



Hancock Park District

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

Date: Tuesday, October 14, 2025
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 September 9, 2025

Financial Status

1. Review of the Financial Statement dated September 30, 2025, presented by Hancock Park District Business Manager Vicky Stozich

Old Business

1. Urban Prairie Project

New Business

1. Request to approve the 2025 Community Park Improvement Program grants in the amount of \$140,686.28 and Resolution 2025-10 regarding additional appropriation within the Auditor's Certification and Park Commissioners to appropriate in the General Fund in the amount of \$40,686.28

Discussion

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

Public Input

Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 3:30 p.m.; Brugeman Lodge at Riverbend Recreation Area

HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
Staff Report/Agenda Supplement
October 14, 2025

Urban Prairie Project: Jane McCleary on behalf of the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership and presumably, the City of Findlay asked if the Hancock Park District would agree to be recognized publicly as a partner on the City of Findlay's Urban Prairie Project. She said, "Your support would bring tremendous credibility to the project, and any expertise you could offer would be greatly appreciated." Following discussion at the Hancock Park District Board of Park Commissioners meeting on September 9 a decision was made to table the matter until after the informational meeting on September 15. Several comments were noted during the discussion on September 9:

1. Why do it? It will be a constant fight.
2. Continuous maintenance. Prairies take a lot of work; go in with your eyes open.
3. Prefer to not mow.
4. Toledo Zoo to maintain for 5 years, after that, the City of Findlay.
5. Residential as a future use?
6. After 5 years, a lot to maintain, weeds perception, wildlife presence, adjacent homeowners, good trees and bad trees, and nasty trees will take root. Trees will take over.
7. Mow or other maintenance: do it right or else.
8. Heavy on forbs/flowers. Seed mix to match the site; shade loving forbs due to the trees.
9. Is there a better use given its proximity to the Blanchard River and Riverside Park?
10. Examples can be shown as to what happens if not maintained properly.
11. Consult but do not partner.

There is more to consider:

1. The Hancock Park District would be putting its name on projects that have many unknowns. The pilot project on East Main Cross Street could be followed by other projects. This is not meant to be a one and done scenario even though that could happen.
2. As a partner, the Hancock Park District may not agree with or support a decision about any aspect of a project, including site suitability, design, development, maintenance, management, and public relations. As a partner without decision-making authority, what if the Hancock Park District is sensitive to the opposition? Opposition, controversy, complaints, criticism, and politics are foreseeable. The Hancock Park District has little to gain and potentially a lot to lose by being listed publicly as a partner on the City of Findlay's Urban Prairie Project.
3. The Urban Prairie Project is a City of Findlay initiative. The concept will be presented to the Findlay City Council for approval. It is easy to understand how the Hancock Park District as a partner would lend credibility to the Urban Prairie Project, but if lending credibility is intended to help garner support from the council and community for projects that have many unknowns,

then it might be disingenuous on the part of the Hancock Park District to do that. Supporting projects when details and actions by others are not yet known is not a good position to be in. There may be a difference between concept and reality. Avoiding ownership and maintaining independence may be a more appropriate position to take.

4. The Hancock Park District can provide input upon request in a behind-the-scenes manner and in an unofficial capacity. Consult but do not partner? That is good advice.

Request to approve the 2025 Community Park Improvement Program grants in the amount of \$140,686.28 and Resolution 2025-10 regarding additional appropriation within the Auditor's Certification and Park Commissioners to appropriate in the General Fund in the amount of \$40,686.28:

A total of 26 projects were submitted for grant funding from 10 villages, City of Fostoria, and City of Findlay in the amount of \$301,230.98, including twelve 1st Priority Projects in the amount \$140,686.28. The 2025 budget includes \$100,000.00 for grants. An additional appropriation of \$40,686.28 is needed to fund all 1st Priority Projects (see Community Park Improvement Program 2025 Grant Requests and Resolution 2025-10).

HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
Meeting Minutes for October 14, 2025

The October 14, 2025 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, Michelle Rumschlag, Scott Egbert

The meeting was called to order by Ed Ingold at 3:29 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Scott Younger with a second by Rick Kidwell to approve Meeting Minutes dated September 9, 2025. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

FINANCIAL STATUS

Income and expense reports dated September 30, 2025 were reviewed by the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

Urban Prairie Project: A motion was made by Scott Younger with a second by Rick Kidwell to not have the Hancock Park District listed publicly as a partner on the Urban Prairie Project. The Hancock Park District may provide advice upon request in a behind-the-scenes manner and in an unofficial capacity. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Request to approve the 2025 Community Park Improvement Program grants in the amount of \$140,686.28 and Resolution 2025-10 regarding additional appropriation within the Auditor's Certification and Park Commissioners to appropriate in the General Fund in the amount of \$40,686.28: A motion was made by Scott Younger with a second by Rick Kidwell to approve the grants and Resolution 2025-10. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION

Hancock Park District Report: Regarding the Oxbow Bend Activity Area Improvement Project, stormwater drainage infrastructure started and should be finished by Thursday. Borings for electrical lines and conduit is scheduled for today. The Veterans Pavilion structure will be up next week. Asphalt paving of the parking lot is expected during the last week of October and the first week of November. Masonry work might extend beyond the completion of the parking lot. Steps will be taken to protect the new parking lot from heavy equipment and loads. Gutters and downspouts were installed at the Mariann Dana Younger Memorial Pavilion.

Equipment is being prepared for winter. Leaf removal started. The sump pump near the restroom facility in the Oxbow Bend Activity Area was originally installed to control flooding in the area.

Autumnfest is scheduled for Saturday, October 18. Stewardship activities with students from Liberty-Benton Middle School are scheduled for this week. Fall float trips begin this weekend.

PUBLIC INPUT

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Meeting Minutes approved:

Edward D. Ingold, Chairperson

Gary E. Pruitt, Director/Secretary

Date

Date