

Tippecanoe County Park and Recreation Board
Minutes of February 5, 2020
4449 State Road 43 N
West Lafayette, IN 47906

Present: Board members John Gambs, Denny Mellon, Opal Kuhl, Mike Gery and Karen Mitchell. Also in attendance were staff members Mary Barrett, Randy Lower, Brian Cook, Jed Wright, and Allen Nail.

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by John Gambs.

December 2019 minutes were unanimously approved on a motion by Opal Kuhl and a second by Denny Mellon.

Election of Officers for 2020:

Mike Gery asked for nominations. Denny Mellon motioned to retain the 2018 slate of officers; Opal Kuhl seconded, carried unanimously.

- President: John Gambs
- Vice President: Mike Gery
- Treasurer: Scott Rumble
- Executive Secretary: Allen Nail

Appointments to Park Foundation Board:

2 appointments concluded on 12-31-2019. Denny motioned to retain the Park Board Foundation appointments – Mike Gery and Opal Kuhl. John Gambs seconded, carried unanimously.

Claims were reviewed and unanimously approved on a motion by Opal Kuhl and a second by Denny Mellon.

Old Business:

VS Engineering Update: Mike Peterson, VS Engineering, met with Allen and Randy last week. VS Engineering is focusing on the first mile of the trail at BNA. Allen reviewed maps of the property. A topographical survey has been completed and VS is working on a wetlands survey. Mike and Allen will hold a conference call with a Duke Energy representative to discuss the specifics of the Duke easements. Utility easements (Duke and Vectren) are the next item to tackle along with a trail easement through the land located near the monitoring wells and owned by the T.E.R.F (Tippecanoe County Environmental Response) Board.

- 2019 Budget Report: The Board reviewed the December budget. There were no questions or concerns. The Board reviewed a second report outlining the 2019 funds that will be encumbered into the 2020 budget. The encumbered funds will be used to complete projects such as a new marquee sign at the Amphitheater as the old one was destroyed during a storm, painting the dormers on the Ross House and repairing the handicapped fishing pier at Fairfield Lakes.
- 2019 Review: Randy summarized projects that were completed in 2019. Large projects included:
 - Reestablishing the swale on the south side of the Amphitheater drive
 - Re-sealing driveways and parking lots at the both the Amphitheater and Battlefield Parks
 - Spraying the Common Reed at Fairfield Lakes
 - Planting wildflowers on the 6 acre parcel at the Amphitheater property
 - Removing a log jam from the bank of Burnett Creek at Battlefield Park. Randy thanked Jed and Nathan for their hard work in removing the log jam resulting in a substantial cost savings by completing this in house.

New Business:

- Fees, Charges, Policies & Rates for 2020: Allen and staff agree that the current fees and rates should remain unchanged for 2020. Captain John “Woody” Ricks provided the Board with detailed information regarding situations that have occurred with primitive campers at Ross Camp over the last two seasons. Woody has seen an increase in homeless persons coming into the campground late at night and leaving before payment can be collected. It has become problematic as they use the showers and leave them in poor condition, block the drives while charging their cell phones, drive loud vehicles after quiet hours and there have been instances where these campers have felonies, outstanding warrants and/or a long history with law enforcement. After discussion, the Board reached a unanimous decision to close the primitive camping area as the Department is not staffed to monitor the primitive area and in an effort to maintain a safe and enjoyable environment for campers staying at the modern campsites. Mike Gery motioned to keep the current fees, charges and policies in place for 2020 and to close the primitive camping area effective immediately. Denney Mellon seconded and the motion, carried unanimously.
- 2020 Budget Report: The Board reviewed the January budget. There were no concerns.
- Superintendent’s Report: Allen offered \$5,000 to the owner of the vacant N 9th Street Road residential property in Battle Ground. The owner has not responded. He also informed the Board that the first property south of the Battlefield on 9th Street Road (house and adjacent lots) went to a Sheriff’s sale. Allen is going to meet with the new owner and see what his intentions are for the property and to establish a neighborly relationship. No permanent structures can be built on the vacant lots, as they lie in the floodplain. He will report back to the Board on the outcome of that meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM.

Minutes compiled by Mary Barrett.