

Tippecanoe County Park and Recreation Board
Minutes of September 5, 2018
Park Board Office
4449 State Road 43 N.
West Lafayette, IN 47906

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

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

August minutes were unanimously approved on a motion by Opal Kuhl and a second by Esther Chosnek.

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

Old Business

Amphitheater Conservation Area: Allen invited Angie Miller, Conservationist with Tippecanoe Soil & Water Conservation District, to speak to the board regarding the 6 acres at the Amphitheater property that was used by the Steam and Gas Power Association. Angie works with private landowners to improve wildlife habitat and provides technical assistance regarding conservation. Angie gave the Board various ideas for the parcel depending on goals, preferences and budget. A pollinator habitat project (native grasses and wildflowers) would offer the benefits of pollinators, wildlife habitat, educational opportunities, year round visual interest and a naturalized look with lower maintenance requirements. Angie outlined approximate costs and stated that the TCSWCD Board is willing to assist with a portion of the costs. Mike Gery made a motion to pursue the pollinator habitat project. Scott Rumble seconded, the Board agreed by consensus.

New Business:

2018 Budget Report: Board members reviewed the July Budget Report. There were no questions or concerns.

Witness Tree Protection Program: Bob Foerster attended the Park Board meeting to provide the Board with information regarding the Witness Tree Program. This program provides an opportunity to record and recognize trees that are historically significant. Bob feels that the Battlefield Park trees are living survivors of a major event and should be acknowledged; they will draw additional attention to the

landscape and enrich the learning experience of park visitors. Allen noted that a Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) must be completed in order for a tree to be considered. The Park Board budget does not contain discretionary funds for this purpose but there may be interest from TCHA, a Purdue class or club that would be willing to complete the survey and take on the project. Allen also learned that acceptance into this program does not offer any protection to the trees and there are no restrictions on the resources. By consensus, the Board asked Allen to follow up with a Witness Tree Program liaison from Ball State and report back to the Board at the October meeting.

Superintendent's Report:

- Allen will attend a Feast safety meeting on 9-11-18.
- Budget hearings are next Thursday and usually last a day and a half.
- Allen will be meeting with DNR/Division of Outdoor Recreation in order to move forward with the parking lot at Hoffman. They will need to sign off on the plan and make sure that it is consistent with the conservation easement.
- Adam and Allen met with Matthew Salsbery to discuss options for Amphitheater leases. There will likely be 3 types of leases depending on the size of the events - a wedding or 5K, a concert or event in the seating area, and one for a large scale event including the grounds.
- Fall projects: parking lots at the Amphitheater and Battlefield Park paid with Cumulative Capital funds and money from the contractual account, partial roof replacement on the Amphitheater paid with Cumulative Capital funds, tree work at Ross Camp, roof repair on the maintenance barn, general parking lot maintenance, re-sealing the Amphitheater walkway.
- Mary Cutler has a professional development opportunity in Spokane, WA. She will attend a national conference and received a scholarship so that the cost of the trip will be nominal.
- Allen is looking into meeting sites for the December meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:17 PM.

Minutes compiled by Mary Barrett.