



Hancock Park District

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

Date: Tuesday, December 10, 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 November 12, 2024

Financial Status

1. Review of the Financial Statement dated November 30, 2024, presented by Hancock Park District Business Manager Vicky Stozich

Old Business

New Business

1. Naloxbox Initiative
2. Request to approve Resolution 2024-12 Annual Appropriation
3. Request to approve Synthetic Grass Ultra and Safety Foam Plus Playground Grass from ForeverLawn for the new Oxbow Bend Activity Area Playground
4. Request to approve the cancellation of the Riverwalk Agreement between the Hancock Park District and the City of Findlay

Discussion

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

Public Input

Adjournment

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

HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
Staff Report/Agenda Supplement
December 10, 2024

Naloxbox Initiative: Kalynn Sommers, harm reduction coordinator/peer support specialist with Hancock Public Health, will be at the meeting to talk about the Naloxbox Initiative: *“Hello Gary, My name is Kalynn Sommers I am the Harm Reduction coordinator for Hancock Public Health and was wondering if we could have a chat about our Naloxbox program. A Naloxbox is a cabinet that holds several boxes of Naloxone (Narcan), We wanted to know if there would be any interest in putting them at parks across Hancock county. We currently hvae 41 indoor boxes at various businesses and agencies. We have 7 outdoor boxes in villages and schools across the county, We would love if you would consider letting us put some in our local parks. I will attach what they look like in this email, I can give you data on the usage of our outdoor boxes that are already in place if you need that information. I can also do a presentation to the Board about them if they would like. There is no legal liability in having them on any public property, they would be installed and maintained by Hancock Public Health. Let me know if you have any questions, comment, or conerns.”* The photographs below are from Mt. Cory Community Park.



Should the Hancock Park District supply medication (or facilitate the supply of medication) to the public, specifically Narcan? That is the question and the policy decision facing the Hancock Park District Board of Park Commissioners. There is a lot that should be considered:

1. Regarding the placement of naloxboxes in public places, Hancock Public Health reports that there is *“no legal liability in having them on any public property.”* A legal opinion would be prudent. Hancock Public Health was asked the following question: Did Hancock Public Health receive a legal opinion stating there is no liability?
2. According to sources, Narcan (naloxone) has been approved as an over-the-counter (OTC) drug that can be taken by people of all ages to treat a known or possible opioid overdose, and apparently you cannot give too much Narcan to someone. However, those same sources

suggest that *“if you or someone you know takes an opioid medication”* (e.g., fentanyl, methadone, oxycodone, and hydrocodone), your doctor may suggest that you have Narcan available, indicating that consultation with a doctor before taking Narcan is advisable.

Staff Report/Agenda Supplement, December 10, 2024, continued – page 2

Furthermore, most OTC medicines are safe to use when the package directions are followed, but they can still carry a risk, even though they do not require a prescription. Physiology and health history can vary from one person to another. Narcan may not be for everyone.

Also, according to sources, considerations before taking Narcan include *“possible interactions with medications and warnings when medical conditions exist, such as heart problems or allergic reactions,”* although statistically speaking, the chance for serious side effects appears to be slim. *“It is unknown if it is safe to take Narcan while pregnant or breastfeeding, but women who are pregnant or breastfeeding should consult a doctor before using Narcan or any OTC medication.”* Sources: www.healthline.com, www.drugs.com, and www.cdc.com. Note: Once the naloxbox is installed, there is zero control over who uses Narcan and why, and what the side effects might be. Perhaps the rationale, at least in part, for placing a naloxbox in public places is steeped in the belief that treating an opioid overdose supersedes any possible side effect.

3. According to sources, *“Narcan is typically given by caregivers and loved ones when an opioid overdose occurs.”* Narcan was found on the shelf at Walgreens in Findlay as part of a reconnaissance mission of sorts. If Narcan is going to be given to the public free of charge, Hancock Public Health seems like the appropriate agency to handle that, hence the Naloxbox Initiative, which can certainly be viewed as a form of community outreach (the name Hancock Public Health is shown on the front of the naloxbox). First responders in Ohio can have Narcan available to them, which makes sense given the job they must do. Should the Hancock Park District supply medication or facilitate the supply of medication, specifically Narcan to the public? Would doing that be outside its purview or consistent with its purpose?

Hancock Public Health was asked the following question: Sources suggest that before using Narcan, consultation with a doctor is advisable; considerations before taking Narcan include possible interactions with medications and warnings when medical conditions exist, such as heart problems or allergic reactions; and that it is unknown if it is safe to take Narcan while pregnant or breastfeeding, but women who are pregnant or breastfeeding should consult a doctor before using Narcan or any OTC medication. What is Hancock Public Health’s position on those statements?

4. Hancock Public Health was asked the following questions: Who are the 48 organizations in Hancock County that have agreed to the installation of a naloxbox? Have any organizations declined? If so, who are they and why?
5. Hancock Public Health was asked the following questions: What was the reason or intent for the Naloxbox Initiative? Was it to decentralize the availability (i.e., supply and resupply) for

caregivers and loved ones or was it to have Narcon available and ready in as many places as possible when an overdose occurs?

6. Hancock Public Health was asked the following questions: Regarding opioid overdose in Hancock County based on two possible scenarios: A) the use of an opioid medication, no intentional misuse, possible addiction, and an accidental overdose, and B) the intentional misuse of an opioid medication and an overdose, which one is most prevalent? What do the statistics show?
7. Could the presence of a naloxbox in a park give park visitors the perception that drug use is invited or encouraged, or that it already exists? Could park visitors feel unsafe because of that perception – perhaps to the extent that they no longer feel comfortable visiting the park? And if that is possible, is the risk worth taking? Could there be undesirable consequences?

Staff Report/Agenda Supplement, December 10, 2024, continued – page 3

8. Could the presence of a naloxbox in the park encourage drug use? Would a person who intends on misusing opioid medication make a conscious decision to seek out a park location for drug use where Narcon is free and readily available? Could that be the thought process?
9. As an example, and to help make a point, the Brookings Institution, a nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C. with a mission to conduct in-depth, nonpartisan research, reported four steps to combat the opioid crisis:
 - Limit inappropriate use of prescription opioids (e.g., policymakers can take actions that reduce opportunities for misuse of prescription opioids, such as prescription drug monitoring, prescriber limits, law enforcement, and stakeholder education).
 - Reduce the flow of illicit opioids, like heroin (e.g., communities have invested in funding for law enforcement efforts that target large scale opioid distribution; and communication among law enforcement, public health professionals, and first responders about distribution patterns can help target public health efforts).
 - Help people seek treatment for opioid misuse (e.g., certain drugs can reduce cravings for opioid misuse or prevent opioids from causing a “high,” although there are obstacles to treatment, such as lack of insurance coverage, difficulty finding a provider, and patients’ unwillingness to begin treatment; therefore, strategies are needed to promote treatment).

- Deploy harm reduction tools that blunt the risks of illness, injury, or death (e.g., one of the most important tools is broad availability of naloxone, a drug that can immediately reverse the effects of an opioid overdose; making naloxone widely available to first responders, including police officers, and to individuals can dramatically reduce the risk of death from overdose).

Hancock Public Health was asked the following questions: What steps, other than deploying a harm reduction tool via the Naloxbox Initiative by Hancock Public Health are being taken in Hancock County, Ohio to combat the opioid crisis? Is the Naloxbox Initiative part of a much larger community-wide campaign involving multiple organizations? If so, what does that community-wide campaign look like? Who is involved and what are they doing?

Note: According to the Ohio Department of Health, Hancock Public Health, Family Resource Center, and Spero Health work in partnership. *“This document describes the policy and procedure in place to ensure that Naloxone distribution and harm reduction education, access to peer support services and other community supports, and evidence-based treatments for clients of the MAT program at Family Resource Center (FRC) and Spero Health will continue as part of a comprehensive and sustainable system that has been built between Hancock Public Health (HPH), FRC, and Spero Health. The policy/procedure is effective on the 10th day of August, 2022, by and between HPH, FRC and Spero Health.”*

“HPH serves as the primary provider of harm reduction and injury prevention services in Hancock County and has received grant funding through the Ohio Department of Health to create a comprehensive and sustainable system at the MAT programs at FRC and Spero Health which promotes the availability of Naloxone, involves support persons of MAT clients, increases connection of these individuals to community supports, other harm reductions services, and evidence-based treatments such as Naloxone and BIDPP (Bloodborne Infectious Disease Prevention Program).

Staff Report/Agenda Supplement, December 10, 2024, continued – page 4

FRC and Spero Health operate MAT treatment programs in Hancock County, thus also serving individuals at high risk of overdose. Both agencies are committed to addressing the negative effects of the opioid epidemic and improving the overdose death rates in Hancock County.”

10. Hancock Public Health was asked the following questions: Why is the Naloxbox Initiative not on the Hancock Public Health website? Why is there no directory of naloxbox locations? How are people expected to find naloxboxes?

Note: The Ohio Department of Health website has a directory of locations with an emergency naloxbox. Twenty locations are listed for Hancock County, including Circle K, Drury Inn, Fairfield Inn, Findlay Brewing Company, Focus Recovery and Wellness Community, Hampton Inn, Hancock County Veteran’s Service, Hancock Public Health, Hilton Garden Inn, Lariche Chevrolet Dealership, Lucky’s Carryout, Marathon Center for the Performing Arts, Quality Inn, Red Roof Inn, Roadway Inn, Stay America, Super 8, Sure Stay Hotel, Townplace Suites, and Turkey Hill. Apparently, the list is incomplete.

11. According to the Ohio Department of Health, there were 4,452 unintentional drug overdose deaths in 2023. Since 2014, nearly 90,000 naloxone kits have been distributed with approximately 11,000 overdose reversals reported through the Project DAWN program. *“The most important thing to understand about preventing overdose deaths is that it takes a team effort.” “We’ve joined forces with Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided with Naloxone), as well as healthcare facilities and community-based programs, whose sites are open to the public and provide naloxone kits at no cost.”*

Information about Project DAWN was found on the Hancock Public Health website: Project DAWN is a community-based overdose education and naloxone distribution program that was created to combat Ohio’s opioid overdose epidemic. Naloxone (also known as Narcan) is a medication that can reverse an overdose caused by an opioid drug (heroin or prescription pain medications) when administered during an overdose. Naloxone blocks the effects of opioids on the brain and quickly restores breathing. Naloxone has been used safely by emergency medical professionals for more than 40 years and has only this one critical function: to reverse the effects of opioids to prevent overdose death. You may obtain a naloxone kit for free through Hancock Public Health’s Project DAWN program. Walk-ins are accepted; however, it is preferred that you schedule an appointment to ensure a staff member will be available to complete the education and distribution with you.

Hancock Public Health was asked the following questions: Why does Project DAWN provide nitrile gloves and face shield along with the Narcan Nasal Spray? Why does Hancock Public Health emphasize nitrile gloves, face shield, DVD, booklet, and five areas of learning during the 30-minute in-person appointment when providing Narcan Nasal Spray via Project DAWN and then provide naloxboxes that are in essence a self-service dispenser for Narcan only? There is an obvious difference between the two programs and the promotional emphasis, safety emphasis, and educational emphasis placed on them by Hancock Public Health. Why is that?

Note: The Hancock Public Health website says that it takes less than 30 minutes to obtain a kit that could save a life. Attendees learn to:

- Recognize the signs and symptoms of overdose.
- Distinguish between different types of overdose.
- Perform rescue breathing.
- Call emergency medical services.
- Administer intranasal naloxone.

Staff Report/Agenda Supplement, December 10, 2024, continued – page 5

Request to approve Resolution 2024-12 Annual Appropriation: Resolution 2024-12 Annual Appropriation provides funding for expenses during fiscal year 2025 according to sums and purposes outlined in the resolution, which are consistent with the Hancock Park District’s 2025 operating budget presented to and reviewed by the Board on November 12, 2024 (see Resolution 2024-12).

Request to approve Synthetic Grass Ultra and Safety Foam Plus Playground Grass from ForeverLawn for the new Oxbow Bend Activity Area Playground: The following email was sent from the Hancock

Park District to ForeverLawn regarding playground grass: *"I am working with Mike McGilbra at Penchura on a new playground next year. My preference is to have playground grass for the safety surface. In fact, I already have a proposal from ForeverLawn dated September 23, 2024, project #25-037. However, a person from the community has raised the red flag saying that playground grass is unsafe for children. That concern has been found in articles from Newsweek, National Center for Health Research, and others and reported by ABC News. The issue is rubber and plastic. Since the concern has been made public, I need to address the issue. That is the focus of my questions."* Answers from ForeverLawn are below (see AGX Inc. Environmental Consultants/lead content analysis, Merit Laboratories Inc. Analytical Laboratory Report/PFAS testing, Liberty Tire Recycling/use of crumb rubber infill, Whitepaper/playground surfaces and thermal safety, Environmental Stewardship Sheet/premium synthetic grass, What Makes Playground Grass Different, Safety Overview, Oxbow Bend Activity Area Playground, and ForeverLawn Proposal dated 9/23/2024).

From: Conrad Troyer <Conrad@foreverlawnohio.com>

Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 6:15 AM

To: Gary Pruitt <GPruitt@hancockparks.com>

Subject: Re: Playground Grass Questions

Gary, I confirmed a few things with our Home Office and Playground Grass brand leader. Here is some info and documents. Let us know how we can help moving forward! Happy to send over a product catalog or schedule a phone call to talk through any potential project questions.

1 Your website and catalog say that ForeverLawn Playground Grass meets or exceeds heavy metal standards and is environmentally safe, recyclable, and non-toxic. Do your Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) testing certificates and white papers support those statements? Please email me all testing certificates and white papers related to safety.

- Attached is a LEAD test for Playground Grass Ultra (ASTM F2765-09). We have this same testing report for all of our synthetic turf products.

2. Public statements say that plastic, rubber, crumb rubber infill, and the use of recycled tires are hazardous to children citing the release of carcinogens, forever chemicals, and chemical substances, including PFAS? My hope is that those worries do not apply to ForeverLawn playground grass. What can be said about that?

- We have had PFAS testing done for many of our products. For the specific product that is quoted for your project, the PFAS report is available here - [Playground Grass Ultra PFAS Testing](#). Using the ASTM D7968 test method, it was determined that there were no detectable PFCs (Polyfluorinated Compounds).
- We also have a letter you can review (attached) from ForeverLawn's main crumb rubber supplier. They outline multiple studies that have been done to show that there is "little or no risk from recycled rubber."
- Most of the playground projects our dealers install today are done with Envirofill or sand, eliminating crumb rubber as a component of the system. Additionally, there are a

number of organic infill options available (Walnut shells, wood, coconut fiber, cork) that can also be considered if the customer is interested in exploring these options.

Staff Report/Agenda Supplement, December 10, 2024, continued – page 6

3. The ForeverLawn proposal is for Synthetic Grass Ultra and Safety Foam Plus. What is the backing material made of?

- Our premium backing is unique to ForeverLawn, and it consists of three important layers.
 - Layer 1 - Dual-layer woven material that is coated with a thin layer of polyurethane.
 - Layer 2 - A frothed Biocel layer utilizing cutting-edge environmentally sensitive technology sourced from soybean plants (a 100% renewable resource). Another important component of Biocel is Remined, a pre-consumer recycled mineral made from materials that otherwise would have been discarded. The Biocel fully encapsulate the back stitch of the blades, locking them in place.
 - Layer 3 - Geotextile nonwoven laminate, comprised of recycled water bottles from Project Yellowstone. Layer 3 protects the top two layers from the elements and inhibits mold and mildew.

4. What is the crumb rubber infill made of? What is the material source? Is it safe?

- Crumb rubber infill is made from various rubber products, including recycled rubber tires that have been cleaned and ground into small pieces to create a uniform size. Crumb rubber infill is widely used and provides great fall height protection and cushion. If you've ever been on a generic sports turf field before, you may have experienced a spray of crumb rubber pellets. ForeverLawn, however, is unique in that we have a thatch layer that serves to lock in infill to prevent that spray you usually see with other turf products.
- @Conrad – please add in a supplier you typically use, if relevant. I know Home Office usually works with Liberty Tire.
- Not sure you have to address if not using crumb rubber in the system.

5. I read in the ForeverLawn catalog that there are infill options: no infill, crumb rubber infill, and sand infill. Is no crumb rubber infill (or sand infill) an option for the Hancock Park District?

- This would be up to Conrad to say. My first assumption would be that it may be possible in certain areas, but for the large majority of the park district, I would guess that crumb rubber and sand infill is preferred as it helps to increase the stability and therefore longevity & aesthetics of turf.

6. Can the grass surface become “dangerously hot?” That is a concern that has been expressed.

- Here is a white paper that addresses thermal safety concerns - [How ForeverLawn Playground Grass Offers Superior Surfacing Solutions That Address the Problems of Thermal Safety Playground Surfaces Whitepaper](#)

7. I read that the grass is made from recycled plastic bottles. Please provide information about that.

- ForeverLawn premium backing incorporates recycled and renewable components from Project Yellowstone and Project Grand Teton, two unique recycling initiatives that collect plastic water bottles from the national parks and recycle them into backings for ForeverLawn turf and carpet products.
- See our environmental stewardship sheet here - [Environmental Stewardship Sheet](#)

Recommendation: Based on the information provided by ForeverLawn, and the high play value and heightened accessibility that the playground grass provides (which were important goals to achieve with the new playground), Synthetic Grass Ultra and Safety Foam Plus Playground Grass from ForeverLawn is recommended.

Staff Report/Agenda Supplement, December 10, 2024, continued – page 7

Request to approve the cancellation of the Riverwalk Agreement between the Hancock Park District and the City of Findlay: The abbreviated history of the Riverwalk is interesting:

- November 11, 1986, “The Findlay Downtown Area Association is very proud to be the official ‘Fund Raising Sponsor’ for the ‘Downtown Riverwalk’ project.”
- November 18, 1986, “The Board of Park Commissioners has reviewed the proposed commitments of the City, County, Findlay Downtown Area Associates, Hancock Regional Planning Commission and the Park District as set forth in the attachment to this letter and have indicated that they are willing to approve the Park District’s proposed commitment if the other participants approve their respective commitments. We feel the improvements will be a real asset for the Downtown and Blanchard River Greenway...”
- March 5, 1987, “I am pleased to confirm that my brothers and I have decided to contribute \$25,000.00 to construct the ‘East Riverwalk’ as a memorial to our parents. We are very excited about the entire ‘Riverwalk’ concept. We believe that the Riverwalk from Main Street to Anchor Park should be regarded as Stage One in the project to turn both the north and south banks of the Blanchard, east and west of Main Street into parkland.”
- March 16, 1987, “The Findlay Downtown Riverwalk is becoming a reality. This project was intended to spark community focus in the downtown with a cooperative effort, and it’s doing just that.”

- September 19, 1987, “You’re invited to help cut the ribbon, see the improvements and enjoy the activities along Findlay’s new waterfront development.”
- December 15, 1987: The Hancock Park District and the City of Findlay entered into an agreement regarding the Riverwalk (see Riverwalk Agreement). The Riverwalk Agreement placed the Riverwalk under the authority and jurisdiction of the Hancock Park District. The agreement says that “after completion of the two Riverwalk sections, the Park District shall operate, maintain and manage each completed section of Riverwalk as a park facility at Park District expense.”
- October 7, 2021: Civitan Park (owned by the Hancock Park District) was transferred to the City of Findlay for the Downtown North River Development Project (i.e., the development of a city owned and operated park north of the Blanchard River). Subsequent discussions between the Hancock Park District and the City of Findlay focused on the poor condition and disrepair of the Riverwalk, the need for redevelopment (replace, upgrade, and modernize), and the advantages of adding Riverwalk design and development as a component of the overall scope of the Downtown North River Development Project, even though the Riverwalk is south of the Blanchard River (see Preliminary Master Plan).

During the Findlay Parks and Recreation Board meeting on October 21, 2024, an update on park development was presented to the Board, and while minimal input was sought, it was clear that decisions had already been made. This includes the conceptual design of Riverwalk East, which looked good. It reflected the way that the Riverwalk should look.

The Riverwalk Agreement says, “This Agreement may be cancelled for the succeeding calendar year by mutual consent any time prior to the commencement of that calendar year.” Perhaps it is time to relinquish control of the Riverwalk, avoid the inconsistencies that would arise from the City of Findlay and the Hancock Park District operating in the same area, and streamline the operation by putting park and Riverwalk maintenance and management with the City of Findlay, which is where it belongs.

The current timeline for the development of the Downtown North River Development Project, including the Riverwalk is 2025. However, that is probably too soon. If cancelling the Riverwalk Agreement is acceptable to the Board, cancellation should take effect when construction begins, unless the City of Findlay offers to take it over sooner. In the meantime, the Hancock Park District would continue to maintain the Riverwalk by picking up trash, mowing, pulling weeds, and addressing safety issues.

HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
Meeting Minutes for December 10, 2024

The December 10, 2024 meeting of the Hancock Park District Board of Park Commissioners was held at Brugeman Lodge in Riverbend Recreation Area.

Park Commissioners Present: Ed Ingold, Scott Younger, Rick Kidwell
Staff Present: Gary Pruitt, Vicky Stozich, Scott Egbert
Guests: Kalynn Sommers (and her associate)

The meeting was called to order by Ed Ingold at 3:32 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Scott Younger with a second by Rick Kidwell to approve Meeting Minutes dated November 12, 2024. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

FINANCIAL STATUS

Income and expense reports year to date November 30, 2024 were reviewed by the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Naloxbox Initiative: In response to an inquiry from Hancock Public Health asking if the Hancock Park District would be interested in putting naloxboxes in parks (i.e., cabinets containing Narcan), Kalynn Sommers from Hancock Public Health presented information and answered questions. The Board took the information under advisement.

Request to approve Resolution 2024-12 Annual Appropriation: A motion was made by Scott Younger with a second by Rick Kidwell to approve Resolution 2024-12. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Request to approve Synthetic Grass Ultra and Safety Foam Plus Playground Grass from ForeverLawn for the new Oxbow Bend Activity Area Playground: A motion was made by Scott Younger with a second by Rick Kidwell to approve Synthetic Grass Ultra and Safety Foam Plus Playground Grass for the new Oxbow Bend Activity Area playground. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Request to approve the cancellation of the Riverwalk Agreement between the Hancock Park District and the City of Findlay: By consensus, the Board is willing to cancel the Riverwalk Agreement and relinquish control of the Riverwalk.

DISCUSSION

Hancock Park District Report:

Design work is underway for the Oxbow Bend Activity Area Improvement Project. The design agreement with RCM Architects was signed on November 15. Soil exploration by Bowser Morner (including soil borings, lab work, findings, and recommendations) is finished. A lot of good information was provided. Survey work by Van Horn, Hoover & Associates is scheduled for this fall.

**Hancock Park District Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2024 – Page 2 of 2**

Money earmarked by ODOT for the parking lot was officially programmed and encumbered on December 4. The playground concept and safety surface material has been approved. To date, grants and donations total \$902,356.16.

The Raccoon Run Winter Sports Center is ready for cross-country ski and snowshoe rentals. Staff training was conducted. Equipment preparation is underway. The last of the memorial trees scheduled for 2024 have been planted. A portion of the Meadowlark Trail at Oakwoods Nature Preserve was sprayed by someone not affiliated with the Hancock Park District. The grass is dead. The Meadowlark Trail connects to the stone trail on Gateway Church property, which is adjacent to Oakwoods Nature Preserve. The impacted area will have to be replanted with grass.

PUBLIC INPUT

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Meeting Minutes approved:

Edward D. Ingold, Chairperson

Gary E. Pruitt, Director/Secretary

Date

Date