



Park Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 3rd, 2022
2:00 p.m.

955 E. Main Street
Danville, IN 46122

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m.

Board Present: Mike Hayden, President
Matt Freije, Secretary
Bill DuMond
Paul Miner
Jeff Pell

Board Absent: Brad Eisenhart, Vice President
Gary Emsweller

Staff Present: Ryan Lemley, Superintendent
Eric Ivie, Assistant Superintendent
Jim Holtsclaw, Park Manager
Joe Lembo, Assistant Naturalist (Departed 2:39 p.m.)
Patty Seymour, Administrative Assistant

Staff Absent: Sarah Wolf, Park Naturalist

Guests: None

A. CALENDAR

A-1. Adopt Agenda

Lemley requested to amend the agenda to discuss Duke Energy Easement during B-1. Public Comments and to discuss F-2. Naturalist Update as B-2. after B-1. Public Comments.

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

A-2. Approval of Minutes from July 6th, 2022, Park Board Meeting

Miner 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 a revised easement document from Duke Energy representative, Michael Lark, shortly before the board meeting. Lemley explained that with previous communication he had with Mr. Lark, he felt that Tallgrass Energy representative, Jim Curry, was misleading with who was benefiting from the easement request. Lemley went on to say that the easement is essentially for the benefit of Rockies Express Pipeline and Tallgrass Energy. Tallgrass requested Duke Energy's involvement to provide communication and electrical lines for Tallgrass' project. Lemley said that he had invited Lark to the Park Board meeting as a representative for Duke Energy to directly answer questions and/or address concerns the Park Board may have related to the easement document. Lark informed Lemley that a formal request to attend the Park Board meeting would need to be submitted to Duke Energy's Corporate Office. Lark went on to explain that Duke Energy would likely decline the request to attend the meeting, as the easement being requested is on behalf of Tallgrass Energy for the Rockies Express Pipeline project and not on behalf of Duke Energy. Furthermore, Lark clarified to Lemley that the customer is the one who is obligated to obtain the easement and in this case the customer is Tallgrass Energy on behalf of Rockies Express Pipeline. Lemley went on to provide the Park Board with additional information he had learned from his phone conversation with Mr. Lark.

Lemley provided the Park Board the revised easement document for their review and comments and explained that one of the partners with Hendricks County legal counsel, Graham Youngs, reviewed the revised easement document and was generally supportive of the revisions while recommending some minor changes. Lemley brought to the Park Board's attention some edits that he highlighted on the document for the Park Board to review and respond, while noting that legal counsel had previously agreed with Lemley's highlighted concerns. Lemley voiced his frustrations with how this process has been presented to the Park Board, himself, and HCP&R staff members involved, and feels that Rockies Express Pipeline is being poorly represented by Tallgrass Energy as Mr. Curry has been absent in communicating with the parties involved. DuMond asked Lemley if he had provided Hendricks County Attorney, Greg Steuerwald, DuMond's edited version of the easement document. Lemley replied saying that he did not send DuMond's edits to Steuerwald. DuMond commented that he was pleased with Duke Energy's response to the revised easement, while adding that he would prefer the document include some additional changes. The Park Board had further extensive discussion about a variety of concerns related to revisions within the easement document. It was determined that prior to the Park Board authorizing the easement request, a couple of minor changes will need to be honored by the Duke Energy legal team to better protect the eastern expansion of the Vandalia Trail. DuMond will provide Hayden and Lemley final revisions of the easement document for Lemley to coordinate review with Duke Energy's legal team. Hayden was delegated to authorize approval of the final easement document. Lemley will coordinate signatures with Hayden upon approval of such document.

B-2. Naturalist Update

Lemley invited Assistant Park Naturalist, Joe Lembo, to the table for discussion. Lembo provided the Park Board updates summarizing upcoming events the Naturalist team are planning. Lembo noted that preparations for the upcoming Pollinator Party is progressing well and reminded the Park Board that the event is scheduled for the end of August and will take place at McCloud Nature Park.

Lembo informed the Park Board that the Naturalist team is looking forward to hosting a stargazing event in partnership with the Indiana Astronomical Society at McCloud Nature Park in anticipation of the annual Perseid meteor shower that typically peaks around this time of year. The event is scheduled for Saturday, August 13th at 9:00 p.m.

Lembo reported that the summer day camps have concluded for the year, adding that the day camp season was a success as participation reached maximum attendance size for each program/event offered.

Lembo announced that he was successful in securing a programming event with the Hendricks County Senior Citizen Center in Danville and will be giving a presentation about bees for the first event which will take place in mid-August during the Center's lunch period. Lembo eagerly anticipates connecting with more audiences within the senior community to provide regularly scheduled programming activities.

Lembo notified the Park Board that event registration has opened for the upcoming family campout event scheduled for Saturday, September 17th at McCloud Nature Park. The campout event will be offered for one night only and will provide a pre-determined marked campsite for each family, including a campfire ring and s'mores, and will conclude with providing a continental breakfast on Sunday morning. The Naturalist staff will be available on site and will be leading several activities during the event. Ivie added that since the registration opened on Sunday, July 31st, more than half of the campsites have already been reserved for the event. Lembo pointed out that tents and other camping gear will be available for rental through Camptown, which is something new that will be offered this year. Lembo added that Camptown will also be putting on a program called "Leave No Trace". The workshop will focus on teaching practical skills to minimize one's impact on the parks and wilderness areas while visiting the park and will take place on September 17th, prior to check-in time of the family campout event.

Lembo reminded the Park Board that the Beaver Chase Trail Race is quickly approaching and will be held on Saturday, August 13th at McCloud Nature Park, while also mentioning that he is preparing to host a picnic lunch for his Counselors in Training (CIT) and ACORN teen members on the same day at McCloud Nature Park.

Lembo concluded with notifying the Park Board that the Tadpole Times program will be starting back up for the school year and will be conducted by Assistant Park Naturalist, Linda Nichols, who volunteered to lead it. Lembo added that Park Naturalist, Sarah Wolf, will be leading the Homeschool Ecology Series program for home-schooled children, as the school season approaches.

C. NEW BUSINESS

C-1. Vandalia Trail – Request for Qualifications Packet (Eastern Expansion)

Lemley provided the Park Board a draft version of the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) packet for their review and input/comments. Lemley reminded the Park Board that the RFQ is necessary to start the eastern expansion of Vandalia Trail and explained that the detailed draft packet provides a general overview of the department's background, among other details, and includes a tentative timeline for the process of partnering with an engineer and design team to successfully expand the trail. Lemley requested Park Board input on the proposed RFQ for engineering and design services necessary to expand the trail from Lambert Park in Clayton to South County Road 250 West. Additionally, Lemley requested Park Board consent to proceed with advertising the associated RFQ packet subject to any revisions they may have. Lemley added that if the RFQ receives Park Board approval and is advertised, a subcommittee will need to be formed. The subcommittee would consist of three Park Board members and several HCP&R staff members to review the submitted proposals received from engineering design firms. Additionally, the subcommittee will need to develop a scoring system to evaluate the qualification packets. The subcommittee will then provide the Park Board a recommended vendor for the project. Lemley recommended Eric Ivie, Jim Holtsclaw, and himself to serve on the subcommittee as HCP&R

staff.

Lemley proposed to review the RFQ applications mid-September, with a submittal deadline of September 6th, 2022, ahead of the September Park Board meeting, with the Park Board award potentially occurring within the October 5th meeting. Much discussion took place about a variety of questions and concerns related to the subject matter. DuMond volunteered to assist the subcommittee but could not commit to being on the committee due to schedule conflicts. Miner volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. Hayden recommended asking Eisenhart to serve on the committee as well and welcomed DuMond's offer to assist. **Miner moved to approve Lemley's request; seconded by Pell; motion passed unanimously.**

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

D-1. Vandalia Trail – Easement Acquisition

Lemley provided an update on the status of the easement acquisition for the connecting parcel into Lambert Park (Clayton) along County Road 500 South, owned by Anthony Murrain. Lemley went on to say that Beam, Longest, and Neff (B-L-N), Right-Of-Way Agent, Ryan Buckley, presented the fair market purchasing offer to Murrain for the perpetual easement encompassing 6,358 square feet. While presenting the purchase offer to Murrain, Buckley informed him that the Park Board will not be seeking additional easement on the property that houses Murrain's excavating business located to the west and explained that the existing right-of-way along County Road 500 South will be sufficient for such trail development in that area. Buckley reported to Lemley that Murrain thought the fair market offer was low and requested additional time to think it over.

Lemley advised that Buckley presented an assurance letter to Mr. Pringle, previously authorized by the Park Board, addressing his requests from prior discussions. Lemley explained that it appears that Pringle is seriously considering selling the Park Board a connective easement through his property along County Road 500 South but is currently dealing with a more pressing matter of personal concern.

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

Lemley reported that Align Civil Engineering Consultants have continued to make progress with the local approval process for the proposed maintenance facility at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park and provided a copy of the preliminary site design plans to the Park Board for review and comments. Align Civil Engineering is preparing to submit the Development Plan Review (DPR) packet to the Town of Avon ahead of their August 5th deadline, therefore, allowing ample time for Avon Town Staff to review the proposed project and provide their recommendations to Avon's Plan Commission prior to the formal meeting scheduled for September 26th. Lemley requested the Park Board forward their comments and/or revisions to him upon completion of their review and prior to the Development Plan Review Hearing.

Lemley notified the Park Board he recently received an update from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) Drinking Water Branch concerning the water well for the facility and explained that due to the classification of the maintenance hub, the facility will not be required to register as a public water supply system, as it is considered a private service well identified as a Transient Non-Community Supply System by IDEM. Lemley remarked that having this classification will significantly ease department responsibilities for the well permit and required testing process. A variety of topics were discussed related to the subject matter.

E. PROPERTY UPDATES

E-1. McCloud Nature Park

Lemley reported that the Maintenance team finalized the replacement of deteriorating siding and two

exterior restroom doors on the McCloud Nature Center and noted that improvements were made to the entrance awning as well. Miner added positive comments toward the department on their efforts toward such improvements.

Lemley stated that a portion of the Naturalist team recently partnered with MIBOR Realtor Association volunteer group to remove accumulated litter along the western border of McCloud Nature Park (Putnam County line).

Lemley reminded the Park Board that the Beaver Chase Marathon is scheduled to be hosted at McCloud Nature Park on Saturday, August 13th. Lemley remarked that communication, early on, with RaceMaker Productions' team has been extremely challenging to coordinate and plan for the upcoming event. However, RaceMaker Productions have been responsive to Lemley recently. Lemley further commented that the planning process with RaceMaker Productions have begun for the October Fall Colors Run.

Lemley reported that the Maintenance team has devoted substantial time and effort to enhancing the grounds at McCloud Nature Park in anticipation of the upcoming events that will be hosted at the park.

TRAFx counters documented 1,501 vehicles visiting the park this month. Lemley expressed concern over the low attendance at the park in comparison to previous years for the same period of time. Additional discussion took place regarding possible causes that may be contributing to the reduction in attendance. Lemley will continue to monitor attendance rate to determine how to respond with increasing attendance at the park in July.

E-2. Vandalia Trail

Lemley informed the Park Board that Mill Creek Community School Corporation (MCCSC) recently provided payment for the sanitary sewer easement that was previously granted by the Park Board. Lemley reminded the Park Board that the crop lease was revised to not plant crops within the easement area to accommodate for the construction of the sanitary sewer installation in anticipation of construction to begin late spring 2022. Lemley explained that the project being delayed has allowed for overgrowth of weeds within the easement area. It was decided that Lemley use his own discretion with how to respond in finding a resolution to the overgrowth.

As MCCSC resumes their fall semester, the weekly programming activities at Coatesville Park have ended. Lemley provided positive comments toward Wolf and the Naturalist team for taking the initiative in providing structured activities throughout the summer months at this location and added that several local parents voiced their appreciation and support for their involvement.

Lemley notified the Park Board that due to an emergency callout, Danville Fire Department was unable to conduct the high ropes rescue training session previously scheduled for July 13th to be hosted at the Vandalia Trail bridge over Crittenden Creek. The Park Board authorized Lemley to approve an alternative date to reschedule the event upon the fire department making such request.

Lemley informed the Park Board of a recent inquiry they received from a patron regarding the use of mobility scooters along HCP&R trails. Ivie responded to the inquiry, stating that HCP&R will honor the original request to use mobility scooters along the trails. Lemley went on to explain that the inquiry eventually evolved into the requestor asking if the use of a mini golf cart would be allowed on the trails. Lemley shared some concerns he has of allowing golf carts to utilize the trails for transportation and asked the Park Board for their thoughts and guidance on the subject. The Park Board shared the same concerns as Lemley and determined that the use of motorized means of transportation will be prohibited

along the trails excluding ADA compliant transportation means, such as wheelchairs and scooters.

Lemley advised that the Maintenance team has been devoting some of their time to trimming and removing impeding vegetation along the 4-mile stretch of Vandalia Trail. Lemley maintained that the highly visible areas along the asphalt trail are a top priority for the additional task, with the equestrian trail being a secondary responsibility for the crew. DuMond complimented the Maintenance team for their efforts in maintaining the trail.

TRAFx counters documented 2,070 patrons visiting the Vandalia Trail this month.

E-3. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park

Lemley reported that he was recently contacted by a member of the Gibbs family regarding some tree/limb removal around John “Chub” and Lydia Gibbs’ residence. Lemley explained that the family member was simply asking for input on the process and not requesting assistance from the Maintenance crew to remove them. Lemley was informed that the HCP&R is being included with decisions concerning their land because of the possibility of the Park Board and Hendricks County taking ownership of the remaining 20-acres of their residence soon. Lemley went on to say that a family member that was originally opposed to the County acquiring the land within a previous meeting, extended the conversation stating that his parents’ health is failing and that he could foresee the opportunity for the County to purchase the property within the next year. Several members of the family were present during Lemley’s visit and voiced their pleasure in witnessing the park being developed, along with their excitement for future development and portrayed a strong desire to preserve their legacy within the prospering county. Lemley shared that the Hendricks County Commissioners voiced their support in acquiring such parcel if the opportunity becomes available. Additional discussion took place relating to a variety of topics regarding such subject.

Lemley reported that the Indianapolis Admirals Sailing Club has begun utilizing the main pond at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park for their weekend sailboat competitions.

Lemley advised that the Hendricks County Disc Golf Club received approval to host an additional disc golf tournament at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park. The doubles event will take place on September 30th with tournament check-in occurring around 9:15 p.m. Lemley added that the tournament will be a “Glow Round” tournament and similar to the “Gibbs Ghostly Glow” tournament that took place last October.

Lemley informed the Park Board of a request received from Jane Pfoffenberger recently, concerning the donation of a memorial bench from the Avon Girl Scouts. Jane stated that one of her former Girl Scouts was a descendant of W.S. Gibbs and the bench is in honor of her and her daughter. Lemley explained that the request originated several years ago, prior to development of phase I and the memorial bench policy, and was conceptually supportive by then Interim Superintendent, Ivie. Ivie added to the discussion his thoughts of recollection from possible conversation that took place several years ago regarding the bench. The memorial bench was created from recycled bottle caps that the Girl Scouts have collected over the past several years. Lemley shared concern over the color of the bench as it does not mimic the other benches placed throughout the park, but later decided to grandfather the memorial bench installation while proposing to install the bench along a portion of the trail that is scheduled to be implemented soon. The Park Board concurred with Lemley’s decision.

Lemley announced that the two backordered special needs swings have been delivered and installed within the newly implemented swing set at Gibbs Park. Lemley added that the swing set has been a great

addition to the existing playground equipment that is already being enjoyed by an abundance of park patrons.

TRAFx counters documented 3,600 vehicles visiting W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park this month.

F. REPORTS

F-1. Superintendent Report

Lemley reported that the Hendricks County Commissioners conducted their scheduled annual performance review with him. While receiving positive feedback for the department, Lemley took the opportunity in requesting input from the Commissioners concerning their thoughts regarding a few topics of interest relating to potential challenges of the Vandalia Trail expansion, fleet vehicle replacement, and the possibility of utilizing the remaining 20-acre residence of John “Chub” and Lydia Gibbs as a welcoming center/administrative office for W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park.

Lemley reported that the Kubota UTV was accidentally damaged while conducting work on the Vandalia Trail but has recently been repaired by in-house Maintenance staff.

Lemley informed the Park Board that internet and phone services have been intermittently out of service for almost two weeks at McCloud Nature Park but has since then been restored.

Lemley reported that the in-house effort of developing the Fall edition of *The Explorer* has been finalized and anticipate the delivery process to remain on-schedule.

F-2. Naturalist Update

Agenda Item F-2. Naturalist Update was amended as B-2 to be discussed under Public Hearings/Presentations.

F-3. Budget Report

Ivie reported no problems with the 2022 budget to date. Ivie added that the Fuel and Oil Invoice has increased from previous months, explaining that the increase in fuel costs along with consumption increase in transporting equipment to Gibbs Park regularly has contributed to such increases with the budgeted line item. Ivie remains encouraged that the fuel consumption will decrease once the maintenance hub is complete eliminating the need to transport equipment back and forth from McCloud Nature Park to Gibbs Park.

Ivie reported that the Naturalists has just over 15% of funding left but is consistent with previous years during the same time period.

Lemley elaborated that the budget allotted to utilize for the completion of the interior of the maintenance facility remains intact for use when the time comes to complete such work.

Ivie provided further clarification related to management of budgeted line items as well as updating the Park Board on funds received from Innkeepers Fees.

F-4. Parks Foundation of Hendricks County Report

Lemley mentioned that HCP&R will be hosting the quarterly Parks Foundation of Hendricks County (PFOHC) meeting later this month.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

The next Park Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 7th, at 2:00 p.m. at the Hendricks County Parks and Recreation Department Main Building Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Freije, Secretary