

Tippecanoe County Park and Recreation Board
Minutes of July 11, 2018
Park Board Office
4449 State Road 43 N.
West Lafayette, IN 47906

Present: Board members John Gambs, Esther Chosnek, Scott Rumble, Opal Kuhl, Karen Mitchell and Mike Gery. Also in attendance Park Board attorney Matthew Salsbery, Bryan Metzger, staff members Mary Barrett, Randy Lower, Mary Cutler, Robbie Alford and Allen Nail.

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

June 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 Mike Gery and a second by Opal Kuhl.

Old Business:

- Outdoor Explore! – Mary Cutler presented highlights of the Outdoor Explore! event that was held at the Amphitheater on June 9th. Mary showed the Board a booklet containing pictures of participants enjoying a variety of activities. This booklet will be helpful in seeking sponsors. Mary also shared a letter from a young girl thanking everyone for sponsoring the event. She enjoyed trying many of the activities and her favorite was sailing at BNA. Attendance was up from last year with 738 participants. Exit surveys were filled with positive comments and people highly recommended keeping BNA as a second venue; sailing, fishing, kayaking and dog activities were top attractions. Mary is grateful for the 100+ volunteers with some travelling from Ohio, Michigan and other counties to help. Mary is also appreciative of the quality vendors that offer their knowledge and experience to attendees. She hopes that the number of vendors will continue to grow and is looking forward to seeing Outdoor Explore! improve and expand each year. Mary thanked the Board for their support. Allen thanked and acknowledged Park Department staff that came in Saturday afternoon and went above and beyond to assist with wrapping up Outdoor Explore! and preparing the Amphitheater grounds for a concert that was held hours after OE! ended.
- Fiddlers Review - Indiana Fiddlers' Gathering was held at Battlefield Park on June 22- 24. This is the first year with a new group of volunteers overseeing the festival. Allen felt that the new organizers did an outstanding job limiting traffic and overall preserving the grounds given the massive amount of rain over the weekend. When weather allowed, the group addressed any necessary ground repairs. Allen thanked Robbie for the strong effort that he is exerting in

maintaining the park and preparing the grounds for the concert. Randy also thanked Allen for the hours he puts in before the festival with prep work such as hauling bales of straw to the grounds.

New Business:

2018 Budget Report: The Council approved the new Maintenance Technician position. A portion of excess part time funds will be transferred to the full time account to offset some of the 2018 costs associated with the new position. Board members reviewed the June Budget Report. There were no questions or concerns.

2019 Budget Request: Allen completed a draft budget for 2019 and provided the Board with a report comparing the 2018 budget to the proposed 2019 budget. The full time personnel fund and associated funds will increase due to the newly approved position as well as the projected 2% raises for 2019. Tippecanoe County will likely see an overall increase of about 10% in vehicle insurance costs and 5% in worker's comp, according to Jack Bogan at the Mitchell Agency. Allen and Randy met to determine a budget for part-time staff based on the number of hours they anticipate needing in 2019. This proposed budget includes higher starting pay and potential raises for Part Time/seasonal staff. Allen will request a portion of the desired Part Time budget and will request an appropriation for additional funds next year if necessary. The Board reviewed the overall proposed 2019 budget and unanimously agreed to give Allen permission to adjust/increase the insurance request once Allen receives updated insurance invoices.

Superintendent's Report:

- Camp Wack – Water Adventure Camp for Kids – is currently being held at Bicentennial Nature Area. Children with disabilities are having the opportunity to participate in adapted water skiing. The park is closed to other uses during this event to ensure a safe and rewarding experience for these children. Allen is impressed with the organization and volunteers that create such a wonderful, memorable camp for the children. Allen looks forward every year to seeing the smiles and joy that comes from this program.
- Steam and Power will hold their final event at the Amphitheater on Saturday, July 28th. The Board will need to take a look at options for the 6 acres that will no longer be used by Steam and Power.
- Probasco Memorial – Allen will follow up with the Probasco family regarding a tree planting and bench dedication in memory of Bob Probasco. Possible dates under consideration are the scheduled Park Board meeting dates in either September or October.
- Amphitheater – Matt Salsbery recommended having multiple leases for Amphitheater events. Each lease would be geared toward the specific event – one lease for weddings, one lease for concerts, etc. As far as security for large events on the grounds, Matt recommended following

the industry standard of hiring private security in addition to Sheriff's Deputies for large scale events.

- Nelly concert – The media reported that the Nelly promoter is planning on rescheduling the concert on October 6th; however, the Amphitheater is booked on the weekends of October 6th and 13th. Allen shared that the promoter was informed that the Amphitheater was unavailable on those dates before the announcement postponing the original June event date.

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

Minutes compiled by Mary Barrett.