

Tippecanoe County Park and Recreation Board
Minutes of November 3, 2021
Tippecanoe County Park Board Office
4449 State Road 43 North
West Lafayette, IN 47906

Present: Board members Denny Mellon, Mike Gery, Opal Kuhl, and Esther Chosnek, John Gambs and Dave Luhman. Also in attendance were Allen Nail and staff members Mary Barrett, Randy Lower, and Jed Wright.

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by John Gambs.

October minutes were unanimously approved on a motion by Opal Kuhl and seconded by Denny Mellon.

Claims were reviewed and unanimously approved on a motion by Dave Luhman, seconded by Denny Mellon.

Old Business:

- Wildcat Park: Randy asked the Board if they still wish to move forward with their previous decision to terminate the DNR lease for Wildcat Park as the lease calls for a one-year notice and a letter of intent. The Board unanimously reaffirmed their decision to dissolve the lease. Should DNR request to end the lease prior to the 1 year notice, the Board is agreeable to an earlier date.
- Fitness Court: Randy communicated with the Director of the Logansport Park Department regarding the details of the funds/grant necessary to install the outdoor gym. The grant only covers a portion of the costs. Randy does not recommend moving forward with this project.
- Comp Time Issue: Working in excess of 40 hours per week during a portion of the year has always been an essential part of the Amphitheater Manager position. The Park Department has always given compensatory time in lieu of overtime pay for these excess hours. Recently the County policy changed requiring department heads to set accrual limits of no more than 100 hours of comp time after which monetary compensation is required. After discussion with the Commissioners and the Human Resources department, the Amphitheater Manager will be allowed to earn 150 hours of comp time before monetary payment will take place. Randy will send a letter of understanding to HR outlining the exception for this position. All other Park Department employees will continue to have an 80 hour comp time limit.

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New Business:

- 2021 Budget Report: The Board reviewed the October budget report. There were no questions or concerns.
- Superintendent's Report:
 - Randy reported that the Feast of the Hunter's Moon festival was successful. Although he is not aware of the exact number of visitors, there were large crowds. Randy was very impressed with how well organized the Purdue Crew Team was and the amount of work they accomplished during clean up. Clean up went quicker than in past years due in large part to the work of the Fort Ouiatenon Park Manager, Andy Wall. The grounds are in great shape.
 - Projects:
 - The Amphitheater now has a concrete stage. It is far more user friendly for musicians and will allow for much easier loading and unloading of equipment.
 - Repairs to the Battlefield Park parking lot have been completed.
 - Due to recent rains a portion of the bridge that crosses Indian Creek washed out resulting in the closure of the Granville Public Access until further notice. DNR, the County Highway Department and the Park Department will meet to discuss options once water levels are low enough to assess the situation and consider all available options.

Misc:

Allen Nail, former Superintendent, requested permission from the Board to turn in the application for the *Next Level Trails* grant which is due by 12-1-2021. Denny Mellon motioned to allow Allen Nail to submit the *Next Levels Trails* proposal on behalf of the Board. Opal Kuhl seconded, unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:54 PM.

Minutes compiled by Mary Barrett.