



# Hancock Park District

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## HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS Public Meeting Notice and Agenda

**Date:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024  
**Location:** Brugeman Lodge at Riverbend Recreation Area  
**Time:** 3:30 p.m.

### Roll Call

### Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes dated March 12, 2024

### Financial Status

1. Review of the Financial Statement dated March 31, 2024, presented by Hancock Park District Business Manager Vicky Stozich

### Old Business

### New Business

1. Request to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Hancock Park District and Pamela A. Russell and Rebecca Stooksbury regarding the Russell Stooksbury Fund for the Riverbend Dog Park held at The Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation

### Discussion

1. Hancock Park District Report:
  - Director – Gary Pruitt
  - Park Operations Manager – Tyler Fredritz
  - Naturalist – Michelle Rumschlag

### Public Input

### Adjournment

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 3:30 p.m. in Brugeman Lodge at Riverbend Recreation Area

**HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**  
**Staff Report / Agenda Supplement**  
**April 9, 2024**

**Request to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Hancock Park District and Pamela A. Russell and Rebecca Stooksbury regarding the Russell Stooksbury Fund for the Riverbend Dog Park held at The Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation:** See the Memorandum of Understanding. In addition to the Memorandum of Understanding, the meeting with Tasha from The Community Foundation, and Pam and Becky (donors), focused on the following:

1. The idea of an enhanced water feature at the dog park fits with the Hancock Park District's Riverbend Recreation Area Dog Park Improvement Project as described in the Strategic and Comprehensive Plan. And while water features are not mentioned in the project description, the intent is there: "As facilities throughout the Hancock Park System continue to be replaced, upgraded, and modernized, especially at Riverbend Recreation Area, it is important that the K-9 Field of Dreams Dog Park does not get left behind." Currently, dog park users bring small plastic swimming pools to the dog park and fill them with water using the water pumps provided so that dogs can enjoy a water feature. That is the water feature component of the dog park that should be replaced, upgraded, and modernized. First, if a pool is provided, the Hancock Park District should be the one to provide it. Second, the water feature should be provided for large dogs and small dogs. Third, the water feature (e.g., a pool) should be higher quality.
2. An example of a larger, more durable, and appropriate pool design for dogs was discussed.
3. The feasibility of a splashpad for dogs using a well needs to be determined.



4. Typically, with a splashpad, water either runs off and is lost or it is captured and recirculated. Letting well water run off all day for several months is not a responsible position to take. Capturing and recirculating water requires a mechanical system.
5. A separate water area enclosure may be necessary, since not all dogs like the water (it may add stress to some breeds) and dog owners may not want their dogs to get wet all the time. Perhaps dog owners should be able to control their dog's access to a splashpad.

6. Regardless of the water feature, it should occur in two locations, one serving large dogs and one serving small dogs.
7. The splashpad is preferred by the donors, but a pool is acceptable (pools, fountains, sprinklers, and sprays are options). As an interim step, a portable pool upgrade is likely (\$3,000.00; 5'x8'x1').
8. Permanent versus portable water features should be a consideration.
9. Money would be provided for the initial improvement followed by an endowment with an annual distribution earmarked for maintenance and improvements.
10. An in-depth assessment is needed when the time comes.