



Park Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 1, 2026
2:00 p.m.

4481 Gibbs Road
Danville, IN 46122

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Board Present: Brad Eisenhart, President
Mike Hayden, Vice President
Matt Freije, Secretary
Vicky Byarley
Paul Miner
Jeff Pell

Board Absent: Gary Emsweller

Staff Present: Ryan Lemley, Superintendent
Eric Ivie, Assistant Superintendent
Avery Tyler, Park Manager
Patty Seymour, Administrative Assistant

Guests: None

A. CALENDAR

A-1. Adopt Agenda

Hayden moved to adopt the agenda; seconded by Byarley, the motion passed unanimously.

A-2. Approval of Minutes of June 3, 2026, Park Board Meeting

Miner moved to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2026, Park Board meeting; seconded by Freije, the motion passed unanimously.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/PRESENTATIONS

B-1. Public Comments

None

C. NEW BUSINESS

C-1. Proposals & Quotes to Demolish Mill Cottage (McCloud Nature Park)

Lemley reminded the Park Board of the deteriorating condition of Mill Cottage, noting the discovery of mold and asbestos contamination in the building. He presented the following demolition quotes and

the scope of work for the Park Board's review and consideration:

- Ray's Demolition: \$24,000
- McCullough Excavating & Silt Removal: \$24,400
- Denney Companies: \$25,386

Lemley recommended awarding the project to McCullough Excavating because their proposal included a \$3,000 allowance for asbestos inspection and abatement, which would help reduce potential unknown costs. Approval from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources has also been obtained. After further discussion, **Miner moved to award the demolition contract to McCullough Excavating & Silt Removal for \$24,400. The motion was seconded by Freije and passed unanimously.**

Ivie will file for the demolition permit with the County.

C-2. Request to Purchase Storage Garage

Lemley requested support from the Park Board to purchase a 16' by 24' storage building from Creek Side Structures for \$9,610, along with a \$210 access ramp. This storage garage will be placed near the maintenance barn, behind the arborvitae tree line, in preparation for the demolition of Mill Cottage, where programming supplies are currently stored. After some discussion, **Byarley moved to approve the purchase of both the storage building and the ramp. The motion was seconded by Freije and passed unanimously.**

D. PROPERTY UPDATES

D-1. McCloud Nature Park

Lemley informed the Park Board that the department recently received \$36,653.77 from the David A. Rodgers Trust to support future development at McCloud Nature Park. Additional funds are expected once the estate is settled. Staff leadership is currently discussing project options and ideas for a significant initiative that will utilize the generous donation. Potential future uses for the donation included trail improvements, shelters, and other park enhancements. Lemley also requested that the Park Board consider project ideas. Both Lemley and the Park Board expressed their gratitude for this generous donation.

A portion of the naturalist staff helped several volunteers from the B & O Trail Association host a SAG stop at McCloud Park on Saturday, June 13th, with an estimated 342 participants in the annual ride/event.

The naturalist staff organized a large volunteer group from CEVA Logistics, who dedicated three hours to improving the area around the Nature Center. Their main focus was the front flower beds, and additional work is planned for the bird-viewing area in the near future. CEVA generously donated \$750 to support the project. Lemley expressed his gratitude for their involvement.

A field team from Stantec completed the second maintenance session of the season for the arboretum on June 11th. Additionally, a specialty seed mix was purchased for the establishment of a 1-acre prairie pollinator plot surrounding the interpretive beehouse.

Lemley provided the Park Board with an update on both routine maintenance and new projects completed by the maintenance team in June.

Lemley informed the Park Board that a new DNR-prescribed fire specialist offered to conduct

educational workshops and training sessions in conjunction with future prescribed burns.

As of June 25th, TRAFx counters documented 1,843 vehicles visiting McCloud Nature Park this month.

D-2. Vandalia Trail

Week 5 of the Summer Fun Run & Walk Series, hosted along the Vandalia Trail, concluded successfully.

In response to ongoing complaints from park patrons about unauthorized motorized bikes along the trail, Lemley contacted the Coatesville Police Department for assistance in addressing the issues.

Lemley provided the Park Board with an update on routine and trail-management maintenance completed in June, including continued maintenance of the trail's reforestation area.

The Park Board acknowledged the passing of Buck Arnold and recognized his contributions to trail development.

As of June 25th, TRAFx counters documented 2,912 individuals using the trail this month.

D-3. W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park

Lemley updated the Park Board on both ongoing and new projects completed by the maintenance team in June. He highlighted the installation of the new Sound Garden, which was funded by a \$5,220 grant from the Parks Foundation of Hendricks County (PFOHC).

Naturalist staff hosted the second fishing derby of the season on June 6th, which coincided with one of the IDNR's free fishing weekends and was well attended.

Lemley shared that leadership from Visit Hendricks County is pursuing grant funding for a mural on the Gibbs silo. Discussion regarding establishing a design committee took place.

Lemley provided the Park Board with an update on the ongoing efforts to resolve the commercial septic system permit, which is still under review by the Indiana State Department of Health (IDOH). They have not yet received a response from the State regarding the Technical Data Sheets (TDS) report. Additionally, C & J Well Company has recently proposed an alternative and/or secondary location for drilling another water well due to the low gallons per minute production of the original well site. This revised location is currently being submitted to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) for review.

As of June 23rd, TRAFx counters recorded 8,494 vehicles visiting W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park this month. The batteries died two days before the TRAFx data was collected on June 25th.

E. REPORTS

E-1. Superintendent Report

Lemley reported that Hannah Mossbarger, the Part-Time Naturalist Assistant, resigned on June 9th. He noted that she left her position on good terms and is currently looking to advance her career in field studies and research. The staff is coordinating with Human Resources to post this vacancy. Additionally, Donatella Mudica joined the department as a Seasonal Naturalist Assistant on June 15th, which aligns with our peak recreation season. Lastly, Phillip (Bird) Spurlock started his employment in the permanent Part-Time Maintenance Technician position on June 22nd.

Drew Gamble, the Resource Planner for Burke Engineering, completed a successful second quarter inspection of the stormwater pollution prevention plan at the maintenance facilities of McCloud Nature Park and W.S. Gibbs Memorial Park on June 16th.

The staff completed five hours of OSHA-required training assigned to the department before the June 30th deadline.

The Park Board noted the passing of former Part-Time Naturalist, Joy Fulk.

E-2. Budget Report

Ivie reported that the Innkeeper's Tax distribution for June totaled \$188,213.08. Previous budget transfers between the Food & Beverage and Innkeeper's funds have been reconciled.

The funding for Machinery and Equipment is nearly exhausted due to major equipment repairs that occurred earlier in the year. Ivie will monitor this situation and will transfer funds if necessary.

Lemley reported that budget requests and salary worksheets for 2027 have been submitted in preparation for the upcoming budget hearings.

No significant budget concerns were reported.

E-3. Media Report

Ivie reported that social media engagement significantly increased in June. The Sound Garden installation produced the highest-performing Facebook post, reaching 23,510 views, and the second-highest post on Instagram, which totaled 446 views. Additionally, the posts about the Fishing Derby and Naturalist recruitment also performed well.

Website traffic and overall public engagement remained strong.

The Park Board expressed appreciation for the successful Sound Garden installation and recognized Avery Tyler for his outstanding performance during his first four months with the department.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2:39 p.m., Freije moved to adjourn the meeting, and Hayden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The next regularly scheduled Park Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 5, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at the Gibbs Homestead located at 4481 Gibbs Road, Danville, IN 46122.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Freije, Secretary