



# Hancock Park District

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

**Date:** Tuesday, April 14, 2026  
**Location:** Brugeman Lodge at Riverbend Recreation Area  
9250 Township Road 208, Findlay, Ohio 45840  
**Time:** 3:30 p.m.

### Roll Call

### Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes dated March 10, 2026

### Financial Status

1. Review of the Financial Statement dated March 31, 2026, presented by Hancock Park District Business Manager Vicky Stozich

### Old Business

1. A request from USI Insurance Services to provide the Hancock Park District Board of Park Commissioners with a price indication and sample proposal for property and casualty insurance coverage

### New Business

1. Request to approve Resolution 2026-04 regarding an additional appropriation within the Hancock County Auditor's certification and the Hancock Park District's general fund in the amount of \$6,627.75
2. Request to approve shoreline improvement concepts at Cooper Pond and authorization to include the work as part of the park improvements scheduled for 2027

### Discussion

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

### Public Input

### Adjournment

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 3:30 p.m.; Brugeman Lodge at Riverbend Recreation Area

**HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**  
**Staff Report/Agenda Supplement**  
**April 14, 2026**

**A request from USI Insurance Services to provide the Hancock Park District Board of Park Commissioners with a price indication and sample proposal for property and casualty insurance coverage: Is the Board of Park Commissioners interested in receiving a proposal from USI Insurance Services? If the answer is yes, does the Board of Park Commissioners want an in-person presentation to go along with a written proposal?** USI Insurance Services would like to provide a price indication and sample proposal for property and casualty insurance coverage to the Hancock Park District Board of Park Commissioners. USI Insurance Services submitted an actual proposal several years ago. Hitchings Insurance Agency, Inc. rebutted the proposal with a comparison of cost and services. A change was not made. Since then, a USI Insurance Services representative has called the Hancock Park District every year to gauge interest in receiving a USI Insurance Services proposal. Like last time, any USI Insurance Services proposal would lead to a comparison of cost and coverages received. And like last time, Hitchings Insurance Agency, Inc. would most likely be involved. The following statistics show the annual premium and premium increases from 2019 to 2025 for the Hancock Park District's Ohio Plan Property and Casualty Insurance:

- The 2019-2020 premium was \$34,325.00, an increase of \$1,145.00/3%.
- The 2020-2021 premium was \$35,446.00, an increase of \$1,121.00/3%.
- The 2021-2022 premium was \$36,626.00, an increase of \$1,180.00/3%.
- The 2022-2023 premium was \$37,674.00, an increase of \$1,048.00/3%.
- The 2023-2024 premium was \$38,737.00, an increase of \$1,063.00/3%.
- The 2024-2025 premium was \$41,259.00, an increase of \$2,522.00/7%.
- The 2025-2026 premium was \$44,676.00, an increase of \$3,417.00/8%.

**From:** Donnie Biven <donnie.biven@usi.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 28, 2026 11:03 AM  
**To:** Gary Pruitt <GPruitt@hancockparks.com>  
**Subject:** Hancock Park District / USI PEP Discussion

Hi Gary,

Thank you for your time on the phone this morning. Per our discussion, I wanted to send you a note, so you have my contact information as well as additional information about the value we bring to our clients. The reason for my outreach is simple; USI Insurance Services would be extremely interested in presenting a proposal for your coverages.

USI Public Sector Group focus on municipalities in the State of Ohio. We currently write over 200+ municipal entities throughout the state. We are well versed in the exposures that are unique to public entities and understand and educate our public entity clients on protections provided to them through the sovereign immunity clause in the Ohio Revised Code and the collateral source laws that are in force to protect the assets of municipalities.

USI Public Sector Group is the marketing firm for the Public Entities Pool of Ohio (PEP). PEP writes nothing but municipal business in the State of Ohio. Their focus is on municipal entities, water districts, park and health districts. Their forms are written to address the unique exposures faced by these entities throughout the state. Founded 34 years ago PEP is one of the largest and oldest municipal pools in the state of Ohio. They currently have over 610 members utilizing their services

throughout the state. Nationwide over 90% of municipal entities participate in some form of pooling arrangement.

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PEP is the largest, most financially secure pool on the state of Ohio. Their rates are stable and have not changed since the inception of the pool 40 years ago. The Public Entity Pool is backed by Lexington, Travelers, Argo Group and GenRe. The AM Best rating for these carriers is a minimum of “A” for each carrier. PEP is independently rated by Demotech. Demotech provides independent financial analysis of insurance pooling structures throughout the United States. PEP has received an “AAA”, Unsurpassed rating from Demotech for over 20 contiguous years.

The Public Entities Pool of Ohio has been providing the broadest, most comprehensive insurance coverage for Ohio Municipalities for over 40 years. They take pride in the 99% retention rate of their members. Recently the Ohio Municipal League (OML) endorsed PEP as its preferred insurer for municipalities across the state. In addition to this highly coveted endorsement PEP offers the following to all of its members;

- PEP Grant Program – In celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the PEP Pool the PEP Grant Program offers up to \$1,000 in grants for members who buy safety equipment or items that improve safety in their municipality. Some examples include, but are not limited to, mulch for a playground, defibrillators, bullet-proof vests, traffic cones. In 2019 Safety Training became eligible for PEP Grant reimbursement and in 2020 the PEP board allowed Personal Protection Equipment purchases to be an eligible expense.
- PEP Appraisal Program- In 2018 PEP announced that they will be rolling out complimentary appraisal services to all of its members. This service is not offered by any other municipal carrier in the state. The service is being managed by a licensed appraisal company in the state of Ohio and will include all building with values of \$100,000 and over. The appraisals will be shared with the member municipalities to ensure that all municipal building are insured to value.
- Pro-active Risk management – PEP loss control representative meet with all new members within 30 days to review your safety programs and provide inspections. All members of PEP have full access to the PEP Resource Library. This library contains sample policies and procedure for any number of risk management items, safety training videos and white papers all available free of charge to PEP members.

We would very much like to give you a price indication and sample proposal for your coverages. Please let me know if you and the board are interested in looking at a competitive option for your 2026 renewal. I would also welcome being a resource and staying connected for any potential future needs.

Best Regards,  
Donnie

DONNIE BIVEN  
Vice President, Commercial Property & Casualty  
USI Insurance Services  
312 Elm Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor, Cincinnati, OH 45202

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**Request to approve Resolution 2026-04 regarding an additional appropriation within the Hancock County Auditor’s certification and the Hancock Park District’s general fund in the amount of \$6,627.75:** Hancock Park District Business Manager Vicky Stozich has announced her retirement from the Hancock Park District. Her last day on the job will be Thursday, July 2. However, she will remain on the payroll during her vacation throughout July. Vicky’s expertise and strong commitment to business management, particularly accounting and all that that entails is commendable.

Hancock Park District Administrative Operations Manager Jamie Shane will become the new business manager on Monday, July 6, thus concluding a succession plan that has been in place since 2019. Jamie’s employment history and work experience, particularly as a full-time administrative assistant with the Hancock Park District from June 27, 2019 to May 2, 2021 and as a full-time administrative operations manager for the Hancock Park District since May 3, 2021 (during which time she excelled at a multifaceted position and engaged in a succession plan under Vicky’s leadership and supervision) qualifies her for the promotion. The Hancock Park District is fortunate to have Jamie serve as the next business manager.

Based on the anticipated timeline for hiring Jamie’s successor, the preferred start date for the new administrative operations manager is Monday, July 6. Therefore, an additional appropriation in the amount of \$6,627.75 is needed to fund Jamie’s salary during the month of July (see Resolution 2026-04).

**Request to approve shoreline improvement concepts at Cooper Pond and authorization to include the work as part of the park improvements scheduled for 2027:** The Cooper Pond Master Plan says, “Assess the hardened shoreline while considering erosion control, aesthetics, wildlife, fishing, and canoeing. Transitioning the hardened shoreline to a nature-based, green, or soft shoreline (i.e., a living shoreline) is an intriguing idea.” Currently, soil is exposed, vegetation and cover for wildlife are lacking, erosion is evident, and hardened material dumped along the water’s edge is an eyesore, unsafe, and not appropriate for a public park where access to the water will be of interest to park visitors.

A potential solution is to relocate, reposition, reuse, and repurpose the hardened material as needed and to the extent possible (e.g., use existing large and small flat stones to create access areas and pulverize and recycle concrete to create base layers), purchase large flat stones (maybe manufactured stone for its affordability compared to natural stone), excavate the shoreline if necessary (reuse the soil to the extent possible), construct access areas involving large flat stones that step down to the water (or frame steps and pour concrete), including one with an ADA component near the picnic shelter, place boulders, and plant riparian vegetation to create vegetative slopes, stabilize the shoreline, reduce erosion, offer habitat for fish, birds, amphibians, and other wildlife, soften the hardened shoreline, and naturalize the area, while improving access for canoes and kayaks.

If approved, shoreline improvements may be bid as an alternate. Appropriating money from the Greenway Trail Fund managed by the Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation and adding it to the overall project budget may be needed, say \$400,000.00+/- . The current fund balance is \$683,097.36. The fund is earmarked for the Blanchard River Greenway Trail and Oakwoods Nature Preserve.

A potential course of action is to focus on the first priority, which is the development of access areas (e.g., large flat stones that step down to the water) at strategic locations along the Cooper Pond shoreline, ideally before Cooper Pond opens to the public, followed by the second priority, which is to clean up the south and east shorelines and plant riparian vegetation, ideally before Cooper Pond opens to the public, followed by the third priority, which is to clean up the north and west shorelines and plant riparian vegetation. Right now, there are a lot of ideas and a lot to consider. With an approved concept and authorization, planning can begin in earnest (see Cooper Pond Shoreline: Improvement Concepts and Current Conditions).

**HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**  
**Meeting Minutes for April 14, 2026**

The April 14, 2026 meeting of the Hancock Park District Board of Park Commissioners was held at Brugeman Lodge in Riverbend Recreation Area.

The meeting was called to order by Ed Ingold at 3:27 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Park Commissioners Present: Ed Ingold, Rick Kidwell

Park Commissioner Absent: Scott Younger

Staff Present: Gary Pruitt, Vicky Stozich, Scott Egbert

Guest: Jeremy Kalb

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Rick Kidwell with a second by Ed Ingold to approve Meeting Minutes dated March 10, 2026. Motion carried by a 2-0 vote.

**FINANCIAL STATUS**

Income and expense reports dated March 31, 2026 were reviewed by the Board.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A request from USI Insurance Services to provide the Hancock Park District Board of Park Commissioners with a price indication and sample proposal for property and casualty insurance coverage:** A motion was made by Rick Kidwell with a second by Ed Ingold to decline the request at this time. Motion carried by a 2-0 vote.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Request to approve Resolution 2026-04 regarding an additional appropriation within the Hancock County Auditor's certification and the Hancock Park District's general fund in the amount of \$6,627.75:** A motion was made by Rick Kidwell with a second by Ed Ingold to approve Resolution 2026-04. Motion carried by a 2-0 vote.

**Request to approve shoreline improvement concepts at Cooper Pond and authorization to include the work as part of the park improvements scheduled for 2027:** A motion was made by Ed Ingold with a second by Rick Kidwell to approve shoreline improvement concepts at Cooper Pond and authorize the work as part of the park improvements scheduled for 2027. Motion carried by a 2-0 vote.

**DISCUSSION**

**Hancock Park District Report:**

The Ohio Public Works Commission has awarded the Hancock Park District with a Clean Ohio Greenspace Conservation Program grant in the amount of \$1,275,977.00. It is a reimbursable grant. It will help fund the construction of an elevated boardwalk throughout the Wetland Restoration Area, including a connection from Dold Lake to Cooper Pond, and the paving of the McKinley Trail.

**Hancock Park District Board of Park Commissioners  
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A Capital Budget Community Project Grant Application has been submitted to Ohio House and Senate members (Senator McColley and Representative Mathews) in the amount of \$300,000.00. If awarded, the grant will help fund the construction of two picnic shelters, one at Dold Lake and one at Cooper Pond, and the reconstruction of the boat ramp at Shank Lake.

The walkway paving project at Riverbend Recreation Area will require a Hydrologic and Hydraulic Study, since the trail is in the floodplain; the Loop Trail will increase from six feet wide to 10 feet wide, which will require the rerouting of the trail in one place east of Giertz Lake; and the Loop Trail will increase in width an additional 18 inches to accommodate bollards. The H&H study will also include the Big Oaks Activity Area playground in preparation for a new playground in the future.

A second meeting with representatives from the Arcadia Soccer Club was held at Aerland Recreation Area. The idea of a loop trail was discussed and rejected, since the soccer club may expand soccer fields to the east. A few tweaks were made to the walkway layout. The Arcadia Soccer Club sent an email to the Hancock Park District agreeing to the concept plan. The demolition of abandoned sewer system infrastructure has been added to the project scope in an effort to clean up the park.

Six of eight signed agreements with the City of Findlay related to the MOU have been fully executed. The two agreements regarding land transfer (Centennial Park and River Landings) have been introduced to Findlay City Council. As soon as those agreements are finalized, the parks will be surveyed to establish new property boundaries.

Mowing has started. Burns were completed, except for one area near the campground at Riverbend Recreation Area. Seven organizations participated in the Learn to Burn event.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

City of Findlay Engineer Jeremy Kalb informed the park commissioners that the third and final reading regarding land transfers to the Hancock Park District are scheduled for next week. There have been some discussions between city staff and city council members about the land transfers, but there are no issues to report. The boardwalk as part of the multiuse trail along State Route 568 should be constructed in the next few months. The shared road symbols painted on Township Road 241 will be removed, per a request by the Marion Township Board of Trustees. The City of Findlay and the Hancock County Historical Museum are working together on the construction of a restroom facility and the paving of the parking lot at Brucklacher Memorial Park.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Ed Ingold with a second by Rick Kidwell to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by a 2-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

Meeting Minutes approved:

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Edward D. Ingold, Chairperson

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Gary E. Pruitt, Director/Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

