Park Board packet.

E-2. Vandalia Trail

Lemley informed the Park Board that the memorial bench for Annie Brock's late mother, Patty Crouse, has been installed. This memorial bench request preceded HCP&R Memorial Bench policy and was sponsored by Annie in memory of her mother for her continual effort to support the development of the Vandalia Trail.

Lemley advised that the vandalism that had previously been occurring within the Coatesville trail head restroom along the Vandalia Trail has ceased. The Town of Coatesville has recently installed a hard-wired security system that captures the exterior of the public restroom for around the clock monitoring.

TRAFx counters documented 2,583 patrons visiting the Vandalia Trail this month while pointing out

that the pedestrian count includes visitation over the Memorial Day weekend.

E-3. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park

Lemley reported that the most recent hurdle to overcome with the Land & Water Conservation Fund grant award process was receiving clearance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the future installation of an ADA accessible fishing dock with the smaller 1.1-acre public fishing pond. Supporting documentation was quickly acquired through Sarah Keller, Indiana Regulatory Office for the USACE. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has been provided the information required to submit to the National Park Service (NPS), in which the final stretch of the approval process is within reach. Lemley informed the Park Board that recent communication with USACE initiated a wetland permit review process on Phase 1 development of W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park as the proximity of the pond forebay and identified wetland was being questioned. With continued assistance and support from Align Civil Engineering Consultants, a satisfactory response from USACE on the violation rebuttal has been received, as HCP&R has remained in compliance under the current law with the permanent file being updated to reflect such compliance.

Lemley advised that the cedar swing set from Bears Playground has been received and installed at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park and continues to be a popular attraction for park patrons. Lemley noted that the special needs swings are on back-order and will be installed once received. Temporary adult belt swings are currently housed within the ADA swing bay.

Lemley reported the Hendricks County Disc Golf Club hosted the 2022 Gibbs Open Flex singles disc golf tournament on July 2nd at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park. The event was a sanctioned tournament through the Professional Disc Golf Association and quickly reached the 80-participant maximum.

TRAFx counters documented 4,835 vehicles visiting W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park this month. Lemley reminded the Park Board that the vehicle count includes visitation over Memorial Day weekend.

F. REPORTS

F-1. Superintendent Report

Lemley highlighted that the Innkeepers tax collection generated \$324,337.08 with the HCP&R department receiving 50% of those funds.

Lemley reported that he and Ivie have been participating in the County funded Management in Action Program training. Lemley mentioned that training sessions have been beneficial toward learning more about good management practices and the team we are a part of.

F-2. Naturalist Update

Assistant Park Naturalist, Joe Lembo, provided the Park Board a summary of upcoming events and activities the Naturalist team have been planning. One such activity being offered is Movies in The Parks where they will be showing the Bee Movie on July 15th. Lembo noted that the first Movie Night event that was held on June 19th, featuring ‘Clifford The Big Red Dog’, brought almost 50 participants to the inaugural event. Lembo voiced positive comments toward the event and expressed enthusiasm in anticipation for the upcoming Movie Night in the Park event.

Lembo informed the Park Board that summer day camps are still in effect with two of the day camps being offered to end out the summer camp season. Lembo added that the summer day camp season has been successful as the camps have reached maximum attendance. Upcoming day camps being offered are the Tinkerers and Aquabenders camp.

Lembo noted that the Pollinator Party event is scheduled for August 27th at McCloud Nature Center. Lembo added that this is an exciting event for the Naturalist team as they look forward to opening the bee house up for observation and build activities around honeybee education and pollination. One of the activities taking place will be making seedballs using local wildflower seed mixture and soil. Lembo informed the Park Board that the 'Bee-hive', a local food vendor, will be on site for attendees to purchase food items during the event as well as Orange Leaf being present to provide a custom-made frozen yogurt flavor created specifically for the event, for patrons to purchase.

Tadpole Time and Homeschool Ecology programs are getting ready to start back up again as schools return from summer break with Park Naturalist, Sarah Wolf, leading the Homeschool program. Lembo said that they continue to see a good variety of participants with both programs being popular for these age groups.

Lembo informed the Park Board that they will be reaching out to senior citizen groups as they are seeing an increase in attendance during recreational events at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park for this age group. Lembo mentioned that the new Assistant Naturalist, Linda Nichols, has been a great addition to the team and will be assisting with community outreach specifically targeted for this type of audience.

Lemley thanked Lembo for attending the meeting and providing the Park Board an update on Naturalist led programming. Lemley and Ivie both provided positive comments toward Lembo for his dedication, creativity, and enthusiasm he brings to the team.

F-3. Budget Report

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

F-4. Parks Foundation of Hendricks County Report

Eisenhart reported that the Hendricks County Community Foundation (HCCF) has asked the Parks Foundation of Hendricks County (PFOHC) to administer grants to be applied toward park projects.

Lemley announced that the PFOHC started the Summer Fun Run at the Amo Trailhead along the Vandalia Trail today and will run through Tuesday, July 12th.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Freije, Secretary