

Tippecanoe County Park and Recreation Board
Minutes of October 6, 2021
Tippecanoe County Park Board Office
4449 State Road 43 North
West Lafayette, IN 47906

Present: Board members Denny Mellon, Mike Gery, Opal Kuhl, and Esther Chosnek, Katje Armentrout and Dave Luhman. Also in attendance were Travis Nuest and staff members Mary Barrett, Randy Lower, and Jed Wright.

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Mike Gery.

September minutes were unanimously approved on a motion by Dave Luhman and seconded by Denny Mellon.

Claims were reviewed and unanimously approved on a motion by Dave Luhman, seconded by Opal Kuhl.

Old Business:

2022 Budget Finalized: The 2022 budget has been finalized; there were no cuts to the budget.

Cumulative Capital/EDIT Approvals: The Cumulative Capital requests were not all approved; however, the department received approval for 1 pickup, staining of the Amphitheater exterior, a water heater at Ross Camp and a gooseneck trailer. The department will receive a new pickup in the next month from funds that remain in the 2021 budget. Randy followed up with Commissioner Murtaugh regarding a commitment to provide annual funds for capital improvements. This money would go toward specific projects or improvements such as parking lots, building maintenance, Amphitheater seating, etc. Commissioner Murtaugh will get back to Randy regarding the request. Mike Gery asked Randy to develop a list of capital projects that are needed in the parks and to rank the items in importance in an effort to establish priorities.

Ouiatenon Preserve Response: The Board discussed at length Colby Bartlett's request for collaboration on The Ouiatenon Preserve's *Next Level Trails* application. The Board is supportive and appreciative of his efforts to expand the trail but is currently focused on the Park Department's own *Next Level Trails* application. When the outcome of the Park Department's application is known, there may be an opportunity to provide support for The Ouiatenon Preserve. Esther Chosnek motioned for the Board to continue to solely pursue the Park Department's interest in the Next Level Trails Application. Denny seconded the motion, carried unanimously.

New Business:

- 2021 Budget Report: The Board reviewed the September budget report. There were no questions or concerns.
- Superintendent's Report:
 - Randy praised Andy for his efforts at Fort Ouiatenon. The grounds look outstanding. Randy anticipates some damage to the grounds after the Feast due to the recent amount of rainfall.
- Tecumseh Trails Park Presentation: Travis Nuest, Landscape Architect, appeared before that Board to present his redesign of the master plan for Tecumseh Trails Park. The new design increases safety, changes the traffic pattern and also allows for ample parking. Depending on funding there are options for rain gardens, additional parking, a new pavilion, a walking path, an observation deck and even a trail linking the park to the Amphitheater property. The plan is fluid and can be done in phases.

Misc:

Randy was contacted by National Fitness Campaign regarding a partnership to put a fitness court in one of our parks in order to allow the public to access free outdoor health and wellness activities. Randy showed the Board a short video explaining the concept. There are grants available to offset costs. Randy will contact the Logansport Park Department for more information as they are in the process of putting in one of the outdoor gyms. He will report back to the Board at a later date.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:18 PM.

Minutes compiled by Mary Barrett.