Present: Board members John Gambs, Scott Rumble, Denny Mellon and Mike Gery. Also in attendance were staff members Mary Barrett, Randy Lower, Adam Libbers, Mary Cutler and Allen Nail. Also in attendance were County Council member and Foundation Board member Bryan Metzger and Randy Strasser from VS Engineering.

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by John Gambs.

June minutes were unanimously approved on a motion by Denny Mellon and a second by Mike Gery.

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

**Old Business:**

**Engineering Scope of Services:** Allen reminded the Board of the initial engineering work that needs to be completed at Bicentennial Nature Area in order to move forward with a trail around the large pond and to do so in a manner that would allow for a competitive grant application for constructing the trail. Both VS Engineering and HWC Engineering have submitted a scope of services proposal for an approximately 1.5 mile hard surfaced, ADA compliant trail around the big body of water. Randy Strasser with VS Engineering appeared before the Board to introduce himself and answer questions regarding his company’s proposal. Allen has included an amount in the 2020 budget request for an amount that would cover the first phase of the overall engineering fees, and if that is approved in budget hearings, the Board would need to make an official selection of the firm to provide engineering services.

**Indiana Fiddlers Gathering Review:** Karah Rawlings, Executive Director, thanked the Board for allowing the festival to take place at Battlefield Park. The event was successful with a 20% increase in sales this year. Beer sales also went well. Peoples Brewery did a great job of controlling the crowd and will serve again next year. Karah requested the Board to allow Beer to be sold within the festival grounds as opposed to having a “beer tent” next year. Denny Mellon motioned to continue to allow beer sales at the Indiana Fiddlers Gathering inside the gates in 2020; seconded by Scott Rumble, carried unanimously.
Camp WACK: Allen shared a video of children thoroughly enjoying adaptive water skiing at Camp WACK held at BNA in July. Allen appreciates the opportunity to be a part of an event that allows developmentally challenged children, young adults and their families to participate in 3 days of water sports, have fun and make memories. This was the 13th year that Camp WACK has been held at the lake and Allen encouraged the Board to continue to support this worthwhile and rewarding event. By consensus, the Board expressed continued support for the event in 2020 and beyond.

New Business:

- **TCHA Battlefield Museum Lease Update:** TCHA requested a longer lease period and changes in some of the language in the Battlefield Museum lease. Allen has not yet received the draft of the revised lease but will provide it to the Board for review once it is received.
- **2019 Budget Report:** The Board reviewed the July budget. There were no questions or concerns.
- **Projects Update:** Randy provided the Board with information regarding current projects, specifically the new swale at the Amphitheater. Rinehart Excavation did an outstanding job and completed the project in time to allow for an event at the park.
- **Superintendent’s Report:**
  - Allen presented a slideshow of recent projects that have been completed within the parks and included pictures of the National Packard car show held at the Amphitheater.
  - Allen informed the Board about a potential boundary dispute with a Battlefield Park neighbor. Based on Beacon, the neighbor believes that he owns property within the fence. Allen has a 1977 boundary plot by licensed surveyors from Purdue that defines the property lines at the south end of the Battlefield. Allen plans to work with our staff to search for the property line markers described in the boundary plot and then reach out to the neighbor again. The WHT boundary description is not as precise as the creek has changed course over the past 30 years. Allen will seek a survey proposal to outline the exact property line for the Park Board portion of the trail.
  - The Indiana Division of Outdoor Recreation reached out to Allen to see if the Board is interested in taking title to Wildcat Creek Park once the lease expires. The lease ends in 2026 and DNR is not interested in renewing it. Discussion took place regarding the pros and cons of taking title to the park. No action needed at this time.
  - A property owner on N 9th Street approached Allen regarding the purchase of his property. Allen explained that the home and buildings on the property are of no value to the Board but the property would allow a maintenance access to the trail and creek. The house cannot be occupied and would have to be demolished. The Board gave Allen permission to pursue discussions regarding the purchase price and to obtain estimates for demolition.
Budget hearings will take place the last week of August. Allen will report on the outcome in the September meeting.

Allen introduced Wade Garriott, the new Wabash Heritage Trail Manager. Wade joined us from the City of Lafayette. He has demonstrated a wide range of skills, takes initiative and will be an asset to our team. The Board welcomed Wade to the staff.

**Miscellaneous:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:08 PM.

Minutes compiled by Mary Barrett.