

Tippecanoe County Park and Recreation Board
Minutes of September 9, 2020
Tippecanoe Battlefield Shelter House
200 Battleground Avenue
Battle Ground, IN 47920

Present: Board members John Gambs, Denny Mellon, Mike Gery, Scott Rumble and Opal Kuhl. Also in attendance were staff members Mary Barrett, Randy Lower, Brian Cook, Robbie Alford, Jed Wright, Adam Libbers and Allen Nail. TCHA Operations Manager, Leslie Conwell was also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 3:17 p.m. by John Gambs.

August minutes were unanimously approved on a motion by Opah Kuhl and a second by Denny Mellon.

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

Old Business:

- Battlefield Museum Lease Update: Allen met with Del Bartlett 3 weeks ago regarding the Museum lease. They discussed the clauses within the lease including the term of the lease. Allen noted to Del that he and the Board are hesitant to enter into a long-term lease at this time due the potential financial effect of the Covid 19 crisis on the budget and local economy. Allen and Del agreed that TCHA should be fully responsible for the monthly Vectren bill. The electricity and water will continue to be paid by the Park Board, at least in the near future.

New Business:

- TCHA Update: Leslie Conwell, TCHA Operations Manager, spoke to the Board regarding the financial status of TCHA. Income from the Feast of the Hunter's Moon provides a large portion of the TCHA operating budget. Loss of Feast revenue could have been devastating but TCHA began cost savings measures in March and there is good news for budget projections. They have restructured some positions, applied for grants, and with planning and increased fund raising have made significant financial advances. They feel they are moving in the right direction and will be able to operate until Feast 2021 occurs.
- 2020 Budget Report: The Board reviewed the August budget. There were no questions or concerns.
- 2021 Budget Hearings: Allen provided the Board with the approved 2021 budget and reviewed accounts and areas where budgets were cut. There will be no new equipment and vehicles in 2021. It is likely that 2022 will be similar to the 2021 budget.

- Superintendent's Report:

- Allen, Randy, Jed, Mary Cutler and Gus Nyberg (Niches Land Trust) met at the property on 400 W, South of the Kingswood subdivision to assess the property as the owner would like to see the land used for public benefit. It is a nice property with potential for a natural surface trail and there is an existing pond. There would need to be amenities added such as a parking area. More discussion is needed to define roles between Niches and the Park Board especially when determining who would develop and maintain the property.
- There has been no news regarding Next Level Trails.
- Tecumseh Trails – if there are no large, unexpected expenses that occur in the next couple of months, Allen would like to move forward with a conceptual design for the park. John motioned and the Board unanimously gave Allen preliminary approval to pursue conceptual designs for Tecumseh Trails Park in 2020 if the budget allows.
- Allen, Robbie Alford and Randy attended a meeting regarding a new town hall/multipurpose building for the Town of Battle Ground. The Town is looking into a grant that would contribute to a new building on or adjacent to the north end of the Battlefield Park. It could mean that the Brier Education Center location could play a role in the location of the new building or a parking lot. The Town is also looking into acquiring two private properties adjacent to the north end of the park. The concept of the Park Board deeding land to the Town of Battle Ground to accomplish this project did not appeal to the Board. The building would allow for the Naturalist to have a new office and environmental education space. Allen will have to investigate several key areas, including potential funding sources, rights of use, and reviewing property boundaries of the National Historic Landmark designation within the park property.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM.

Minutes compiled by Mary Barrett.