



Park Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 2nd, 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 (departed 3:00 p.m.)
Brad Eisenhart, Vice President
Matt Freije, Secretary
Bill DuMond
Paul Miner
Jeff Pell (arrived 2:05 p.m.)

Board Absent: Gary Emsweller

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

Guests: Greg Midgley, National Road Heritage Trail Inc.
Jeffrey Porch, Pittsboro Park Board President
Steve Maple, Town of Pittsboro
John Hill, Board Member of Fisher Hill Farms Inc.
Jackie Briggs

A. CALENDAR

A-1. Adopt Agenda

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

A-2. Approval of Minutes from June 7th, 2023, Park Board Meeting

Lemley requested to delay approval of the June 7th Park Board Meeting minutes after Pell arrives. Upon completion of Public Hearings/Presentations **Miner moved to approve minutes from the June 7th**

Park Board Meeting; seconded by Freije; motion passed unanimously, with Hayden and Eisenhart abstaining.

A-3. Approval of Minutes from July 12th, 2023, Park Board Meeting

Lemley requested to delay approval of the July 12th Park Board Meeting minutes after Pell arrives. Upon completion of Public Hearings/Presentations **Pell moved to approve minutes from the July 12th Park Board Meeting; seconded by Miner; motion passed unanimously, with Freije and DuMond abstaining.**

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/PRESENTATIONS

B-1. Public Comments

None

B-2. Fisher/Hill Forest Preserve (Pittsboro) – Partnership Discussion

Lemley remarked that he and Holtsclaw had met with Steve Maple with the Town of Pittsboro previously to discuss potential partnership opportunities as the Town of Pittsboro and Pittsboro Park Board explore options in developing a future nature preserve within the Town of Pittsboro. Lemley welcomed Maple and Jeff Porch (Pittsboro Park Board President) to the meeting and invited them to the table for discussion.

Maple introduced Jeff Porch, John Hill, and Jackie Briggs to the Park Board and referenced the information packet previously provided to the Park Board describing the proposed project. Maple said that the proposed project would likely be considered some sort of a nature preserve that includes pedestrian trail connectivity to the existing Hidden Hills subdivision adjacent to the Fisher Hill property along with possibly having the option of turning the dwelling structure currently on the property into some sort of office or classroom type of facility. Maple explained the Town of Pittsboro's financial state and noted that they will be looking into applying for several grants to help support the project. Maple noted that they do not have specific plans or a concept plan for the proposed project yet but wanted to seek guidance and advice from HCP&R department staff and the Park Board for the project. John Hill commented that they are looking for a simple uncomplicated transfer of ownership from the Fisher Hill Family Farms Corporation to whoever would be interested in realizing their vision for this type of project and would like to preserve the land in its natural state as much as possible. Hill added that they do not intend to sell the land for development.

Further extensive discussion about a variety of topics relating to the subject matter took place. The Park Board advised Maple that a concept site plan should be created and would likely be their first step in moving forward with such project and offered to provide contact information for potential resources in grant funding/writing and forestry expertise. Additionally, the Park Board determined that they are not in a position to provide HCP&R staff manpower as a resource but is supportive of providing their team limited guidance as they proceed with the project.

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

C-1. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park – Maintenance Hub Update

Lemley advised that site development construction is nearing completion at the W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park Maintenance Hub site. The septic system will be installed by Brian Stephenson as weather conditions allow. Lemley highlighted that the wet pond location required for fire protection will be located directly in front (east) of the maintenance facility. The revised location will provide the fire department access to the dry hydrant from the entrance roadway. The Town of Avon and Washington Township Fire Marshal has approved the revised fire protection site plan. John Hall Construction will be

providing a quote for the related work. In the meantime, HCP&R staff will be seeking alternative options for portable water storage to be placed on site temporarily in order to resume vertical construction. Lemley noted that the Fire Marshal has authorized use of one 21,000 gallon frac tank to be placed on site for temporary fire protection measures during construction and until the permanent fire protection measures are complete. Lemley and Seymour will coordinate such work. The building contractor, Graber Post, is scheduled to be back on site to resume vertical construction of the building on August 16th/17th, pending placement of temporary fire protection measures.

D. NEW BUSINESS

D-1. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park – Water Well Installation Estimates

Lemley reported that Seymour and Holtsclaw assisted with obtaining quotes from contractors for water well installation at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park to provide water service to the maintenance facility. Three contractors were contacted to provide a quote for such work. To date, C&J Well Company has been the only contractor to submit a scope of work and cost estimate for the job. Lemley requested Park Board approval to enter into an agreement with C&J Well Company for the installation of a well for the maintenance facility in the amount of \$10,269.50. Lemley noted that the cost could potentially increase if the contractor is required to drill beyond 85 ft. to reach the water table. **Miner moved to approve Lemley's request; seconded by Freije; motion passed unanimously.**

E. PROPERTY UPDATES

D-1. McCloud Nature Park

Lemley informed the Park Board that the Beaver Chase Marathon is scheduled for August 12th at McCloud Nature Park. The event will feature quarter, half, and full marathon opportunities.

Lemley reported that HCP&R maintenance staff completed installation of the nature-inspired cedar swing set and safety surface.

As of Thursday, July 27th, TRAFx counters documented 1,620 vehicles visiting the park this month.

D-2. Vandalia Trail

Lemley advised that Ivie has been working diligently on polishing the grant application for round 4 of the Next Level Trails grant program. The \$1.7 million grant request will fund the eastern expansion of Vandalia Trail if approved by the Department of Natural Resources grant selection committee. The selection committee will determine approved grant candidates in December 2023. Lemley provided positive comments toward Ivie for completing the grant application. Additional discussion took place relating to Vandalia Trail expansion options and previous easement appraisals along the proposed route.

Lemley informed the Park Board that a newly refurbished little free library unit was installed at the Amo trailhead by Sarah Wolf's father. Lemley thanked Wolf for volunteering to repair and enhance the Amo little free library.

Lemley reported that sign inventory for a 4-mile section of the Vandalia Trail has been completed by Holtsclaw. Seymour is reviewing the inventory and will be ordering signs to replace the previous stolen ones. Theft proof hardware will be used to secure the signs.

As of Thursday, July 27th, TRAFx counters documented 2,286 patrons visiting the Vandalia Trail this month. The TRAFx equestrian counter documented 65 patrons this month.

D-3. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park

Lemley highlighted that Ivie developed updated map brochures to include the newly expanded trail system, maintenance hub, pollinator/habitat plot, and additional amenities for the W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park.

The West Central Quail Forever club is scheduled to host their meeting for September at the Bluegill pavilion in Gibbs Park.

The Hendricks County Disc Golf club hosted their annual tournament on July 8th at the Gibbs Park disc golf course.

The upcoming Catch and Cook fishing event is scheduled to take place on August 8th at Bluegill Pond. Lembo will be leading the event.

As of Thursday, July 27th, TRAFx counters documented 4,481 vehicles visiting W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park this month.

E. REPORTS

E-1. Superintendent Report

Lemley reported that two rounds of interviews were conducted for the Lead Naturalist position that is vacant. 71 applications were submitted for the open position.

Development of the fall issue of the Explorer has been finalized and has gone to print.

Lemley reported that the annual budget hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, August 9th.

Lemley reported that he met with Hendricks County Facility Manager, Kevin Cavanaugh, to review HCP&R department office administrative needs for the proposed multipurpose building. A tentative construction timeline of late 2024 has been proposed. Lemley provided the Park Board a summary of his meeting with Cavanaugh for the proposed facility and noted that the facility will not be a long-term solution for HCP&R administrative staff as County Officials envisions the department to have an office at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park in the future. DuMond asked if this supersedes the sub-committee that was going to study options for HCP&R department office location. Lemley responded that he believes it does but feels that the subject should be discussed regularly to keep County Officials apprised for budgetary purposes. Additional discussion took place regarding the subject matter.

E-2. Naturalist Update

Lembo reported that the naturalists are preparing for the Pollinator Party at McCloud Nature Park scheduled for later in the month.

Lembo said that they are planning the upcoming Fall Colors Festival at McCloud Nature Park and the Fall Harvest Festival at W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park.

Lembo praised Linda Nichols and Joy Fulk for their extra work over the past few weeks with naturalist staff being down one full-time employee.

E-3. Budget Report

Ivie reported that an interpretive sign highlighting the history of the Warren truss bridge was recently purchased from Envirosigns. The remaining minor funds leftover in Exhibits and Displays line item account will be transferred over to Maintenance and Repairs line item account.

Lemley reported that the quarterly Land and Water Conservation Fund grant reimbursement request of \$4,358 from the State was recently submitted.

Ivie provided the Park Board a summary of various line item account fund transfers.

E-4. Parks Foundation of Hendricks County Report

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

ADJOURNMENT

Pell moved to adjourn; seconded by Freije; meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Park Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 6th, at 2:00 p.m. at the Hendricks County Parks and Recreation Department Main Building Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Freije, Secretary