

Tippecanoe County Park and Recreation Board
Minutes of June 6, 2018
Park Board Office
4449 State Road 43 N.
West Lafayette, IN 47906

Present: Board members John Gambs, Esther Chosnek, Scott Rumble, Denny Mellon, Opal Kuhl and Mike Gery. Also in attendance Park Board attorney Doug Masson, Bryan Metzger, staff members Mary Barrett, Adam Libbers, Randy Lower, Mary Cutler and Allen Nail.

The meeting was called to order by President John Gambs at 3:00 p.m.

April minutes were unanimously approved on a motion by Opal Kuhl and a second by Denny Mellon.

Claims were reviewed and unanimously approved on a motion by Scott Rumble and a second by Opal Kuhl.

New Business:

The balance in the Probasco Memorial fund is currently \$1,475.00. Allen will look into planting a tree and/or placing a bench in a secure site, possibly at Battlefield Park. Allen will contact the family to inquire about their wishes to honor Bob's service to the Park Board and community. When the memorial is in place, a small dedication ceremony will take place.

2018 Budget Report: Board members reviewed the April and May Budget Reports. The balance in two accounts (Building Material and Grounds Maintenance) is running a bit lower than usual for this time of year. Eventually, there will be a need to transfer funds within the Supplies series of accounts.

2019 Capital Request: A list of capital expenses for 2019 is due in the Commissioner's office by the end of June. Randy provided an overview of current equipment and building conditions. The Department is in need of two mowers; one large area mower to replace one that was purchased in 2001 and also a 6 foot mower. The Ross House is in need of a new roof. An estimate has been secured to install a diamond shaped architectural shingle that will be similar in appearance to the original roof. Allen will also include a \$20,000 annual appropriation for accessibility improvements.

Foundation Update: Travis Nuest, landscape architect, is focusing in on the design for the Hoffman Nature Area parking lot and pavilion area. Once approved, the work will allow TBird Engineering to proceed with the drainage plan. Travis will be presenting several display boards to the Foundation Board in their June meeting. The Foundation is also involved in a few activities at the Amphitheater. There is a variety of outstanding music that will take place between June 9th and September 22nd. The Nelly concert has been postponed and the promoter hopes to reschedule the concert at the

Amphitheater in late summer or fall if there are available dates. Ouibache Music Festival will take place the last Saturday in September.

Superintendent's Report:

- Outdoor Explore! Update: Mary Cuter handed out programs for the event taking place on June 8th. There are 30 activities between the Amphitheater property and Bicentennial Nature Area. Mary gave credit to TC Soil & Water Conservation for the wonderful brochures and for being a great partner. A stewardship component has been added this year along with new vendors and activities. Mary thanked the Board for their support and allowing the *Power of Partnership* to showcase outdoor pursuits in a safe manner.
- Allen noted that Matt Salsbery, with Hoffman, Luhman & Masson, was a great resource in reviewing information and making recommendations regarding concerts and legal agreements related to the Amphitheater.
- The request to add a full-time position will go before the Commissioners on June 18th and then move to the Council's agenda for the July 10th meeting.
- Allen will prepare a 2019 budget for the next meeting and present it to the Board for approval before submitting it to the Auditor's office. Allen anticipates there will be a need to request an increase in part-time funds and raise the starting wage due to the difficulty in finding part time seasonal help this year. Even though there is a continual ad for employment on the county website, the department is still not fully staffed with part time help for the summer.
- TCHA contacted Allen and requested assistance with mowing the Ouiatenon reserve. Allen denied the request due to the number of acres staff is currently responsible for mowing and the inability to hire additional summer help.
- Allen has reached out to Giorgio Gikas, sculptor and owner of Venus Bronze Works in Detroit, to check on the status of the Battlefield Park eagle. Allen did not receive any response but learned through newspaper articles that Giorgio is back to work after a 1.5 year battle with colon cancer. He is currently working on a 3,500 pound bronze statue for the City of Detroit that should be done by the end of summer, hopefully freeing up time to work on the eagle. Allen will continue to try to reach Giorgio.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Minutes compiled by Mary Barrett.