



Hancock Park District

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

Date: Tuesday, June 9, 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 April 14, 2026

Financial Status

1. Review of the Financial Statement dated May 31, 2026

Old Business

New Business

1. Health Insurance Plan Renewal
2. Request to approve the 2027 Estimate of Revenues
3. Request to approve Resolution 2026-05 opposing the elimination of all property taxes in Ohio
4. Request authorization to begin the planning process for three new park development projects

Discussion

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

Public Input

Adjournment

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 3:30 p.m.; Brugeman Lodge at Riverbend Recreation Area

HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
Staff Report/Agenda Supplement
June 9, 2026

Health Insurance Plan Renewal: Grace George from Hitchings Insurance Agency will be at the meeting to present a brief overview of the Hancock Park District's Health Insurance Plan Renewal (see Medical Mutual Renewal Packet).

Request to approve the 2027 Estimate of Revenues: Completing the Estimate of Revenues is a routine matter each year. The Hancock Park District's revenue estimate is due to the Hancock County Auditor in July (see 2027 Estimate of Revenues).

Request to approve Resolution 2026-05 opposing the elimination of all property taxes in Ohio: See the following excerpts below (taken from correspondence with Woody Woodward, president of the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association) and the following attachments: Statewide coalition begins public education on property tax abolishment, A message from Ohioans to Protect Public Services, and Resolution 2026-05 opposing the elimination of all property taxes in Ohio:

From: Woody Woodward <woody@opraonline.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 9:22 AM
Subject: Public Launch of Property Tax Coalition

Dear Directors;

I am writing to let you know that our broad-based statewide coalition, Ohioans to Protect Public Services, launched its public education campaign this morning. As a leader of the coalition effort, I can assure you that we have undertaken extensive research and are working with the top professionals in Ohio to ensure that Ohio voters are educated about the impact of eliminating property taxes in Ohio.

We have done extensive research over the past few months, and we know that many Ohioans don't really understand the impact of abolishing property taxes on the services that mean the most to them, including the life-changing work happening in parks and recreation departments around the state. We have designed materials that will help to make that impact really clear. Ohioans to Protect Public Services is a broad-based statewide coalition of more than 70 organizations including representatives of police, fire and emergency medical personnel; educators; caregivers for seniors, children and people with disabilities; health care providers; libraries; parks; business and labor; local elected officials; Democrats and Republicans.

From: Woody Woodward <woody@opraonline.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 12:02 PM
Subject: Property Tax Resolution and Other Info

Dear Directors;

As we continue our property tax effort, I am writing to ask you to consider having your Board adopt a resolution opposing the elimination of property taxes. This sample resolution may be helpful to you. It is "on message" with our on-going work. If your Board decides to adopt a similar resolution, I would appreciate it if you would forward to me upon adoption. I also wanted to share a poll which was conducted by BGSU earlier this month and was released yesterday. While proponents of a repeal have a significant lead at this point, the poll demonstrates that we can drive their support

down to around 43% with a successful campaign. The poll also shows 85% favorability for parks and recreation, which was second only to Fire and EMS services among services their poll tested. Staff Report/Agenda Supplement, June 9, 2026, continued – page 2

Request authorization to begin the planning process for three new park development projects: Now that the Oxbow Bend Activity Area Improvement Project is near completion and the next two park improvement projects are known, including paved walkways at Aeraland Recreation Area and Riverbend Recreation Area in 2026, and the Dold Lake Development Project in 2027, planning should begin for the next round of park improvements. Early authorization allows for concept development, assessment of grant funding opportunities and application deadlines and internal financial planning (i.e., general fund and budgeting), and scheduling (i.e., planning ahead). Three park improvement projects are proposed for 2028-2030:

Waterfalls Area Improvement Project in 2028 (preliminary components):

1. Reconstruct the parking lot.
2. Replace, upgrade, and modernize the railing.
3. Reconstruct the original section of the Blanchard River Greenway Trail.
4. Reconstruct the trail section within the boundaries of the park (concrete).
5. Construct concrete steps with handrails at both river access sites.
6. Replant the landscape berm between the road and parking lot.
7. Install a bike rack.

Anticipated Funding Sources: Blanchard River Greenway Trail Fund, ODOT Metroparks Fund/Roadwork Fund, Hancock Park District General Fund.

Blanchard River Nature Preserve Improvement Project in 2028 or 2029 (preliminary components):

1. Expand and pave the parking lot (concrete).
2. Create a paved Blanchard River Overlook that connects to the parking lot (concrete).
3. Develop a ramp access to the Blanchard River for canoes and kayaks (concrete).
4. Install a message center that contains information about the Blanchard River Water Trail.
5. Install bench seating overlooking the Blanchard River.
6. Construct a three-sided enclosure for the portable restroom facility.
7. Repair and repaint the storage building.

Anticipated Funding Sources: Clean Ohio Greenspace Conservation Fund, ODOT Metroparks Fund/Roadwork Fund, Hancock Park District General Fund.

Big Oaks Activity Area Playground in 2028, 2029 or 2030 (preliminary tower concept):



HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
Meeting Minutes for June 9, 2026

The June 9, 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 3:29 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Park Commissioners Present: Scott Younger, Rick Kidwell, Ed Ingold
Staff Present: Gary Pruitt, Scott Egbert, Michelle Rumschlag
Guest: Grace George

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Rick Kidwell with a second by Scott Younger to approve Meeting Minutes dated April 14, 2026. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

FINANCIAL STATUS

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

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Health Insurance Plan Renewal: The Hancock Park District will be receiving a 2.64% increase. The industry trend is showing an average increase of 14%-18%. A motion was made by Scott Younger with a second by Rick Kidwell to approve the Health Insurance Plan as recommended. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Request to approve the 2027 Estimate of Revenues: Changes regarding the estimate of revenues compared to 2026 included the elimination of boat rental revenue in the amount of \$6,000.00 and a \$10,000.00 increase in interest income. A motion was made by Rick Kidwell with a second by Scott Younger to approve the 2027 estimate of revenues. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Request to approve Resolution 2026-05 opposing the elimination of all property taxes in Ohio: The Board of Park Commissioners expressed concern about the elimination of property taxes and the devastating impact it would have on the operation of the Hancock Park District. The Ohio Parks and Recreation Association reported that property tax petitioners did not collect enough signatures to place the elimination of all Ohio property taxes on the ballot this November but vowed to continue their efforts and will attempt to place the issue before voters in November 2027. A motion was made by Scott Younger with a second by Rick Kidwell to table the request to approve a resolution opposing the elimination of all property taxes in Ohio. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Request authorization to begin the planning process for three new park development projects: Park development projects include Waterfalls Area Improvement Project, Blanchard River Nature Preserve Improvement Project, and Big Oaks Activity Area Playground. A motion was made by Scott Younger with a second by Rick Kidwell to authorize the planning process. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Hancock Park District Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes – June 9, 2026 – Page 2 of 2

Request to approve Resolution 2026-06 regarding an additional appropriation within the Hancock County Auditor's certification and the Hancock Park District's general fund in the amount of \$42,560.54: A motion was made by Scott Younger with a second by Rick Kidwell to approve Resolution 2026-06. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION

Hancock Park District Report:

EnviroScience conducted its fish survey at Cooper Pond on May 26; waiting for the results. Approximately 47 applications were received for the administrative operations manager position. Six interviews have been scheduled. A hiring decision and job offer are expected to be made by June 19 with a July 6 start date in mind. The Hancock Park District received notification from Senator McColley's office that it has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$300,000.00 for improvements at Dold Lake, Shank Lake, and Cooper Pond, specifically the picnic shelters and the boat ramp. The Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation has a special grant opportunity focused on parks and recreation. It is an invitation-only grant. Applicants can request up to \$25,000.00. There has been discussion with The Community Foundation about this. It appears that the Walkways Paving Project at Aeraland Recreation Area is eligible. A formal grant application will be submitted.

The Park Operations Department is fully staffed with seasonal employees. They are doing well. Park managers and others might attend the OPRA Equipment Demo Day next month. The kayak launch at Eastpoint Area has been installed. It has been busy. Complaints have been received about electric bicycles on the Loop Trail at Riverbend Recreation Area.

The intern for the Program Department has started. She is helping with Summer Camps. Most of the Summer Camps are full. Summer programs are on the website. The garden at the McKinnis House has been planted.

PUBLIC INPUT

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Scott Younger with a second by Rick Kidwell to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes approved:

Edward D. Ingold, Chairperson

Gary E. Pruitt, Director/Secretary

Date

Date