

Tippecanoe County Park and Recreation Board
Minutes of August 5, 2020
Ross Camp A-frame Lodge
9225 CR 75 South
West Lafayette, IN 47906

Present: Board members John Gambs, Denny Mellon, Mike Gery, Scott Rumble. Also in attendance were staff members Mary Barrett, Randy Lower, Brian Cook, Brian Spitznagle and Allen Nail. Representatives of the Tippecanoe Mountain Biking Association were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by John Gambs.

July minutes were unanimously approved on a motion by Denny Mellon and a second by Scott Rumble.

Claims were reviewed and unanimously approved on a motion by Denny Mellon and a second by Mike Gery.

Old Business:

- Tecumseh Trails Graphics: Allen would like to move forward, depending on 2021 budget hearings and necessary repairs for the remainder of 2020, with a proposal from Travis Nuest for master plan conceptual drawings for Tecumseh Trails Park. The visual aid will assist with grant applications and provide funding sources with a vision for the park. Travis had submitted three proposals for scope of services. The base proposal includes the conceptual site design with one meeting with the staff and a follow up meeting with the Board. The second proposal includes renderings of an overlook and a new picnic shelter area, and Travis has agreed to include the renderings for an additional fee, but not the entire total of the second proposal. (\$500 per rendering). Travis will provide a revised proposal for the September meeting and a decision can be made at that time.

New Business:

- Tippecanoe Mountain Biking Update: Jason Pruitt with the Tippecanoe Mountain Bike Association (TMBA) provided the board with updates on the bike trails at the Amphitheater and Hoffman Nature Area. The largest project for the group continues to be the trails at Hoffman. Dedicated volunteers have work sessions at least monthly to maintain and expand the trails. Although the volunteer hours have decreased due to Covid-19, in 2020 the group has provided approximately 320 work hours. TMBA is now on Instagram and their Facebook following has grown to over 780 friends and they are hosting weekly rides; last year saw increased interest with many new riders. They are now able to utilize the 501c3 Not for Profit status under Hoosier Mountain Biking Association which will benefit them in a few ways including the ability to apply for grants. They

hope to improve signage on the trails, add a kiosk at Hoffman and offer more courses with varying skill levels. The Board thanked the group for their efforts and appreciates the partnership.

- DNR Ross Camp Use Agreement: In 2000, Ron entered into an agreement with DNR to provide volunteer manhours and the value of these hours is credited against future rental fees. The original agreement was reviewed and approved by Dave Luhman. Brian Cook provided the Board with a copy of the proposed agreement with DNR with only minor changes to the original document. The agreement has been in effect for 2, 10-year terms and is now set to expire in 2021. Brian presented the Board with a slideshow highlighting the extensive improvements that DNR volunteers have made over the years. Allen feels the agreement is a mutually beneficial arrangement. John motioned to renew the proposed contract with DNR, Mike seconded the motion, unanimously approved.
- 2020 Budget Report: The Board reviewed the July budget. There were no questions or concerns.
- Superintendent's Report:
 - Leslie Conwell notified Allen that the 2020 Feast has been cancelled. Leslie is currently the acting Director of Operations and remains the Feast coordinator. The museum will continue to have limited hours of operation. Allen has not heard from Del regarding changes to the museum lease.
 - The meeting to visit the property on CR 400 N had to be rescheduled. Allen will report findings at the next meeting.
 - The pit toilets located near the River shelter at the Fort and at Mar Len will be removed very soon. The pit toilets at Mar Len will be replaced with one portable restroom. Any additional restrooms needed for softball tournaments would have to be paid for by the softball team.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.

Minutes compiled by Mary Barrett.