

Tippecanoe County Park and Recreation Board  
Minutes of April 3, 2019  
Park Board Office  
4449 State Road 43 North  
West Lafayette, IN 47906

Present: Board members John Gambs, Opal Kuhl, Karen Mitchell, Denny Mellon and Mike Gery. Also in attendance were County Commissioner David Byers, staff members Mary Barrett, Randy Lower, Adam Libbers, Brian Cook, Nathan Murphy, Robbie Alford, Tom Shipley, Jed Wright and Allen Nail. Also in attendance were Bryan Metzger and Kathy Smith.

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by John Gambs.

**Special presentation to Kathy Smith:** Kathy Smith retired in February after beginning her career with Tippecanoe County government in 1987 where she worked at Wildcat Park and Fort Ouiatenon until becoming the Wabash Heritage Trail Manager in 1988. Commissioner Dave Byers presented Kathy framed Certificate of Service and Park Board President John Gambs presented a clock plaque to recognize her 32 years of service and contribution to the Park Department. Allen described Kathy as a hard-working, team player that was always willing to help when other staff members were ill, on vacation or needed an extra hand. Kathy was also known for her sense of humor. Allen gave a heart-felt goodbye to Kathy and thanked her for the years of dedication and hard work, wishing her well in her future endeavors. Kathy shared a few memories and thanked everyone in attendance, especially her colleagues for their support and friendship throughout the years.

February minutes were unanimously approved on a motion by Opal Kuhl and a second by Mike Gery.

Claims were reviewed and unanimously approved on a motion by Opal Kuhl and a second by Mike Gery.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

- **Fiddlers Gathering/Lease Proposal:** Kara Rawlings, Director of the Indiana Fiddlers' Gathering, provided a beer garden proposal for 2019. With the hope of expanding the number of concert-goers, IFG is requesting permission to serve beer and wine in a tent within the festival gates. The beer garden will be open a limited amount of time, only during select performances. IFG will comply with the current alcohol rules previously established by the Park Board. The Battle Ground Town Council has no issues with the addition of the beer garden; all necessary permits, insurance and security will be in place. IFG is committed to providing a safe and family-friendly atmosphere.

Opal Kuhl moved to allow IFG to serve alcohol as proposed at the 2019 Fiddlers' Gathering, seconded by Mike Gery, unanimously approved. The Board discussed the new lease proposal for IFG and addressed an increase in the rental fees/conditions for the Indiana Fiddlers Gathering. The 2019 rent will double effective with the 2019 lease and gradually increase over a period of years. Opal moved to approve the lease as outlined, seconded by Mike Gery and carried unanimously.

- 2019 Budget Report: The Board reviewed the March budget. There were no questions or concerns.
- Superintendent's Report:
  - Excess Equipment - Allen provided the Board with a list of 5 items and requested that they be declared excess inventory (Lincoln 4-ton jack, Toro snow blower, Cub Cadet snow blower, broadcast spreader, Little Wonder hedge trimmer). These items will be placed on the Battle Ground Lions auction in late April. Denny Mellon motioned to declare the items as excess inventory and place them on the BG Lions auction. Opal, seconded. Carried unanimously.
  - New employee – The Park Department has hired someone as the new Wabash Trail Manager. He will begin on 4-15-19 and will be introduced at a later meeting. He comes with a very diverse set of skills: experience with trees, tree removal, a mechanical background and municipal experience. Allen will ask the Park Foundation to hire Green Horizons Groundskeep to assist with training the new WHT Manger.
  - Scope of Services – VS Engineering will provide a 2<sup>nd</sup> proposal and it should be ready by the next meeting.
  - North Soccer Property – City of West Lafayette has requested the return of the north soccer property. Allen will provide for the orderly transition of the property at the end of 2019.
  - Allen, Randy and Robbie met with TCHA regarding an updated lease for the Museum. The old lease contains outdated language and TCHA would like to pursue a longer lease period. Allen would also like to add language relating to no-lien contracts when hiring contractors. Allen will likely have a draft of the new lease in June for the Board to review.
  - Bids for the upper parking lot at Hoffman Nature Area are due next Wednesday. The Foundation will review and determine the maximum financial obligation that they are willing to undertake.
  - Port a Potty - The ADA compliant port-a-potty at Fort Ouiatenon was vandalized. Someone used a propellant and started a fire in the middle of the day. It was a complete loss.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:33 PM.

Minutes compiled by Mary Barrett.