



400 Lafayette Road - Noblesville, IN - 46060  
317.770.4400 - fax: 317.896.3528  
www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com

### Park Board

Stephen Andrews  
*President*  
Larry Roudebush  
*Vice President*  
Mark McCauley  
*Secretary*  
Dr. Judith Campbell  
*Treasurer*  
Tom Clover  
*Member*  
Robyn Pauker  
*Member*  
Susan Peterson  
*Member*  
Chris Neeson  
*Attorney*

The regular meeting of the Hamilton County Parks & Recreation Board was held Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, at 6:00 pm at Osprey Pointe Pavilion at Morse Park & Beach at 19777 Morse Park Lane, Noblesville, IN 46062.



**Present:** Stephen Andrews, *President (Virtual)*  
Larry Roudebush, *Vice President*  
Dr. Judith Campbell, *Treasurer (Virtual)*  
Mark McCauley, *Secretary*  
Robyn Pauker, *Member*  
Tom Clover, *Member*

**Absent:** Susan Peterson, *Member*

**Staff:** Bruce Oldham, *Deputy Director*  
Reese Ebersole, *Program Assistant*

**Attorney:** Chris Neeson

**Guest:** None

### Park Staff

B. Christopher Stice  
*Director*  
Bruce Oldham  
*Deputy Director*  
Jaymee Ayers  
*Office Manager*  
Amanda Smith  
*Superintendent of  
Natural Resources & Education*  
Chandler Bryant  
*Regional Parks Operations Manager*  
Andy Kingsley  
*Coxhall Gardens Park Manager*  
Kyle Stocks  
*Facilities & Grounds Manager*  
Don Nicholls  
*Resource Development Specialist*  
Christopher Gullion  
*Events Coordinator*

**\*\*In compliance with the directive outlined by the State Board of Accounts, the County Commissioners and County Council, the Parks Board is meeting via video conference. Physically present are: Vice President, Larry Roudebush; Board Member Mark McCauley; Board Member, Tom Clover; which meets the compliance requirements. Also, physically present representing the Parks Department are: Director, Bruce Oldham; Program Assistant, Reese Ebersole.**



400 Lafayette Road - Noblesville, IN - 46060  
317.770.4400 - fax: 317.896.3528  
www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com

## **A.) Call to Order:**

Mr. Roudebush called the Hamilton County Parks & Recreation's August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, Board meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

## **B.) Agenda Amendments:**

No agenda amendments were recommended at this time.

## **C.) Public Comments:**

Mr. Roudebush opened the floor to public comments

A group of citizens concerned with the use of electric bicycles (e-bikes) at Strawtown Koteewi Park were present at the Board meeting. Public guests include:

*Amy Haworth – 29010 Haworth Road, Atlanta, IN 46031*

*Scott Bradford and Emile Britt – 14978 E 191<sup>st</sup> Street, Noblesville, IN 46060*

*Katie Simons – 21800 Schulley Road, Noblesville, IN 46062*

*Linda Britt – 24303 Brehm Road, Noblesville, IN 46060*

Ms. Haworth mentioned that e-bikes travel 20-28 miles per hour. Downtown Noblesville and Cicero have speed limits of 20 miles per hour. She expressed her frustration that e-bikes are allowed to travel faster on park trails than they would be allowed to on some public roads.

Ms. Haworth expressed her gratitude that extra horse safety signage has been placed throughout the park, however, she added that she believes the signage near Patterson Bridge is ineffective due to visibility issues. She believes this is the most crucial sign as most e-bike users enter from the bridge. Ms. Haworth cited multiple recent incidences where e-bikes caused issues while she visited the park.

Ms. Haworth asked if there had been any consideration to the suggestions she made regarding the issue. She also asked if there has been any ruling concerning the use of e-bikes at Strawtown Koteewi Park.



400 Lafayette Road - Noblesville, IN - 46060  
317.770.4400 - fax: 317.896.3528  
[www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com)

Deputy Director Oldham explained that the Department has installed additional signage at all trailheads to educate the public on horse safety. A new trailhead was created at the campground to provide extra signage to accommodate more people entering from the bridge. The Department has also provided staff with flyers providing education on the meaning of different warning signs and symbols.

Deputy Director Oldham stated that they have continued meeting with the committee. Discussions with park and campground staff have continued, along with communications with Koteewi Equine Experience. Deputy Director Oldham has requested additional bike patrols from local authorities. Deputy Director Oldham stated that a ruling will be made regarding e-bike use at Strawtown Koteewi Park will be made by summer 2024.

Mr. Bradford has concerns with e-bikes being too fast and quiet. Combined with many blind turning points in the trail system, he believes e-bikes pose a serious safety risk for patrons at Strawtown Koteewi Park. Mr. Bradford also mentioned his experience with e-bike users not yielding to horses on the trails. He believes that there is no practical way to police the speed and safety practices of e-bike users if they are allowed in the park.

Mr. Bradford stated that he understands the novelty of e-bikes and how regulations have not yet adjusted. He also stated that he understands the issue is not isolated to Strawtown Koteewi Park and it is an issue seen throughout the country. Mr. Bradford stated that the situation is akin to the situation in most metropolitan areas regarding the use of electric scooters.

Mr. Bradford asked for a park schedule so that he could share it with the equine community to alert them of large events at the park that would disrupt quality horseback riding. He also asked what the current e-bike rules were. Mr. Bradford stressed the need for a solution for safety reasons.

Deputy Director Oldham explained that there are 3 classes of e-bikes; Classes 1 and 2 can travel up to 20 miles per hour and are currently allowed on all state trails. Class 3 e-bikes are not allowed on all state trails and exceed 20 miles per hour. The Department has not made any ruling on e-bike use. Deputy Director Oldham stated that he plans to attend the IPRA and NPRA conferences where e-bike use will be discussed. He will speak with other park departments to develop a robust plan. Deputy Director Oldham stated that he would confirm that the calendar of park events is updated and publicly accessible. Deputy Director Oldham told the public attendees to please practice personal safety on the trails when needed and to feel free to contact him anytime with any concerns.



400 Lafayette Road - Noblesville, IN - 46060  
317.770.4400 - fax: 317.896.3528  
www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com

## **D.) Approval of July 17, 2023, Minutes:**

Mr. Clover made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Pauker seconded.

Yea: Mr. Andrews; Mr. Roudebush; Mr. McCauley; Dr. Campbell; Mr. Clover; Ms. Pauker.

Nay: None.

Absent: Ms. Peterson.

Motion carries.

## **E.) Finance Report:**

### **1.) Approval of Payroll and Claims**

Deputy Director Oldham read the finance reports. As of July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, there was a beginning cash balance of \$5,849,107.05. Revenue was \$74,060.44, as of August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Payroll was \$400,357.74 as of August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, being approved. Claims presented as of August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, to be approved was \$292,432.83. The ending cash balance as of August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, was \$5,230,376.92.

Additionally, there were two transfer requests in the financial packet. The first was for \$15,000.00 from 1179.3500 to 1179.3001. The second was for \$60,000.00 from 1219.2000 to 1219.2300.

Mr. McCauley made a motion to approve payroll and claims as presented. Mr. Clover seconded.

Yea: Mr. Andrews; Mr. Roudebush; Mr. McCauley; Dr. Campbell; Mr. Clover; Ms. Pauker.

Nay: None.

Absent: Ms. Peterson.



400 Lafayette Road - Noblesville, IN - 46060  
317.770.4400 - fax: 317.896.3528  
www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com

Motion carries.

## **F.) Committee Reports:**

### **1.) Foundation Update**

Dr. Campbell stated she was looking forward to an upcoming meeting between the HCPR Board and 2 members of the Foundation Board. Mr. Andrews asked for an invitation to the meeting.

Dr. Campbell complimented the Posh Picnic photos she had seen on social media. Deputy Director Oldham stated that the Department was well represented at Posh Picnic and Director Stice had an opportunity to address the crowd.

## **G.) Old Business:**

### **1.) Project Updates**

#### **a.) White River Campground**

Deputy Director Oldham was pleased to announce that WRC office opened to the public on August 4<sup>th</sup>. The building has already received compliments and the campground staff is excited to continue operations in the new office.

#### **b.) Osprey Point Pavilion**

The acoustic renovations are completed. The water fountain near the restroom hallway will be removed.

#### **c.) Coxhall Centerpiece Fountain**

Deputy Director Oldham stated that he has met with key staff to discuss possible redesigns of the Coxhall Centerpiece. He stated that if anyone had any suggestions to please contact him.



400 Lafayette Road - Noblesville, IN - 46060  
317.770.4400 - fax: 317.896.3528  
www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com

Deputy Director Oldham reminded the Board of the discussion during the July 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting with Thomas Fansler of Tiii Environments regarding the redesign of the Centerpiece fountain. Mr. Fansler is requesting \$15,000.00 in up-front costs. Deputy Director Oldham stated that the Department recommends the approval of Tiii Environment's \$15,000.00 quote to continue working towards the redesign.

After deliberation, the Board decided that they wanted to reduce the costs of the redesign quote by constraining the number of design proposals that Tiii Environmental needs to create. In order to apply these constraints, the Board agreed that the needs and wants of stakeholders need to be collected and considered. Deputy Director Oldham stated that he had invited several members of the Friends of Hamilton County Parks, Inc. board to the Centerpiece to understand the scope of the project. Mr. Clover stated that repairs like what is needed at the Coxhall Centerpiece meet Jesse Cox's expressed wishes for use of his donated funds. Mr. Roudebush stated that this is a project the County would not pay for. Mr. Clover stated that the repair cost needed to come from the Jesse Cox donation fund. Deputy Director Oldham agreed.

Some of the Board members plan to visit the Centerpiece and consult with interested parties. To meet the September deadline, Deputy Director Oldham requested that the Board members email him within the next two weeks with any comments or suggestions for the Centerpiece redesign.

Mr. Clover made a motion to delay the approval of Tiii Environmental's quote until the Board has more information to give specific redesign suggestions. Ms. Pauker seconded.

Yea: Mr. Andrews; Mr. Roudebush; Dr. Campbell; Mr. McCauley; Ms. Pauker; Mr. Clover

Nay: None.

Absent: None.

Motion carries.



400 Lafayette Road - Noblesville, IN - 46060  
317.770.4400 - fax: 317.896.3528  
www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com

**d.) Potter's Bridge Roof**

Deputy Director Oldham stated that the installation of lightning protection on the roof is scheduled for August 21<sup>st</sup>.

**e.) Williams House Renovation**

Deputy Director Oldham stated that the paint study, as well as the renovation plan documents, are in hand. The Department has met with Professor Jonathan Spodek to review the document and next steps. The master plan document is now being discussed with Department staff to determine how to proceed.

**f.) Impact Fee**

The Department has met with Chuck Lehman, from Lehman & Lehman, and Hamilton County Planning Director, CJ Taylor, to discuss the Park Recreational Impact Fee. Mr. Lehman and Mr. Taylor are currently in discussions and are working towards producing documentation.

**g.) HC Farms In-Lieu Fee Project**

Deputy Director Oldham stated that the Department has scheduled on-site meetings with the contractor every two weeks. Stantec is currently working there completing grading work on the wetlands. A project update was included in the board packet.

**h.) Park Finder**

The Department is working with County GIS, as well as all the other municipal parks departments to develop a new GIS layer that will contain information on all parks within Hamilton County. The goal is to produce an interactive map for public use.



400 Lafayette Road - Noblesville, IN - 46060  
317.770.4400 - fax: 317.896.3528  
www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com

## **2.) HC Farms Progress Update**

Deputy Director Oldham stated that the invasive species management is 80% complete, the wetland construction is 50% complete, and the stream restoration is 60% complete. The majority of that work has been done on the southern portion of the property and is now moving northward. Stantec's plan for the next two weeks is to complete the wetland construction, permanent seeding of wetlands and prairie areas, and continue stream restoration activities. Deputy Director Oldham offered a walkthrough of current activities at HC Farms to any members of the Board.

## **3.) Land Acquisition**

### **a.) White River Campground Expansion**

Deputy Director Oldham stated that the Department has received two appraisals for the White River Campground expansion project, with an average cost of \$34,250.00. Director Stice spoke with Tom Laycock, Director of Real Estate Services for IDNR, regarding the conservation easement across the property of interest. The easement can take up to two years to remove and that will not fit within the timeline for the septic project. Deputy Director Oldham stated that Reynolds Construction will attempt to adjust to complete the project cost-effectively.

### **b.) Burr Oak Bend Expansion**

Deputy Director Oldham stated the property on the corner of 206<sup>th</sup> Street and Riverwood Avenue that went onto the market has already been sold to another buyer.

## **H.) New Business:**

None.





400 Lafayette Road - Noblesville, IN - 46060  
317.770.4400 - fax: 317.896.3528  
www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com

**I.) Director's Report:**

None.

**J.) Deputy Director's Report:**

None.

**K.) Additions and Announcements:**

None.

**L.) Adjournment:**

Mr. Roudebush made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Clover seconded. Motion carries. Hamilton County Parks & Recreation's August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 Board meeting is adjourned at 7:18 pm.

**Hamilton County Parks & Recreation Board**

**Approved**

/S/ Larry Roudebush  
Larry Roudebush, Vice President

/S/ Mark McCauley  
Mark McCauley, Secretary

Date: 10/16/23