



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, September 18th, 2023, at 6:00 pm at the Osprey Pointe Pavilion at 19777 Morse Park Ln, Noblesville, IN 46062.



Present: Stephen Andrews, *President*
Larry Roudebush, *Vice President*
Dr. Judith Campbell, *Treasurer*
Mark McCauley, *Secretary*
Robyn Pauker, *Member* (Virtual)
Tom Clover, *Member*
Susan Peterson, *Member* (Arrived at 6:30)

Staff: Chris Stice, *Director*
Bruce Oldham, *Deputy Director*
Thomas Vlastic, *Program Assistant*
Wil Rettinger, *Park Development & Operations Strategist*

Attorney: Chris Neeson

Guest: Marty Wessler, *Wessler Engineering*

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: President, Stephen Andrews; Vice President, Larry Roudebush; Treasurer, Dr. Judith Campbell; Board Member Mark McCauley; Board Member, Tom Clover; and Board Member, Susan Peterson; which meets the compliance requirements. Also, physically present representing the Parks Department are: Director, Chris Stice; Deputy Director, Bruce Oldham; Park Development & Operations Strategist, Wil Rettinger; Program Assistant, Thomas Vlastic.**



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

A.) Call to Order:

Mr. Andrews called the Hamilton County Parks & Recreation's September 18th, 2023 Board Meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

B.) Agenda Amendments:

Mr. Neeson recommended that the Board amend the agenda by adding Section H, Item 3 to include a review of a draft proposal of a new ordinance.

Mr. Andrews made a motion to amend the agenda to include reviewing the new ordinance. Dr. Campbell seconded this motion.

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

Nay: None.

Absent: Ms. Pauker; Ms. Peterson.

Motion carries.

Dr. Campbell suggested that the Board amend the agenda by adding Section H, Item 4 to discuss a Native American-inspired playground being installed at Strawtown Koteewi Park.

Mr. Clover made a motion to amend the agenda to include this discussion. Mr. McCauley seconded this motion.

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

Nay: None.

Absent: Ms. Pauker; Ms. Peterson.

Motion carries.



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

C.) Public Comments:

None.

D.) Approval of August 21, 2023, Minutes:

Mr. Roudebush and Director Stice noted a variety of issues with the August 21st minutes, including that Director Stice was present virtually, not in person.

Mr. Roudebush made a motion to approve the minutes with listed corrections. Mr. Clover seconded. Ms. Pauker joined the meeting virtually and was present for this motion.

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

Nay: None.

Absent: Ms. Peterson.

Motion carries.

(Upon further review, the August 21st, 2023 minutes contained more errors than discussed in the September 18th Board meeting, and as such will be edited and re-approved at the October Board meeting.)

E.) Finance Report:

1.) Approval of Payroll and Claims

Director Stice read the finance reports. As of August 21st, 2023, there was a beginning cash balance of \$5,230,376.92. Revenue as of September 18th, 2023 was \$70,386.97. Payroll as of September 18th, 2023 being approved was \$252,457.66. Claims presented as of September 18th, 2023, to be approved was \$204,926.30. The ending cash balance as of September 18th, 2023, was \$4,843,379.93.



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

Director Stice stated that the Department will need to do inner line-item transfers. He requested a transfer of \$25,000.00 from Account # 1219.3500 to Account # 1219.3100.

Dr. Campbell asked for clarification on these accounts, to which Director Stice explained that Account # 1219.3100 is the Department's budget for communication and transport, while Account # 1219.3500 is the budget outsourced maintenance and repairs.

Mr. Andrews made a motion to approve payroll and claims as presented. Dr. Judith Campbell seconded this motion.

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

Nay: None.

Absent: Ms. Peterson.

Motion carries.

F.) Committee Reports:

1.) Foundation Update

Dr. Campbell and Mr. Andrews met with two members of the Friends of Hamilton County Parks' Board, Bruce Snyder and Angela Krahulik. The meeting involved sharing ideas on how to improve communication as well as productivity, and Dr. Campbell felt their discussion was very productive.

G.) Old Business:

1.) Project Updates

a.) Prather Park

Deputy Director Oldham informed the members that River Road Park was formally renamed to Prather Park in a naming ceremony that took place on



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

Saturday, September 10th. Director Stice added that a press release was shared with the board prior to being revealed to the public and asked the board members if they had any comments related to this matter. Dr. Campbell stated that she thought the new sign was great. Ms. Pauker added that she walked the park last weekend and thought it looked lovely.

b.) Strawtown Koteewi Archery Facility

Deputy Director Oldham informed the board that they have met with Sam Whiteleather from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to discuss the grant application process, as well as available funds and general information regarding the indoor shooting range addition to the SKP archery facility. This was the initial conversation about the project, with a letter of intent due at the end of October. Work has begun on the letter of intent, and this letter will be reviewed to decide if Hamilton County is invited to enter the grant application process or not.

Director Stice went on to inform the board about this project from a budget standpoint, explaining that it would be a 90/10 funding source. 90% of it would be funded by the grant, and Hamilton County would need to plan the funding upfront. This would be a reimbursed funding program, like was utilized to fund the archery facility. Director Stice finished by stating that they would apply for the grant in 2024, with the potential to receive the funding in 2025, and that the facility itself would likely cost approximately 4 million dollars if construction began in 2025.

Mr. Roudebush brought up the potential for archery events at this facility, such as national and state meets. Mr. Clover agreed and stated that it would be a good idea to get tourism involved with this facility.

Mr. McCauley asked Director Stice what the DNR's limit would be on funding. Deputy Director Oldham answered that their funding budget changes year to year, and Director Stice followed this up by stating that the funding would also depend on how many applicants there are, as well as Indiana DNR's own priorities.

c.) Coxhall Centerpiece Fountain



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

Deputy Director Oldham began by directing the board members to a document provided by Tom Fansler of Smock Fansler Corporation detailing the cost of the Coxhall Centerpiece Fountain project. Director Stice asked the Board for direction on funding this project, as currently it is not within the park's budget to complete a project of this size. Director Stice recommended requesting funds from the foundation.

Mr. Clover asked for clarification on if a new design was still needed for this project, to which Deputy Director Oldham explained that this project involves redoing the plumbing in the control pit of the fountain, fixing water quality issues, and installing water level sensors. He went on to clarify that this is a rehabilitation of the fountain, not a complete redesign. Discussion amongst all members of the board followed, regarding details of this plan as well as potential issues with implementation. Most of this discussion was focused on the technicalities of the descaling process. Dr. Campbell also asked for information on the repair of damages to the exterior of the fountain, to which Deputy Director Oldham explained that work has been done by maintenance staff to fix exterior issues, and that any exterior damages to the fountain are unrelated to the current project being discussed.

Mr. Roudebush made a motion to apply to the Friends of Hamilton County foundation for funding of \$150,000 to complete repairs to the Coxhall Centerpiece Fountain. Mr. Clover seconded this motion. Ms. Peterson arrived as this motion was being voted on.

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

Nay: None.

Motion carries.

d.) Trail Safety Committee Meeting

Deputy Director Oldham stated that the committee will be meeting on Monday, September 25th. He went on to reference the public discussion around e-bikes at the last board meeting, and that 30 additional signs have been placed throughout the trail system at Strawtown Koteewi Park as a result of this discussion. An



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

additional deputy has also been present along the trails and at trailheads, and a reserve deputy was stationed at White River Campground over Labor Day weekend.

e.) William's House Renovation

Deputy Director Oldham stated that the new Construction Project Manager, Ben Taylor, has been meeting with key staff on site, and is currently working with contractors to move this project forward. A historic mason and plaster specialist were both met with to ensure the correct materials are used for the renovation, and the University of Indianapolis is currently on site operating an archaeological field school.

f.) Park Finder

Deputy Director Oldham updated the Board members on a meeting that occurred with multiple municipal parks departments regarding updating the parks layer within Hamilton County's GIS system. This update would allow for the creation of a new Park Finder tool.

g.) 2024 Total Solar Eclipse

Deputy Director Oldham updated the Board members on the ongoing meetings regarding the Department's plan for the 2024 total solar eclipse. Deputy Director Oldham explained that there will be 3 events occurring simultaneously at Cool Creek Park, Coxhall Gardens, and at Strawtown Koteewi Park.

Mr. Clover asked for an estimate on the number of people that will be in the parks on the day of the eclipse; to which Deputy Director Oldham stated that millions will likely be present. He went on to clarify that all parks will be open the day of the eclipse, but only in Hamilton County.

h.) Potter's Bridge Lightning Protection-

Deputy Director Oldham stated that this project is complete.



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

i.) HC In-Lieu Project

Deputy Director Oldham stated that staff has been on site working on creating the trail system for the southern field section, and that the wetland construction is complete.

Mr. Roudebush asked if any boardwalk was being installed, to which Deputy Director Oldham informed him that one bridge will be created to cross one of the stream connections for the current section of trail.

j.) Indianapolis Hosta Society

Deputy Director Oldham stated that construction of the Hosta Garden has begun on the south side of the Coxhall Mansion, including the addition of rock retaining walls and the beginning implementation of irrigation systems.

k.) Geist Park

Deputy Director Oldham stated that Director Stice attended a preconstruction meeting for the Bell Ford bridge with the Highway Department and INDOT (Indiana Department of Transportation). This project has been approved for funding and has an estimated completion date of August 2025.

l.) White River Campground Sewer Project

Deputy Director Oldham stated that on-site work has begun on this project. The road has been completed, and all materials are on site except for the tanks. Deputy Director Oldham went on to state that digging for three of the leechfield pods has begun, to which Mr. Roudebush asked for clarification on if this is a typical septic system or a sand bound one. Deputy Director Oldham clarified that it is a hybrid system, not a traditional mound system.



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

m.) Hammock Stations

Deputy Director Oldham stated that work is continuing with Hamilton County tourism to implement more hammock stations at Strawtown Koteewi Park, Geist Park, and Potter's Bridge Park.

n.) 116th Street Trail

Deputy Director Oldham stated that work is being done with the City of Carmel and Structurepoint engineers to extend the 116th street trail along the southern portion of Coxhall Gardens. Deputy Director Oldham went on to state that there is a meeting being held with the City of Carmel next week to further discuss this project.

Mr. Roudebush asked for information on the First Nations trail extension, which would go south on Cumberland Avenue to Potter's Bridge Park. Both Director Stice and Deputy Director Oldham did not have any timeline on the grant application.

2.) HC Farms Progress Update

Deputy Director Oldham stated this update was covered in the project update for HC Farms, but did reiterate that a progress meeting occurred recently.

3.) Land Acquisition

Director Stice informed the board that he met with a landowner whose land directly borders the southwest end of the White River Campground, and that this landowner is open to Hamilton County Parks' acquiring this parcel. Director Stice also met with the Indiana DNR, and they are also in favor of moving forward with this land acquisition due to the present conservation easements.



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

H.) New Business:

1.) Hamilton County Regional Utility District Presentation

Director Stice began this section by introducing Marty Wessler, Principal Engineer and CEO of Wessler Engineering, as the representative for the Hamilton County Regional Utility District. Mr. Wessler attended this meeting in order to inform the Board of an aquifer located at Strawtown Koteewi Park. Director Stice clarified that this conversation is happening with the intent of giving information to the board, as opposed to voting on a decision during this Board meeting.

Mr. Wessler began by informing the Board of his work with the Hamilton County Commissioners on the Baker's Corner project. This project involves the creation of a new regional water and sewer district with the purpose of serving the unincorporated northern half of Hamilton County. Mr. Wessler went on to explain that the County Commissioners and the Board of Trustees is very focused on Hamilton County's groundwater, and that there will be an ever-increasing need for drinking water. Mr. Wessler has focused on researching where the county will be pulling drinking water from 50 years into the future. The County Commissioners had Mr. Wessler attend this Board meeting with the purpose of beginning a dialogue on incorporating the White River Campground and Strawtown Koteewi Park parcels into the new regional water and sewer district. White River Campground and Strawtown Koteewi Park have been chosen due to their location over the White River and Tributaries Outwash Aquifer system.

Dr. Campbell asked Mr. Wessler for information regarding what board would be governing this district, and if it would be a possibility to have Park Department representation on this governing board. Mr. Wessler answered that there are currently 3 members on the board for the regional district, but there is a potential to expand to 5 or 7 members. Dr. Campbell stated that if the Parks Department were to support this district, they would like to have a representative on the district board. Mr. Wessler went on to explain that the current district Board members are 3 county commissioners due to their familiarity with the project, but he anticipates that over time they will start appointing new members.



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

Director Stice asked Mr. Wessler for clarification regarding the potential for water withdrawal from the parks becoming a revenue stream. This question was followed by another clarifying question, asking if the revenue would go towards the parks or the county itself. Mr. Wessler responded that the answer is likely above his paygrade, and that a discussion would need to be had between the Parks Board and the Board of the new district. Mr. Andrews asked if there was potential for a new reservoir, to which Mr. Wessler responded that there has been much discussion of a new reservoir upstream, but it has died down since Citizen's Energy built their reservoir. Mr. Clover asked if there has been a history of creating these regional districts, and Mr. Wessler explained that there is a large history of these districts that have been successful. Director Stice closed this discussion by requesting that Board members send any questions they may have to him, and that further discussion will be needed regarding this topic.

2.) Decommission of Assets

Director Stice informed the board of more assets being decommissioned as the Department continues to audit its inventory. These assets included: the old campground office, and items that were presented in the packet.

Mr. Roudebush made a motion to approve the Director's recommendation as presented. Ms. Peterson seconded this motion.

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

Nay: None.

Motion approved.

3.) Approval of New Ordinance

Mr. Neeson discussed a new ordinance regarding the Board's policies and procedures for virtual public meetings.

Dr. Judith Campbell made a motion to approve this ordinance as presented. Tom Clover seconded this motion.



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

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

Nay: None.

Motion carries.

4.) Native American Playground

Dr. Campbell presented a packet containing images of two different Native American-inspired playgrounds, with her idea being to implement a similar playground at Strawtown Koteewi Park.

Deputy Director Oldham stated that his initial concern is the sensitivity of the project and added that discussion with tribal groups regarding the matter was essential as part of the Department's existing M.O.U.

I.) Director's Report:

Director Stice introduced the new Program Assistant, Thomas Vlastic. Director Stice also gave an update on the recent budget hearings, which he stated went positively and that there were currently no requests to reduce the proposed budget.

J.) Deputy Director's Report:

None.

K.) Additions and Announcements:

None.

L.) Adjournment:



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

Mr. Roudebush made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Peterson seconded. Motion carries. Hamilton County Parks & Recreation's September 18th, 2023, Board meeting is adjourned at 7:26PM.

Hamilton County Parks & Recreation Board

/S/ Larry Roudebush

Larry Roudebush, Vice President

/S/ Mark McCauley

Mark McCauley, Secretary

Date: 10/16/23