Tippecanoe County Park and Recreation Board  
Minutes of September 4, 2019  
Park Board Office  
4449 State Road 43 North  
West Lafayette, IN  47906  

Present:  Board members John Gambs, Scott Rumble, Denny Mellon, Esther Chosnek, Opal Kuhl, Karen Mitchell and Mike Gery.  Also in attendance were staff members Mary Barrett, Randy Lower, Mary Cutler and Allen Nail and County Council member Bryan Metzger.

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. by John Gambs.

August minutes were updated to reflect that Wade Garriott previously worked for the City of Lafayette, not the Lafayette Park Department.  August minutes were then unanimously approved on a motion by Scott Rumble and a second by Esther Chosnek.

Claims were reviewed and unanimously approved on a motion by Esther Chosnek and a second by Opal Kuhl.

**Old Business:**

**Engineering Scope of Services- BNA:** Both VS Engineering and HWC Engineering have submitted scope of services proposals for engineering work that needs to be completed in order to move forward with the trail around the large pond and to allow for a competitive grant application.  VS engineering is a local company and their proposal comes in with a slightly lower overall cost when looking at the project from start to finish rather than in phases.  After discussion, Denny Mellon motioned to move forward with VS Engineering based on the estimates of the scope of services; seconded by Opal Kuhl and unanimously approved.  Funds that remain in the 2019 budget at the end of the year will be used to begin the process for preliminary design of the trail as it is crucial when applying for grants.

**New Business:**

- **2019 Budget Report:** The Board reviewed the August budget.  There were no questions or concerns.
- **2020 Budget Hearings:** Budget hearings went well.  It appears likely that the Park Department budget will be approved after a public hearing next week.  EDIT (Economic Development Income Tax) revenues which are used for capital improvements to enhance the community, may be a good source of funds for future projects, and will also be the source of funding for the first phase of trail engineering work at Bicentennial Nature Area.  Park Foundation and Board members Opal Kuhl, Denny Mellon, Mike Gery, Scott Rumble, John Gambs and Bryan Metzger met with Commissioner
Tom Murtaugh prior to budget hearings and shared information regarding the Park Foundation and the projects they have completed in the past several years without the use of General Funds. The attendees felt that the meeting was time well spent.

- **Superintendent’s Report:**
  - The 6 acre field at the Amphitheater property that was seeded with prairie mix had to be sprayed with a selective herbicide to combat a large amount of yellow nutsedge and foxtail that has grown up over the summer. Soil and Water Conservation took a look at the field and recommended an approach to gain control of the weeds. The cost of having Ceres Solutions do the application was nominal, particularly in light of the investment in the seed mix and planting. With the unusually dry weather, little of the seed mix has emerged. Allen commended Randy Lower on his efforts in coordinating the herbicide application.
  - Allen met with a representative from the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program. The program partners with community groups, nonprofits and local governments to assist with planning, designing and developing trails, parks and recreation opportunities. The assistance is free and has no strings attached. Allen found the representative to be knowledgeable and could be helpful in an assistance role when applying for grants to develop BNA and Hoffman Nature Area as they could provide technical assistance as well as letters of support to include with the grant applications.
  - Allen asked the Board for suggestions for the December meeting location. Allen will contact venues regarding meeting rooms. East End Grill was specifically discussed as a location again in December of this year.
  - The 16 ft concrete box culvert has been placed by the 231 bridge in conjunction with the bridge repairs. No. 2 stone or other large aggregate will likely be needed for erosion control in the area directly adjacent to the culvert.
  - According to State guidelines, the Board needs to approve the destruction of Park Board records. Allen requested permission from the Board to pursue destruction of old records in accordance with guidelines of the Public Records Commission. Opal made a motion to allow the destruction of records based on the guidelines set forth by the Public Records Commission, seconded by Scott Rumble unanimously approved.

**Miscellaneous:** Mary Cutler provided an update on her successful rafting trip down the Wabash with several groups of 5th graders. Mary again partnered with the Soil and Water Conservation District to offer a river experience to explore the Wabash. The weather cooperated and the students and volunteers had the opportunity to learn about the importance of water quality, geology, and the environment. Mary found the students to be engaged; they gained an appreciation for the river and enjoyed seeing the eagles.
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:03 PM.

Minutes compiled by Mary Barrett.