



Park Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 5th, 2023
2:00 p.m.

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
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: Greg Midgley, National Road Heritage Trail Inc.

A. CALENDAR

A-1. Adopt Agenda

Lemley requested to amend the agenda to add Approval of Minutes from February 1, 2023, Park Board Meeting, revising the agenda as follows.

A-2. Approval of Minutes from February 1st, 2023, Park Board Meeting

A-3. Approval of Minutes from March 1st, 2023, Park Board Meeting

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

A-2. Approval of Minutes from February 1st, 2023, Park Board Meeting

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

A-3. Approval of Minutes from March 1st, 2023, Park Board Meeting

DuMond questioned the location of the proposed trail in relation to the Indianapolis Airport Authority (IAA) property, under discussion topic Public Hearings/Presentations during the Vandalia Trail discussion with Greg Midgely. After some discussion, it was determined that the wording will remain as submitted. Additionally, DuMond expressed shock regarding the estimate of \$3 million for the construction of an office at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park. Lemley remarked that the dollar amount was just a ballpark estimate based on general impressions and not any specific estimates.

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

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS / PRESENTATIONS

B-1. Public Comments

Midgley advised the Park Board that the rustic hiking trail in southwest Putnam County, he mentioned at last month's meeting, is progressing well, and is expected to be open in mid-April.

C. NEW BUSINESS

C-1. McCloud Nature Park - Grant Application for Gary Emsweller Parks & Trails Fund

Ivie advised the Park Board that a grant request to the Parks Foundation of Hendricks County (PFOHC) has been submitted for the 2023 Gary Emsweller Parks & Trail Fund. If approved, the grant request will fund the purchase of a new nature-inspired swing set with engineered wood safety surfacing package for future installation at McCloud Nature Park.

Pell noted that another possible grant opportunity with the Indiana Youth Institute Lilly Grant Program may be something to consider applying for.

C-2. Vandalia Trail – Proposed Easement for Charles Arnold Property

Lemley reminded the Park Board of previous discussions with Tony Murrain regarding the routing of the trail through Charles Arnold's property before entering the easement next to Murrain's business. Alexander Surveying, LLC has surveyed the proposed trail easement at Arnold's property bordering C.R. 500 South. Beam, Longest, and Neff (B-L-N) Right-of-Way Agent, Ryan Buckley, approached Mr. Arnold and presented two possible options: 1) Purchasing an easement suitable for trail construction, or 2) Purchasing the entire parcel. Arnold responded by requesting a relocation allotment for a structure on his property, if the entire parcel is purchased, along with reconstruction of a barn to replace the small structure that currently exists on the property. Lemley expressed concern about option 2, stating that it could get very expensive if that route is preferred by the Park Board and requested Park Board approval to proceed with the preparation of a legal description and parcel plot for a possible easement through Charles Arnold's property. Lemley added that the proposed easement would be suitable for trail construction and would eliminate the excessive cost of purchasing the entire property outright. **Miner moved to approve Lemley's request to proceed with the preparation of a legal description and parcel plot for a possible easement through Arnold's parcel; seconded by DuMond; motion passed unanimously.**

C-3. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park – Commercial Septic & Well Agreement for Future Restroom

Lemley requested Park Board approval to enter into agreement with Align Civil Engineering Consultants for engineering services related to the proposed full-service restroom facility with the commercial septic and well design. Lemley referred to the Professional Services Proposal, previously provided to the Park Board for review, and explained that the permit process will be lengthy due to the

nature of it being a public facility. The total cost for the associated engineering services is \$29,700.00. DuMond expressed astonishment over the cost of the proposal and commented that going forward he is not comfortable with single source quotes for such services. DuMond added that the cost may not be out of line in comparison with market costs but feels that the amount is a lot of money for proposed services. Lemley commented that he understands DuMond's concerns, but due to inflation, costs have increased by almost 40%. **Miner moved to approve Lemley's request to enter into agreement for the Provision of Limited Professional Services not to exceed \$29,700.00 with Align Civil Engineering Consultants for Commercial Septic and Well Design for Restrooms at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park; seconded by Pell; motion passed unanimously.**

D. PROPERTY UPDATES

D-1. McCloud Nature Park

Lemley reported that the annual Maple Syrup Days and Fundraising Pancake Breakfast hosted on March 4th and 11th was successful and brought in an estimated 1,146 attendees to the annual event. Over the course of both weekends, a total of 483 patrons attended the Pancake Breakfast and generated a record profit of \$2,689 from the fundraising event. Discussion took place about a variety of topics related to the event in preparation for the following years, including how to accept donation payments through registration of breakfast, amongst other ideas discussed. Lemley voiced his appreciation for the two local Boy Scout Troops (Troops 301 and 309) in providing assistance with the festival as well as hosting the cross-cut saw/maple leaf branding station, as it was a popular activity during the event.

Lemley commented on a job well done to Sarah Wolf for successfully implementing and coordinating the inaugural Sap Run event that took place on March 4th in partnership with RaceMaker Productions. Lemley noted that the course had to be altered the day before the event due to flooding and standing water from the excessive rainfall event that took place on Friday, the day before the race. Out of the 86 registrants, 59 participated in the run event. Hayden noted that he received positive comments on the course from a few participants after they completed the marathon.

Miner mentioned that the site where Granny McCloud's cabin once stood is now marked, and that it is now up to Stantec to take it from there. Miner inquired if compaction testing could be done in that area to see if any artifacts might be discovered along the old road. Lemley mentioned that he envisioned installing an interpretive sign in the area to share the history of the road and park with patrons as they hike the trail.

As of Thursday, March 30th, TRAFx counters documented 1,819 vehicles visiting the park this month.

D-2. Vandalia Trail

Lemley reported that Align Civil Engineering Consultants have made progress on the eastern expansion of the Vandalia Trail as they finalize preliminary work with the design phase of the project and the proposed trail alignment, adding that more updates will be provided next month.

The two seasonal restrooms located at the Coatesville trailhead and Amo trailhead along Vandalia Trail opened to the public on April 1st. Upon receiving approval from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), the restrooms will stay open through November (weather permitting) as opposed to the end of October.

Lemley informed the Park Board that the Town of Coatesville will be installing aesthetically pleasing light poles and lights, along the portion of Vandalia Trail that runs through Coatesville Town limits. The project is scheduled to be completed within the coming months.

Lemley said he spoke with Beverly Keener, neighboring landowner outside of Amo, regarding the equestrian trail in the vicinity of that area. Lemley said that Keener, who keeps a horse in the fenced area adjacent to the trail, said that she does not have issues with pedestrian foot-traffic use of the equestrian trail. Midgely provided a brief history of Keener's parcel in relation to the trail and fenced area prior to the installation of the trail and said that Keener had an informal agreement with the Town of Amo at the time the fence was installed. DuMond asked if the equestrian trail counter documented just horses. In response, Lemley said it is unknown because the counter is an infrared motion detected counter used to collect data, not a camera counter, but said that the 75 patrons counted is the most it could be. DuMond said he is reluctant to make any changes along the equestrian trail if, in fact, the number of users documented is accurate. Midgely added that this change is not about impacting the equestrian users, it's about impacting the neighbor. Furthermore, Midgely advised against going all the way in allowing bicycle traffic along the equestrian trail but expressed support for the trail to be open for pedestrian hiking first. Lemley added that they proceed with removing the "No Hiking Permitted" signs currently located within that area of the trail and to continue to monitor traffic in that area. After further discussion, the Park Board concurred with Lemley and directed him to open the trail up for foot traffic and continue to monitor trail use, collecting more data.

As of Thursday, March 30th, TRAFx counters documented 1,605 patrons visiting the Vandalia Trail this month. The newly installed equestrian trail counter documented 75 patrons utilizing the trail.

D-3. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park

Lemley reported that the silt fence has been installed in preparation for site work to begin on the maintenance hub at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park. Lemley requested Park Board approval to revise the annual crop lease with Dan Searcy, tenant farmer, due to the construction limits being larger than previously expected and impeding the tillable acreage by approximately 1-acre. The 1-acre rent price of \$210 will be credited to Searcy in the fall if approved by the Board. The Park Board directed Lemley to proceed with revision as requested.

Lemley reported that the final formality (building permit from the Town of Avon) for the future maintenance hub has been obtained. Due to the size of the building, the Town of Avon requires attic draft stops/separators every 3,000 square feet of attic space, along with the installation of two 20" x 40" attic accesses. Lemley requested the building contractor (Graber Post Building) provide a quote for the work. Due to the additional cost of the change order (\$12,950), Lemley informed the Park Board that he declined the change order and will request the maintenance team complete the work in-house. Once the weather cooperates, a team from John Hall Construction will begin the site work as outlined within the approved developmental plan.

Lemley reported that a portion of the maintenance crew has remained dedicated to the installation of a staircase for the outlook/sledding hillside at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park and is nearing completion of construction.

Lemley informed the Park Board that due to stormwater accumulation along the aggregate path, maintenance staff installed new drainage tile in five small sections of the newly installed Woodland Passage. The department will continue to monitor the area and respond accordingly.

Lemley notified the Park Board that Patty Seymour assisted with submitting a grant application request to the Hendricks County Recycling District's Community Grant Program for their consideration for the spring proposal period. If awarded, the grant request will fully fund the purchase of three picnic tables

constructed of long-lasting recycled material.

Lemley reported that the West Central Quail Forever (WCQF) board and supporting members have agreed to contribute funds toward the seed costs for the 8-acre native pollinator plot area for phase II of W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park. Hendricks County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will contribute funds toward the project as well.

Lemley reported that the habitual litterer at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park continues to be a problem as he disposes of a large amount of cigarette butts, along with trash, in a parking space at the park. Excessive littering has occurred at least three times a week over the past several months and continues to be problematic. Law enforcement has been notified and will monitor the park more in hopes of contacting the offender. Once the individual is identified, law enforcement has been requested to file a criminal trespass warning on the individual. Ivie explained more about the criminal trespass warning and what that would mean for the individual. Avon Police Department and Hendricks County Sheriff's Department have been alerted of the habitual offender.

As of Thursday, March 30th, TRAFx counters documented 3,060 vehicles visiting W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park this month.

E. REPORTS

E-1. Superintendent Report

Lemley reported that the department will be receiving two grants totaling approximately \$5,000 from support of the Benson family. The previously established grants by Ray and Mary Benson through dedicated accounts housed at the Hendricks County Community Foundation will be reserved for future development of W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park.

Lemley advised that Heritage Interactive Services will continue their partnership with HCP&R for their community involvement event scheduled for April 21st at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park. Heritage will donate 20 native trees to be planted as part of their community involvement event.

Lemley reported that the Summer 2023 edition of *The Explorer* is finalized and off to print.

Lemley thanked Emsweller and Miner for their involvement and dedication to the department and the Park Board as McCloud's 20th anniversary will be celebrated this May. Emsweller and Miner were two of the founding members of the department and the Park Board. Ivie added that the naturalists have several programs scheduled throughout the month of May, with Linda Nichols taking the lead planning in celebration of the anniversary.

Lemley reported that Hendricks County Council desires to implement a pay for performance incentive beginning in 2024. Lemley will request that Wolf, Holtsclaw, and Ivie participate in training next year in anticipation of their involvement.

E-2. Naturalist Update

Wolf reported that they have been receiving several requests for school field trips and the Naturalist staff is working hard to accommodate such requests before the end of the school year.

The Flashlight Egg-Streme Hunt event at McCloud Nature Park was rescheduled from Friday night, March 31st, to Saturday night, April 1st, due to the weather. Wolf described the event activities to the Park Board and said it was well received by attendees. Wolf informed the Board that the Camo Egg

Hunt event is scheduled for April 8th at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park from noon until 4:00 p.m.

Wolf updated the Park Board of upcoming programs and events scheduled through the month of April, adding that preparations are being made in anticipation of McCloud Nature Park's 20th anniversary celebration dedicated for the entire month of May.

E-3. Budget Report

Ivie reported no issues with the day-to-day spending of the 2023 budget.

Ivie informed the Park Board that preparations to accommodate the department's responsibility to match the roughly \$600,000 matching grant that was awarded through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant (LWCF) are in order. In meeting the 50% contribution to the Fund, roughly \$600,000 will need to be provided to match the \$600,000 grant awarded through the LWCF. Ivie explained that over the course of three years \$200,000 payments will be made for HCP&R portion of the matching grant, totaling approximately \$1.2M. Ivie went on to say that HCP&R department is planning to request authorization from Hendricks County Council to front all the money for the project. The County will be made whole through the yearly \$200,000 payments from HCP&R department budget along with reimbursement from the Federal Government for DNR's contribution. According to the Auditor's office, this method of payment and funding is routine for these types of grants. The funds used for such transactions will come out of the Other Improvements Line Item account and Development of County Parks Line Item account to contribute one third of HCP&R's portion for this budget year. Ivie went on to say that if the Park Board is in support of this, he recommends utilizing the Sodalís Payment fund soon and reminded the Park Board that use of funds for such project meets requirements of utilizing the Sodalís Payment funds set forth by the Town of Plainfield identified in the agreement of the sale of Sodalís Nature Park. Additional discussion took place regarding the subject matter. Lemley added that he plans to move forward by asking the Council to appropriate the Sodalís Payment fund to HCP&R budget to use that money to fund completion of the maintenance hub construction. Lemley asked the Park Board their thoughts on the matter. The Park Board responded in support of Lemley's request to utilize the Sodalís Payment fund for such work. Miner expressed confidence toward Ivie regarding the department budget.

E-4. Parks Foundation of Hendricks County Report

Eisenhart advised that there isn't anything to report from the Foundation.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Freije, Secretary