



Hancock Park District

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

Date: Tuesday, August 10, 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 July 13, 2021

Financial Status

1. Review of the Financial Statement dated July 31, 2021, presented by Hancock Park District Business Manager Vicky Stozich

Old Business

New Business

1. Request to approve the transfer of land from the Hancock Park District to the City of Findlay for the purpose of a benching project along the Blanchard River
2. Request authorization to pursue the transfer of land from the Hancock County Commissioners to the Hancock Park District for the purpose of expanding Riverwalk West
3. Request to approve Resolution 2021-17 regarding additional appropriation within the Auditor's Certification and Park Commissioners to appropriate in the General Fund for cleaning services in the amount of \$2,500.00
4. Riverside Summer Concert Series
5. Request to approve Resolution 2021-18 regarding additional appropriation within the Auditor's Certification and Park Commissioners to appropriate in the General Fund for COVID-19 reimbursements and refunds in the amount of \$5,000.00

Discussion

1. Hancock Park District Report:
 - Director – Gary Pruitt
 - Business Manager – Vicky Stozich
 - Naturalist – Michelle Rumschlag

Public Input

Adjournment

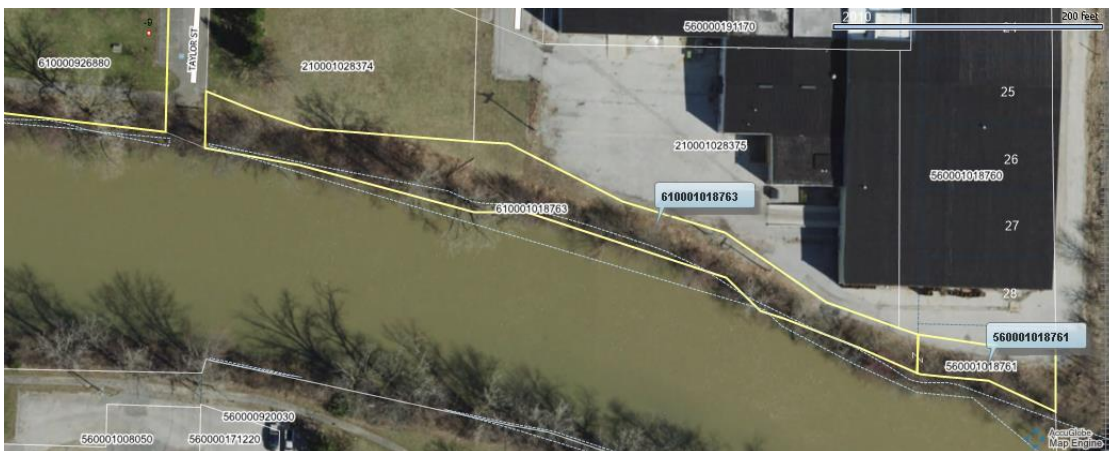
Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. at the Richard S. "Doc" Phillips Discovery Center at Oakwoods Nature Preserve

HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
Staff Report / Agenda Supplement
August 10, 2021

Request to approve the transfer of land from the Hancock Park District to the City of Findlay for the purpose of a benching project along the Blanchard River: Several months ago, a public announcement was made about a benching project located north of the Blanchard River, east of Main Street. The announcement indicated a desire by the City of Findlay to purchase or otherwise take ownership of Hancock Park District property, including Civitan Park and undeveloped land along the Blanchard River. The gazebo near Main Street and the Blanchard River Greenway Trail west of Taylor Street would be removed along with other park amenities, including parking lot, playground, and basketball court as part of the benching project.

At the July meeting, the Board of Park Commissioners approved a resolution stating that a benched area along the Blanchard River that mitigates flooding and creates wildlife habitat and scenic beauty coupled with a recreational area with broad community benefit would be the best public use of the land. Following the approval of the resolution, the Hancock County Probate Court approved the sale or transfer of land: *“The Court hereby finds that all requirements have been met by the Board including their determination that the sale will result in the best public use of the land.”*

The City of Findlay prepared a LIMITED WARRANTY DEED as the instrument to essentially transfer Hancock Park District land to the City of Findlay (see IN THE MATTER OF THE SALE OF LAND OWNED BY THE HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS and LIMITED WARRANTY DEED).



Undeveloped land intended for Blanchard River Greenway Trail development



Civitan Park and the Blanchard River Greenway Trail

Request authorization to pursue the transfer of land from the Hancock County Commissioners to the Hancock Park District for the purpose of expanding Riverwalk West: On July 1, 1987, the Hancock Park District (HPD) and City of Findlay (City) entered into an agreement placing Riverwalk West under the authority and jurisdiction of the HPD. The agreement includes the following:

1. The HPD shall assume control of the Riverwalk and use, develop, improve, and protect the same as park land.
2. After the completion of the two Riverwalk sections, the HPD shall operate, maintain, and manage each complete section of Riverwalk as a park facility at HPD expense. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - Mowing and trimming of grass and vegetation in the immediate area of the Riverwalk.
 - Maintaining the Riverwalk surface in a clean and safe condition, including asphalt walks, wood decking, planters, and guardrail.
 - Providing signs and other information for the benefit of the public.
 - Providing and maintaining landscaping for the riverbank and the appropriate adjacent areas to the Riverwalk.
 - Promulgating such regulations as are necessary or desirable for the reasonable safety and security of persons utilizing the Riverwalk.
3. The HPD shall not conduct any work or operations that would have the effect of causing or increasing erosion of the riverbanks. The HPD shall not be responsible for stabilizing the riverbanks or controlling erosion not caused by HPD operations. However, the HPD shall cooperate with the City in preventing and controlling such erosion on the riverbanks adjacent to the Riverwalk.
4. The HPD assumes no control of or responsibility for parking areas, drives, alleys, or traffic control devices. Control and responsibility remain with the City and are not affected by this agreement.
5. This agreement may be cancelled for the succeeding calendar year by mutual consent any time prior to the commencement of that calendar year.

In June 2021, a plan to remove all plant material, lower bed enclosures, repair enclosures and edging, and plant in the fall with beautification and low maintenance in mind was implemented. The long-term, multi-phase improvement project begins with landscaping. However, it may involve improvements to the trail (boardwalk and asphalt sections), rip rap and erosion control (in coordination with the City), and signs. A project aimed at replacing, upgrading, and modernizing the Riverwalk is supported by the HPD's Strategic and Comprehensive Plan.

Riverwalk improvements may be part of the project scope involving the development of a downtown park and recreation area north of the Blanchard River (as part of the benching project). During a discussion with the City, the HPD explained that it would be appropriate for the HPD to contribute financially toward Riverwalk improvements, since it was always going to be that way. The HPD was just waiting to see what happened with Civitan Park and adjacent land. From a proposal, design, and development perspective, it makes sense to do all of the park, recreation, and trail improvements in the area at the same time.

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During a staff meeting to discuss landscaping improvements in particular and a long-term, multi-phase improvement plan in general, the idea of using adjacent land owned by the Hancock County Commissioners was considered. The addition of

the land located adjacent to Riverwalk West (west of Cory Street, southwest of the Riverwalk) would be logical. The HPD is already mowing the grass. The land would create the opportunity for additional landscaping in the form of trees and site amenities, such as benches and/or picnic tables.

The Hancock Park District sent the following inquiry about the land to the Hancock County Commissioners:

The Hancock Park District is responsible for maintaining Riverwalk West between Main Street and Cory Street on the south side of the Blanchard River. The land is owned by the City of Findlay and the American Legion. Hancock County Commissioners own parcel 560000170360 (attached). The Hancock Park District has been mowing that parcel.

Preliminary plans are underway to revisit all of the landscaping along Riverwalk West. I anticipate the removal of all landscaping material and the planting of new landscaping material as early as this fall. Other work as part of a long-term, multi-phase improvement project involves the trail (asphalt and boardwalk), rip rap and erosion control, and signs.

The parcel owned by Hancock County Commissioners is adjacent to Riverwalk West and would be a nice spot for additional landscaping in the form of trees, and the construction of concrete pads for picnic tables and benches. The existing asphalt would be removed. Seating along Riverwalk West is essentially absent. Therefore, the use of that parcel would improve the quality of the Riverwalk experience. Plus, it is a logical addition that could be put to good use; good public use.

Please let me know if the Hancock County Commissioners would authorize the Hancock Park District to use that parcel as described and what action should be taken to make it happen.

*Gary E. Pruitt, CPRP, Director
Hancock Park District*

The Hancock County Commissioners reviewed the information, discussed it with Assistant Prosecutor Phil Johnson, “agreed to the transfer,” and suggested that Phil Johnson be contacted to “discuss options” for the transfer.

The Hancock Park District can pursue the acquisition of land or it can pursue an agreement via a resolution that places the land under the Hancock Park District’s jurisdiction and authority. Historically, the Hancock Park District has done it both ways:

- The Hancock Park District does not own the Riverwalk. The land is owned by the City of Findlay. The Hancock Park District has jurisdiction and authority to manage and maintain the Riverwalk per an agreement with the City of Findlay.
- The Hancock Park District does not own Gateway Plaza, which will be eliminated as part of the benching project. An agreement between the Hancock County Commissioners and Board of Park Commissioners dated May 16, 1996 placed the Main Street Bridge Plaza (Gateway Plaza) under the authority and jurisdiction of the Hancock Park District.
- Civitan Park was transferred to the Hancock Park District by the Hancock County Commissioners via resolution dated May 29, 1974. Actual ownership occurred on November 28, 2006 via a Quit-Claim Deed. Land along the river, east of Civitan Park, was acquired in 2001.



Parcel 560000170360; west of Cory Street, southwest of the Riverwalk



Parcel 560000170360 located adjacent to Riverwalk West



Parcel 560000170360 with a view of the Blanchard River



Parcel 560000170360 with a view of Cory Street and the Riverwalk Trailhead

Request to approve Resolution 2021-17 regarding additional appropriation within the Auditor's Certification and Park Commissioners to appropriate in the General Fund for cleaning services in the amount of \$2,500.00: When the 2021 budget was developed, money for cleaning services for Brugeman Lodge and the Activity Barn were based on current rentals, a suspension of facility reservations, and the uncertainty caused by COVID-19. Facility reservations resumed on May 1, 2021. At the June meeting, an additional appropriation of \$2,500.00 for additional cleaning services was approved by the Board. Another additional appropriation is needed to provide cleaning services for existing and future rentals (see Resolution 2021-17).

Riverside Summer Concert Series:

From the Hancock Park District archives comes *The History of the Riverside Summer Concert Series*. The history of the Riverside Summer Concert Series is a long and varied one. In the summer of 1951, Ralph Shell and Allen Dudley put together a community band to celebrate a Boy Scout event held at Donnell Stadium. The following year, the community band appeared for the first time at the band shell in Riverside Park for a series of three concerts.

Dick Daugherty from WFIN was recruited to serve as master of ceremonies. Over the years, the series was expanded to include other musical groups in the Findlay area. For the next 26 years, Ralph Shell directed the Civic Band, while Allen Dudley acted as the manager and organizer.

In the early years, the series was sponsored by the Republican Courier and WFIN radio station. When Allen Dudley died in 1983, John Hutson from the University of Findlay took over as coordinator of the series.

In the early 1980s, the Dale Dorney fund through the Cleveland Foundation took over the sponsorship of the series. A steering committee was also formed. It included the Hancock Parks Foundation, Barbara Deerhake, who was with the Cleveland Foundation at the time, John Hutson from the University of Findlay, Findlay Recreation Department, Dale Dorney fund, Jack Taylor, and the Hancock Park District.

When the Community Foundation was formed, the Dale Dorney funds were transferred to Findlay to be overseen by Barbara Deerhake, who was with the Community Foundation. In 1987, the Hancock Park District took over as coordinator of the Riverside Summer Concert Series with the help of a volunteer coordinator. The first volunteer coordinator was Ken Woode, followed by John Marshall and Barbara Hart Pagano.

The band shell was named the Allen P. Dudley band shell in honor of one of Findlay's favorite sons. In 2004, the Daugherty Plaza at Riverside Park was named in honor of Dick Daugherty.

The Riverside Summer Concert Series has provided Findlay and Hancock County with local and national entertainment thanks to the support from the City of Findlay, University of Findlay, WFIN radio station, House of Hindenach, Groman's Music, Dietsch Brothers Fine Chocolates & Ice Cream, The Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation, Hancock County Convention & Visitors Bureau, corporate and patron sponsors, and volunteers.

After more than three decades of the Hancock Park District coordinating the Riverside Summer Concert Series, the torch has been passed, thus shining a light on the beginning of a new era. The Marathon Center for the Performing Arts (MCPA) has agreed to coordinate the Riverside Summer Concert Series beginning in 2022.

The MCPA is better suited to provide musical entertainment. The Riverside Summer Concert Series aligns itself much closer with the MCPA's outreach mission and area of expertise than it does with the Hancock Park District given its current staff structure, projects, and priorities.

HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
Meeting Minutes for August 10, 2021

The August 10, 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, Scott Younger
Park Commissioner Absent: Gary Hirschfeld
HPD Staff Present: Gary Pruitt, Vicky Stozich, Michelle Rumschlag
Guests Present: Sara Arthurs

The meeting was called to order by Ed Ingold at 3:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Scott Younger with a second by Ed Ingold to approve the July 13, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried by a 2-0 vote.

FINANCIAL STATUS

Income and expense reports year to date July 31, 2021 were presented to the Board by Hancock Park District Business Manager Vicky Stozich.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Request to approve the transfer of land from the Hancock Park District to the City of Findlay for the purpose of a benching project along the Blanchard River: A motion was made by Scott Younger with a second by Ed Ingold to approve the transfer of land. Motion carried by a 2-0 vote.

Request authorization to pursue the transfer of land from the Hancock County Commissioners to the Hancock Park District for the purpose of expanding Riverwalk West: A motion was made by Scott Younger with a second by Ed Ingold to authorize the transfer of land. Motion carried by a 2-0 vote.

Request to approve Resolution 2021-17 regarding additional appropriation within the Auditor's Certification and Park Commissioners to appropriate in the General Fund for cleaning services in the amount of \$2,500.00: A motion was made by Scott Younger with a second by Ed Ingold to approve Resolution 2021-17. Motion carried by a 2-0 vote.

Riverside Summer Concert Series: The Board received official notification that the Marathon Center for the Performing Arts has agreed to take over the Riverside Summer Concert Series beginning in 2022 and that the following financial transactions are expected to be made at the September meeting of the Hancock Parks Foundation: refund \$5,750.00 from the Riverside Summer Concerts Fund to event sponsors; refund \$2,000.00 from the Riverside Summer Concerts Fund to the Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation; and transfer \$1,986.84 from the Riverside Summer Concerts Fund to the Marathon Center for the Performing Arts.

Request to approve Resolution 2021-18 regarding additional appropriation within the Auditor’s Certification and Park Commissioners to appropriate in the General Fund for COVID-19 reimbursement and refunds in the amount of \$5,000.00: A motion was made by Scott Younger with a second by Ed Ingold to approve Resolution 2021-18. Motion carried by a 2-0 vote.

DISCUSSION

Hancock Park District Report:

The Department of Natural Resources provided official notification that the Bright Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Project has been awarded an H2Ohio grant in the amount of \$439,000.00. The Draft Agreement is under review and the Scope of Services, Deliverables Timeline, Budget, and Budget Justification document is being completed. The project completion date is December 31, 2022. There will not be a tour of the Oakwoods Nature Preserve Wetland Restoration Project in September. The September Board meeting will be held at Brugeman Lodge.

Audit is finished. The last summer camp is this week. Zonta Landing Boat Rentals will continue for another month. Fall Float Trips begin in September. The Fall Program & Event guide is being developed. It will be publicized on the website.

PUBLIC INPUT

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Meeting Minutes approved:

Gary E. Hirschfeld, Chairperson

Gary E. Pruitt, Director/Secretary

Date

Date