

Tippecanoe County Park and Recreation Board
Minutes of March 2, 2022
Tippecanoe County Park Board Office
4449 State Road 43 North
West Lafayette, IN 47906

Present: Board members Mike Gery, Denny Mellon, Opal Kuhl, Katje Armentrout and Dave Luhman. Also in attendance were Pat Williams, and staff members Mary Barrett, Randy Lower, Adam Libbers, and Mary Cutler.

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Mike Gery.

December 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 Denny Mellon, seconded by Dave Luhman.

Miscellaneous:

Garry Hill spoke to the Board on behalf of the Wildcat Guardians and other interested attendees to voice concerns regarding the Board's decision at the December 2021 meeting to end its lease on Wildcat Park. Randy and the Board members outlined the reasons for their unanimous vote and after a lengthy discussion the Board reaffirmed their decision to end the lease. The Board appreciated the groups' input, knowledge, and passion for Wildcat Creek.

Election of 2022 Officers:

The Board unanimously agreed to table the vote for 2022 officers to the next meeting as current Board President, John Gambs, was not in attendance. Randy shared with the Board that John would like to remain on as a Park Board member but is ready to step down from his current role as president. Dave suggested that an informal discussion regarding potential candidates could take place before the next meeting.

Old Business:

Granville Access Update: The County Highway Department is still working on a solution to the bridge that washed out after heavy rains. A new bridge appears to be cost prohibitive. One cost effective suggestion is to place liners in existing culverts. Discussions will continue.

New Business:

- 2022 Budget Report: The Board reviewed the February budget report. There were no questions or concerns.
- Review of 2022 Facility Fees: A copy of the proposed fee statement was provided to the Board.
 - Amphitheater fees increased, and lessees will now have a menu of supplemental services they can select as part of the rental agreement.
 - Campground fees will increase to \$25 per day plus Innkeeper's Tax. The campground increase will take place beginning with 2023 reservations.
 - The deposit on the A-frame Lodge and Dining Hall will increase to \$400.
 - Caterers will no longer be able to serve bottled beer.

Opal motioned to adopt the fee schedule for 2022 with campground changes beginning in 2023. Katje seconded, carried unanimously.

- Utility Easement Town of Battle Ground: The Board previously approved a request from the Town of Battle Ground to expand an existing easement by 30' in order to run sewer lines through the northern part of the Prophet's Rock property. Randy recently received a packet from the Town of Battle Ground offering \$9,800 to purchase the easement. Both John Gambs and Dave Luhman reviewed the terms of the offer and felt it was reasonable. Denny Mellon motioned to accept the offer and to allow Randy Lower to sign the documents, seconded by Dave Luhman, carried unanimously.
- Superintendent's Report:
 - After more than 30 years with the Park Department, Brenda Moore is retiring on March 18th. Her position will be posted internally which will allow current staff and county employees to apply.
 - Randy stated that after some research he discovered that it is not cost effective to mill the oak log that was cut down on the Battlefield. Mary Cutler was contacted by a member of the Wabash Valley Wood Workers and there is a possibility that they could make it into something useful for TCHA. If that does not happen, staff will cut the log into boards for park use.
 - Allen Nail has a meeting on Friday concerning the NLT grant. It would seem that our application is still under consideration. A decision should be announced at the end of March.
 - Randy will ask for an appropriation of \$7500 from the large Naturalist Fund. This money will be used for Outdoor Explore expenses. The event will take place on Saturday, June 11th at the Amphitheater.
 - Camp WACK (Water Adventure Camp for Kids) will take place at BNA the week of July 10th. BNA will be closed to the public that week.

- Randy has attended several WREC meetings. He is impressed with their vision for the future and plans for connectivity and improving water quality. WREC will have a public open house on Thursday in West Lafayette. Randy encouraged Park Board members to attend in order to view their plans and see how the initiative will benefit the community.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:47 PM.

Minutes compiled by Mary Barrett.