



Hancock Park District

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

Date: Tuesday, October 11, 2022
Location: Brugeman Lodge at Riverbend Recreation Area
Time: 3:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes dated September 13, 2022
2. Approval of Executive Session Minutes dated September 22, 2022

Financial Status

1. Review of the Financial Statement dated September 30, 2022, presented by Hancock Park District Business Manager Vicky Stozich

Old Business

1. Request to approve the submittal of a Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program grant application for the purchase of land adjacent to Vogelsong Conservation Area

New Business

Discussion

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

Public Input

Adjournment

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 3:30 p.m. in Brugeman Lodge at Riverbend Recreation Area

HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
Staff Report / Agenda Supplement
October 11, 2022

1. **Request to approve the submittal of a Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program grant for the purchase of land adjacent to Vogelsong Conservation Area:** At the September meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners, the Board did not approve the submittal of a Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program grant in favor of tabling the matter and inquiring about a purchase price ahead of an appraisal. The Board met in Executive Session on September 22 to consider the matter further, at which time the Board arrived at a consensus to order an appraisal. Official action by the Board to order an appraisal is required.

Currently, the 12.5-acre field is scheduled for auction on November 19, 2022. In the absence of Board approval to proceed with the acquisition (i.e., Board approval to submit a Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program grant for the purchase of land adjacent to Vogelsong Conservation Area), the auction will move ahead as planned.

The Hancock Park District was given an opportunity to acquire the 12.5-acre field west of and adjacent to Vogelsong Conservation Area. Since the land borders the conservation area and the future Blanchard River Greenway Trail, the possibilities are intriguing. Wetlands, pollinator habitat, woodland, prairie, and natural succession are among the considerations for conservation area expansion. The combination of conservation area expansion and the expansion of the Blanchard River Greenway Trail would create an opportunity to develop a trailhead and nature trails throughout the conservation area, provide public access, and display information that promotes the principles of conservation being practiced locally, similar to what has occurred at Bright Conservation Area and Lehman Conservation Area.

Promotional information currently says:

Vogelsong Conservation Area is a 23.6-acre undeveloped natural area with no support facilities. It was created to protect water quality, expand wildlife habitat, and provide natural beauty.

Habitat is characterized as bottomland woods that support mink, raccoon, opossum, deer, gray fox, and several species of squirrel. Red-tailed hawks breed on the property. Vogelsong Conservation Area, along with much of the Blanchard River riparian zone, is a valuable feeding and staging area for migratory birds.

This quiet walkway may be used for passive outdoor recreation activities, such as hiking, photography, and birdwatching. Stay on the trail and keep dogs on a leash. Open sunrise to sunset.



Vogelsong Conservation Area



12.5-acre field

HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
Meeting Minutes for October 11, 2022

The October 11, 2022 meeting of the Hancock Park District Board of Park Commissioners was held at Riverbend Recreation Area's Brugeman Lodge.

Park Commissioners Present: Gary Hirschfeld, Scott Younger
Park Commissioner Absent: Ed Ingold
HPD Staff Present: Gary Pruitt, Tyler Fredritz, Vicky Stozich, Michelle Rumschlag

The meeting was called to order by Gary Hirschfeld at 3:27 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Scott Younger with a second by Gary Hirschfeld to approve Meeting Minutes dated September 13, 2022. Motion carried by a 2-0 vote.

A motion was made by Scott Younger with a second by Gary Hirschfeld to approve Executive Session Minutes dated September 22, 2022. Motion carried by a 2-0 vote.

FINANCIAL STATUS

Income and expense reports year to date September 30, 2022 were reviewed by the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

Request to approve the submittal of a Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program grant application for the purchase of land adjacent to Vogelsong Conservation Area: A motion was made by Scott Younger with a second by Gary Hirschfeld to approve the submittal of a Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program grant application and to authorize the director to order an appraisal as part of the grant application process. Motion carried by a 2-0 vote.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION

Hancock Park District Report:

Aeraland Recreation Area buildings and shelter have been painted brown and cedar. Benches and picnic tables are coming. The State-Local Project Agreement for the Litzenberg Memorial Woods Improvement Project is under review internally and by the Hancock Park District's attorney. Performance evaluations are being conducted this month and should be finished by the end of October. Gibson Concrete Construction will be working on tactile warning pads where trails meet roads, a new walkway at Oakwoods Nature Preserve that connects the boardwalk to the Discovery Center porch, and the removal and replacement of the back porch at the Hancock Park District Administrative Offices. Work is anticipated during the last week of October or the first week of November weather permitting. The proposed restroom facility at Brucklacher Memorial Park will serve trail users well, especially given the fact that the City of Findlay has received a grant to extend the Blanchard River Greenway Trail from Township Road 236 to Riverbend Recreation Area. Restroom facilities, other support facilities, and other park and recreation amenities would be available at three convenient locations along the trail: Riverbend Recreation Area, Brucklacher Memorial Park, and Riverside Park.

John Bowman has been hired as Park Manager East; he is doing well. During performance evaluations, clarifying expectations with managers, including the need to implement park maintenance standards is an area of emphasis.

Tim Kleman has been promoted to full-time program specialist. The part-time program specialist position has been advertised as Open Until Filled. Pioneer Tyke Hikes was held last week; 420 children in preschool and kindergarten participated. History Comes Alive was conducted. The special event served fourth graders. The Program Department is busy with school programs. Autumnfest is scheduled for October 15 at Litzenberg Memorial Woods. Program cancellations shown on the Programs & Activities Update occur for a variety of reasons; sometimes participants who register do not attend and do not call, thus prompting zero participation.

PUBLIC INPUT

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

Meeting Minutes approved:

Gary E. Hirschfeld, Chairperson

Gary E. Pruitt, Director/Secretary

Date

Date