

Tippecanoe County Park and Recreation Board
Minutes of September 1, 2021
Tippecanoe County Park Board Office
4449 State Road 43 North
West Lafayette, IN 47906

Present: Board members John Gambs, Denny Mellon, Mike Gery, Opal Kuhl, and Esther Chosnek. Also in attendance were Allen Nail and staff members Mary Barrett, Randy Lower, Adam Libbers, Mary Cutler and Jed Wright.

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m. by John Gambs.

August minutes were unanimously approved on a motion by Opal Kuhl and seconded by Mike Gery.

Claims were reviewed and unanimously approved on a motion by Esther Chosnek, seconded by Denny Mellon.

Old Business:

October Board Meeting at Tecumseh Trails with Travis Nuest: Randy shared a new rendition of the plans for Tecumseh Trails showing the new location of the picnic shelter. The October Park Board meeting will be held at the office and then move to Tecumseh Trails Park where Travis Nuest will present the final plans for the park.

November Board Meeting with Sharon Hutchinson (Grant Facilitator): Tippecanoe County Grant Facilitator, Sharon Hutchinson, will attend the November Park Board meeting to present an overview of the grant process and potential funding opportunities.

Amphitheater Event: Senator Bernie Sanders hosted a town hall meeting at the Amphitheater on August 27th. The event went well. It started 35 minutes late in order to accommodate the large crowd – approximately 2400. It was an orderly process with the State Police directing traffic. Randy commended Adam for a job well done especially having only 2 weeks to prepare for the event and handling numerous changes. Randy also recognized Captain Rob Hainje and the Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Department for the impressive job preparing for and implementing the security plan.

New Business:

- 2021 Budget Report: The Board reviewed the August budget report. There were no questions or concerns.
- 2022 Budget Hearings: Randy appeared before the County Council for 2022 budget hearings. There were no cuts to the Parks budget. A decision regarding 2022 capital needs will be made later in the month.
- Superintendent's Report:
 - Randy received a request from the Town of Battle Ground requesting to expand an existing easement by 30' in order to run sewer lines through the northern part of the property into the sewer treatment plant. There will be no impact to the trail up to the overlook. The Board discussed the request and unanimously decided to allow the easement in order to continue the positive and cooperative relationship with the Town of Battle Ground.
 - Randy has been contacted by telecommunication companies about possible grants that allow for WIFI in county parks. Ross Camp would benefit immensely from this grant. Randy will obtain more details regarding costs and maintenance and report back to the Board.
 - The Harrison Invitational will be held at the Amphitheater in September along with a concert by Kansas.

Misc:

- Colby Bartlett, Director of Ouiatenon Preserve, came before the Board concerning construction of a new trail that would route through Fort Ouiatenon and connect to the Ouiatenon Preserve. Mr. Bartlett asked the Board if they would consider collaborating with him on the project. Mr. Bartlett is preparing to apply for the *Next Level Trails* grant in order to move forward with this project. The Park Board will discuss the request at a later date.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 PM.

Minutes compiled by Mary Barrett.