

Tippecanoe County Park and Recreation Board  
Minutes of March 4, 2020  
4449 State Road 43 N  
West Lafayette, IN 47906

Present: Board members Denny Mellon, Opal Kuhl, Mike Gery, Scott Rumble and Karen Mitchell. Also in attendance were staff members Mary Barrett, Randy Lower, Jed Wright, Brian Cook, and Allen Nail. Richard Ellis, Purdue Extension and Del Bartlett, TCHA liaison attended.

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

February, 2020 minutes were unanimously approved on a motion by Denny Mellon and a second by Opal Kuhl.

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

**Old Business:**

VS Engineering Update: Mike Peterson, VS Engineering, will attend the April Board meeting as the preliminary design will be complete. Allen also provided photos showing two problem areas; one being a Duke power pole and the other an electric tower. Additional material will be needed in order to keep the trail on the south side of the pond; the other option is to move the trail across the road. Mike anticipates having the proposed trail easements in place prior to the next meeting.

BNA Trail Easements Update: Allen provided the Board with a copy of the email from Vectren Center Pointe, outlining the cost requirements for an easement at BNA. Currently, the fee is postponed until final construction drawings are completed. IDEM and EPA will have to approve a trail easement on the north side of the pond on the land located near the monitoring wells. Preliminary conversations indicate that they are supportive of the trail. Allen will attend the April T.E.R. F Board meeting to officially ask for the easement.

**New Business:**

- Special Event Request: Allen received a request from a local organization to hold a nighttime endurance run on the Wabash Heritage Trail. Since the time of the initial request, the group found another location that is better suited to their activity; however, Allen and the Board discussed future requests for organized nighttime events on the trail. The Board feels that trail use should remain daytime use only as it is an earthen trail. Avoiding hazards after dark would be difficult,

locating an injured hiker would be problematic and there is a potential to disturb nearby homeowners.

- 2020 Budget Report: The Board reviewed the February budget. There were no questions or concerns.
- Superintendent's Report:
  - The Next Level Trails grant request requires a minimum of a 20 % match. Projects that maximize partnerships and have multiple funding partners are looked upon favorably even if contributions are nominal. Once we receive the preliminary engineering report from VS, Allen will discuss the EDIT fund commitment from the Commissioners. Allen is seeking a broad base of support for the project which will include support from the Foundation. The value of the land and the \$18,875 paid from the 2019 budget to VS in January for professional services can be included in the required match contribution.
  - Allen, Mary and Brian will join other county agencies in a demonstration on software for online reservations.
  - Allen encouraged the Board to begin discussions for a transition plan as he will retire this year.
- Miscellaneous:
  - Karen Mitchell introduced Richard Ellis, NEP Community Wellness Coordinator.

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

Minutes compiled by Mary Barrett.