



Hancock Park District

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

Date: Tuesday, March 9, 2021
Location: Brugeman Lodge at Riverbend Recreation Area
Time: 3:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes dated January 12, 2021

Financial Status

1. Review of the Financial Statement dated February 28, 2021, presented by Hancock Park District Director Gary Pruitt
2. Blanchard River Greenway Trail Fund Statement of Activity for the Period 01/01/2020 through 12/31/2020

Old Business

New Business

1. Request to approve Resolution 2021-05 regarding additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification and Park Commissioners to appropriate in the general fund in the amount of \$7.32 for vacation leave payout for an employee due to retirement
2. Request to approve Resolution 2021-06 regarding additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification and Park Commissioners to appropriate in the general fund in the amount of \$14,365.50 for a kayak launch at Eastpoint Area
3. Request to approve Resolution 2021-07 of the Hancock Park District Board of Park Commissioners authorizing the submittal of an Ohio Department of Natural Resources NatureWorks grant application for Great Karg Well Historical Site Development
4. Request to approve Resolution 2021-08 requesting funds from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and designation of projects for the Ohio Park District Roadwork Fund FY 2022-2023 through the Ohio Parks & Recreation Association (OPRA)

Discussion

1. Hancock Park District Report

Public Input

Adjournment

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. in Brugeman Lodge at Riverbend Recreation Area

Notice of Executive Session and Agenda

Date: Tuesday, March 9, 2021
Location: Brugeman Lodge at Riverbend Recreation Area
Time: Immediately following the public meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Roll Call

New Business

1. To consider the purchase of property for public purposes per Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G) (2)

HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
Staff Report / Agenda Supplement
March 9, 2021

Request to approve Resolution 2021-05 regarding additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification and Park Commissioners to appropriate in the general fund in the amount of \$7.32 for vacation leave payout for an employee due to retirement: At the January meeting, the Board approved Resolution 2021-02 regarding additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification and Park Commissioners to appropriate in the general fund in the amount of \$592.20 for compensatory time payout for an employee due to retirement. That amount was short by \$7.32. Therefore, to properly account for the actual payout for an employee due to retirement, an additional payout of \$7.32 is required.

Request to approve Resolution 2021-06 regarding additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification and Park Commissioners to appropriate in the general fund in the amount of \$14,365.50 for a kayak launch at Eastpoint Area: For many years, there has been an undeveloped, unofficial river access site on East Main Cross Street, west of Eastpoint Area and Bright Road. Research uncovered a bit of history:

1. When the ramp and access site were created, right of way belonged to the county.
2. No one knows who created the access, although a former park commissioner said it was created by individuals wanting to access the river with their motorboats for fishing, etc.
3. For many years, no governmental entity had taken responsibility for it.
4. The early history is not good, with motorboat activity, traffic accidents, complaints from neighbors about late night activity, and intoxicated boaters.
5. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Watercraft did not like the ramp and river access at that location. However, the Findlay Police Department, Findlay Fire Department, and Hancock County Sheriff's Office said it was needed to get a boat on the Blanchard River for search and rescue.

The river access has been used for small boats. Vehicles with boat trailers have been seen parked on the side of the road. Kayakers have also used the site because of its zero-depth entry and the difficulty of launching and landing a kayak at Eastpoint Area due to the concrete abutments.

After a request was made from a kayaker to improve the river access site, the City of Findlay was notified and informed of the request and the history as outlined above. Since the Findlay Police Department and the Findlay Fire Department were apparently in favor of the river access site at one time (many years ago), a suggestion was made that the need for the ramp and river access site should be revisited with those city departments, and that if improvements are to be made, then perhaps the contractor working on East Main Cross Street could do the work as a change order to the contract.

The City of Findlay decided to retain and improve the river access for use by law enforcement and the Fire Department. Public access is prohibited.

Following that particular issue, discussion between the Hancock Park District and City of Findlay turned to Eastpoint Area and how to make the river access site more convenient for launching and landing kayaks. Eastpoint Area is one of 11 river access sites along the Blanchard River Greenway Trail. Improving river access in general is supported by the Hancock Park District's Strategic and Comprehensive Plan.

Currently, there are two ramps at Eastpoint Area leading from the parking lot to the Blanchard River. The ramps end with a concrete abutment. A kayak launch at Eastpoint Area, like the one used for public boat rentals at Zonta Landing, became an intriguing idea. After evaluating the feasibility of a kayak launch, including internal staff discussion, site observation, and correspondence with the supplier of EZ Dock products, a kayak launch design and cost estimate were developed.

With Board approval, the goal would be to purchase and install the kayak launch at Eastpoint Area prior to Memorial Day weekend (see Kayak Launch Design).



Emergency River Access (East Main Cross Street)



Proposed Kayak Launch Location (Eastpoint Area)

Request to approve Resolution 2021-07 of the Hancock Park District Board of Park Commissioners authorizing the submittal of an Ohio Department of Natural Resources NatureWorks grant application for Great Karg Well Historical Site Development: There are three park development projects that are moving forward in terms of preliminary planning: parking lot replacement and upgrade at Litzenberg Memorial Woods, new restroom facilities at Riverbend Recreation Area, and the development of the Great Karg Well Historical Site (GKWHS). The first project for the Board to consider is the development of the GKWHS.

Since the project cost estimate is \$238,751.00 (including design and development), supplemental funding is preferred via a reimbursable NatureWorks grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The grant application is due by June 1. The grant provides 75% funding. Therefore, a 25% local match is required. The 25% local match is not a problem, since the maximum grant amount is \$121,850.00. The local match is expected to be approximately 49%. Three sources for the local match are being considered: Hancock Park District General Fund – \$89,771.00, Hancock Parks Foundation – \$14,500.00, and the Roadwork Fund from the Metropark Program – \$19,630.00.

The Hancock Park District’s Strategic and Comprehensive Plan was approved and implemented in 2014. The result of a needs assessment showed that 67.5 percent of customers surveyed believed that the Hancock Park District should replace and upgrade existing facilities, modernize an aging park system, and improve service. Other results from the same survey question include the following: acquire land and expand the park system – 41.9%; maintain existing parks and facilities with minimal change and growth – 25%.

GKWHS is one of eight River Parks located along the Blanchard River Greenway and the Blanchard River Water Trail with a current or planned connection to the Blanchard River Greenway Trail. GKWHS is the only remaining River Park that is undeveloped.

Currently, the parking lot is too small, there is no safety railing along the overlook, and access to the Blanchard River is via an earthen slope. There are no signs to identify the site and no site amenities. The beach area has a lot of potential for fishing and boating access, but improvements need to be made before that potential can be realized. A portion of the headwall is crumbling. Therefore, it needs to be replaced and improved.

The existing headwall (a remnant of a long-ago development) now serves as a retaining wall in the most practical sense. However, it is actually an integral part of the park’s conceptual plan to provide outdoor recreation facilities and a feature deemed to be unique among facilities found in other River Parks (i.e., an overlook). The only other overlook is along the waterfront at Riverside Park.

The new headwall will allow for an accessible walkway along the overlook with bench seating and the installation of a decorative railing for safety. As an outdoor recreation facility, this overlook area will promote wildlife watching, picnicking, and casual observation.

GKWHS is located in a residential area at the intersection of River Street and Liberty Street. It receives some use as a wayside and for outdoor recreation. However, before it can reach its full potential as a viable River Park location, safety concerns need to be alleviated and actual development needs to occur similar to what has occurred at other River Parks from 2016 to 2020.

GKWHS is one of two River Parks located west of Main Street and the only one to serve residents in the densely populated neighborhoods near the park. To serve residents in an equitable manner, the park should be developed with similar amenities as those found at other River Parks.

As part of the design, a route for the Blanchard River Greenway Trail will be identified and incorporated into the site plan so that when the time comes the trail can pass through in an appropriate way rather than as an afterthought. GKWHS is essentially in a gap between the trail. City land and county land are available for trail development. Future trail development will connect residents in the area to downtown Findlay and all other River Parks.

The Blanchard River was designated as a state water trail by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources in 2020. GKWHS is one of 11 river access sites along the 37.6-mile Blanchard River Water Trail. The Strategic and Comprehensive Plan identified the need for the following improvement as part of its Blanchard River Action Plan: “Improve river access with more functional launch and landing facilities at . . . Great Karg Well Historical Site . . . and at other appropriate sites.”

GKWHS, which is owned by the City of Findlay and managed by the Hancock Park District per a long-standing agreement, has existed in an undeveloped and rather obscure state for over 40 years. In fact, other River Parks were also facing neglect as recent as 2014. However, with the development of a Strategic and Comprehensive Plan in November 2014, changes were made. Parks along the river were seen with different eyes and envisioned as something special. And with that, the Blanchard Corridor Recreation Program was envisioned.

The purpose of the Blanchard Corridor Recreation Program is to raise awareness about and promote year-round outdoor recreation opportunities resulting from the combination of four interconnected components: Blanchard River Greenway, Blanchard River Water Trail, River Parks, and the Blanchard River Greenway Trail. Together, they create a well-known and high-profile outdoor recreation destination within the heart of Findlay. Developing GKWHS is an important part of that grand plan (see Resolution 2021-07).



Request to approve Resolution 2021-08 requesting funds from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and designation of projects for the Ohio Park District Roadwork Fund FY 2022-2023 through the Ohio Parks & Recreation Association (OPRA): This is a routine matter every two years. As prescribed by the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association's Park Road Improvement Policy, each biennium the Hancock Park District is required to pass and submit a resolution that states its understanding of government regulations pertaining to the Metropark Program and its request to participate.

In essence, the signed resolution serves as the Hancock Park District Board of Park Commissioner's request for the next two-year allocation of funds from the Ohio Department of Transportation's Metropark Program. The fully executed resolution and list of designated projects for the next two years is due by June 1, 2021 (see Resolution 2021-08 and Roadwork Fund Project List 2022-2023 Biennium).

HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
Meeting Minutes for March 9, 2021

The March 9, 2021 meeting of the Hancock Park District Board of Park Commissioners was held at Riverbend Recreation Area's Brugeman Lodge.

Park Commissioners Present: Ed Ingold and Scott Younger
Park Commissioner Absent: Gary Hirschfeld
HPD Staff Present: Gary Pruitt
Guests Present: Jim Maurer from The Courier and Cameron from Lima News

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 Ed Ingold to approve the January 12, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried by a 2-0 vote.

FINANCIAL STATUS

Income and expense reports year to date February 28, 2021 were presented to the Board by Hancock Park District Director Gary Pruitt. The Blanchard River Greenway Trail Fund Statement of Activity for the period 01/01/2020 through 12/31/2020 was reviewed by the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Request to approve Resolution 2021-05 regarding additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification and Park Commissioners to appropriate in the general fund in the amount of \$7.32 for vacation leave payout for an employee due to retirement: A motion was made by Scott Younger with a second by Ed Ingold to approve Resolution 2021-05. Motion carried by a 2-0 vote.

Request to approve Resolution 2021-06 regarding additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification and Park Commissioners to appropriate in the general fund in the amount of \$14,365.50 for a kayak launch at Eastpoint Area: A motion was made by Scott Younger with a second by Ed Ingold to approve Resolution 2021-06. Motion carried by a 2-0 vote.

Request to approve Resolution 2021-07 of the Hancock Park District Board of Park Commissioners authorizing the submittal of an Ohio Department of Natural Resources NatureWorks grant application for Great Karg Well Historical Site Development: At the request of the director, this agenda item was tabled by the Board.

Request to approve Resolution 2021-08 requesting funds from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and designation of projects for the Ohio Park District Roadwork Fund FY 2022-2023 through the Ohio Parks & Recreation Association (OPRA): A motion was made by Scott Younger with a second by Ed Ingold to approve Resolution 2021-08. Motion carried by a 2-0 vote.

DISCUSSION

Hancock Park District Report:

Statistics from the 2020 Hunting with Permission Game Management Program include 38 permits, 57 visits, and 20 different hunters (53% of permit holders). Five hunters (25% of hunters) were successful. The number of animals taken include two deer and six squirrels.

Wetland Restoration Area work in February consisted of topsoil stripping, wetland grading, and the placement of excavated soil in permanent stockpile areas. Facemyer Company was unable to work during the week of February 5 due to extreme temperatures and snowfall. Work planned for March and early April consists of wetland grading and the subsurface drainage network (e.g., exploratory investigations and tile plugging). If conditions allow, seeding of wetland depressions may occur.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

Meeting Minutes approved:

Gary E. Hirschfeld, Chairperson

Gary E. Pruitt, Director/Secretary

Date

Date