



HAMILTON COUNTY
BOARD of PARKS & RECREATION

Monday, March 16th, 2026

Osprey Pointe Pavilion
Morse Park & Beach
19777 Morse Park Lane
Noblesville, IN 46060

The regular meeting of the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Board was held Monday, March 16th, 2026, at 6:00 pm at the Osprey Pointe Pavilion at 19777 Morse Park Ln, Noblesville, IN 46062.

Present: Stephen Andrews, *President*
Larry Roudebush, *Vice President*
Mark McCauley, *Secretary*
Robyn Pauker, *Member*
Tom Clover, *Member*
Susan Peterson, *Member (virtual)*

Staff: Chris Stice, *Director*
Erica Foreman, *Resource Development Specialist (virtual)*
Thomas Vlastic, *Program Assistant*

Attorney: None.

Guests: Dalton Might, *MJ Companies*
Darci Barr, *Plan and Process Consultancy LLC*
Maria Adele Rosenfeld, *Christkindlmarkt Consulting*

****In compliance with the directive outlined by the State Board of Accounts, the County Commissioners and County Council, the Parks Board is meeting via video conference. Physically present are: President, Steve Andrews; Vice President, Larry Roudebush; Board Secretary, Mark McCauley; Board Member, Robyn Pauker; and Board Member, Tom Clover; which meets the compliance requirements. Also, physically present representing the Parks Department are Director, Chris Stice and Program Assistant, Thomas Vlastic.**

A.) Call to Order:

Mr. Roudebush called the Hamilton County Parks & Recreation's March 16th, 2025 Board Meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

B.) Approval of the Agenda:

Director Stice requested that *7 Streams and Geist BOT Scoping* be added to Item I7 on the agenda.

Ms. Pauker made a motion to add *7 Streams and Geist BOT Scoping* to Item I7 on the agenda. Mr. Roudebush seconded this motion.

Yea: Mr. Andrews; Mr. Roudebush; Ms. Pauker; Ms. Peterson; Mr. McCauley; Mr. Clover.

Nay: None.

Motion carries.

Mr. Roudebush made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Pauker seconded this motion.

Yea: Mr. Andrews; Mr. Roudebush; Ms. Pauker; Ms. Peterson; Mr. McCauley; Mr. Clover.

Nay: None.

Motion carries.

C.) Approval of February 17th, 2026 Minutes:

Mr. Roudebush made a motion to approve the February 17th, 2026 board meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Clover seconded.

Yea: Mr. Andrews; Mr. Roudebush; Ms. Pauker; Ms. Peterson; Mr. McCauley; Mr. Clover.

Nay: None.

Motion carries.

D.) Public Comments:

None.

E.) Finance Report:

1.) Approval of Claims, Payroll, Transfers, Additional Appropriations, and Encumbrances

Director Stice read the finance reports. As of February 17th, 2026, there was a beginning cash balance of \$5,916,669.63. Revenue as of March 16th, 2026, was \$731,409.98. Payroll as of March 16th, 2026, being approved was \$340,814.53. Claims presented as of March 16th, 2026, to be approved were \$885,708.59, leaving the Department with an ending cash balance of \$5,421,556.49.

Director Stice presented two fund transfer requests for Board approval.

The first transfer moves \$22,000 from Professional Services (1178.3001) to Machinery and Equipment (1178.4500) within the donations line item, to cover services that have been rendered.

The second transfer moves \$3,489.29 from Outsourced Repairs and Maintenance (1219.3500) to Insurance (1219.3300), reflecting that the county's insurance reimbursement came in \$3,484.29 above the amount originally budgeted for that fund, necessitating a corresponding adjustment to the line item

Director Stice stated that the second page of the Department's financial report contains information regarding rates for the Compton Archery Group camping at the White River Campground/Strawtown Koteewi Park. He added that this information was included as clarification for the discussion regarding these rates at February's board meeting.

Director Stice listed the rates verbally, which are as follows:

- Early Bird Group Rates at the White River Campground (Reservations made before 12/31/25, price includes 7% Indiana State Tax.)
 - \$35/night – Full hook-up
 - \$30/night – Electric and Water tent
 - \$19/night – Primitive tent
- Regular Group Rates at the White River Campground (Reservations made after 12/31/25, price does not include 7% Indiana State Tax.)
 - \$35/night – Full hook-up
 - \$30/night – Electric and Water tent
 - \$19/night – Primitive tent
- Camping at Strawtown Koteewi Park (fee is part of the group event registration collected by Koteewi Archery – the Department will receive 10%. Price includes **any** applicable sales tax and is for the entire weekend of the event.)
 - \$40 for Compton Members
 - \$45 for Non-Compton Members

Director Stice stated that the Department needs the Board's approval to confirm these rates.

Ms. Peterson made a motion to approve the finance report and Compton Archery Group Camping rates as presented. Mr. Roudebush seconded this motion.

Yea: Mr. Andrews; Mr. Roudebush; Ms. Pauker; Ms. Peterson; Mr. McCauley; Mr. Clover.

Nay: None.

Motion carries.

F.) Committee Reports:

None.

G.) Foundation Update:

Director Stice stated that there are three projects at Coxhall Gardens that need funding, and that these projects have been on hold during the establishment of the Department's new 501(C)3.

Director Stice stated that the first project entails renovations to the front entry circle landscaping at Coxhall Manson, the second project is the cleaning of the bell towers by T. Verdin Legacy Bellworks, and the final project is the completion of renovations at the Williams House. He added that the Department received a \$7,000 grant from the Carmel Historic Preservation Commission in 2025 towards this project.

Director Stice stated that in total, the Department is requesting authorization to utilize \$65,000 from the Cox Fund to complete the listed projects, as well as authorization for an additional appropriation request of \$7,000.

Mr. Andrews spoke of past positive experiences working with T. Verdin.

Director Stice stated that the landscaping and Williams House renovation projects would be completed by Department staff.

Mr. McCauley made a motion to authorize Director Stice to request the Hamilton County Community Foundation for \$65,000 of the Jesse Cox Funds for the three stated projects, and request \$7,000 in additional appropriations from the Hamilton County Council, for total project costs of \$72,000. Mr. Clover seconded this motion.

Yea: Mr. Andrews; Mr. Roudebush; Ms. Pauker; Ms. Peterson; Mr. McCauley; Mr. Clover.

Nay: None.

Motion carries.

H.) Old Business:

1.) Coxhall Gardens Time Travelers History Ball

Director Stice stated Erica Foreman, the Department's Resource Development Specialist, is present virtually to discuss the upcoming Coxhall Gardens' Time Travelers Ball.

Ms. Foreman stated that members of her Hamilton County Leadership Academy class are in attendance virtually.

Ms. Foreman stated that the Department has an upcoming fundraising event: the Time Travelers History Ball. She added that tickets are \$125 per person.

Ms. Foreman stated that she has created a tool kit for Board members to use to spread the word about the event. She explained that this tool kit includes a customizable e-mail template, a physical card with details of the event, and a social media post.

Mr. Andrews stated that he saw a flyer for the event and thought it looked great.

Ms. Foreman stated that the event has been advertised in the Department's Chatterbox newsletter, and that a press release will be released soon detailing the event.

Ms. Foreman stated that she would appreciate it if the Board members could reach out to connections they think may be interested in attending this event.

Mr. Andrews stated that he believes that he will be attending the event with his wife.

2.) 5-Year Master Plan Recommendation

Director Stice stated that the Department received proposals to complete its 2027-2031 master plan from 4 different entities.

Director Stice stated that all the proposals received were in budget, and that they were reviewed and scored by an internal staff committee.

Director Stice stated that based on this review, he is recommending that Mader Design be selected to complete the Department's 5-year master plan. He added that Mader Design has worked extensively with the Department in the past and has also completed master plans for other parks departments in the area.

Mr. Roudebush made a motion to select Mader Design to complete the Department's 2027-2031 master plan. Ms. Pauker seconded this motion.

Yea: Mr. Andrews; Mr. Roudebush; Ms. Pauker; Ms. Peterson; Mr. McCauley; Mr. Clover.

Nay: None.

Motion carries.

3.) Acorn Farm Master Plan Recommendation

Director Stice stated that the Department received proposals to complete its Acorn Farm master plan from 4 different entities. He stated that these proposals went through the same internal review process as the 5-year master plan proposals, and that based on the review, he is recommending J2 Design Studio (with Zec Eight Insights) to complete the Acorn Farm master plan.

Director Stice stated that J2 Design Studio are the best fit for the specific circumstances pertaining to Acorn Farm's future. He added that Zec Eight Insights completed the 5-year master plan the Department is currently operating under.

Mr. McCauley made a motion to select J2 Design Studio (with Zec Eight Insights) to complete the Acorn Farm master plan. Ms. Pauker seconded this motion.

Yea: Mr. Andrews; Mr. Roudebush; Ms. Pauker; Ms. Peterson; Mr. McCauley; Mr. Clover.

Nay: None.

Motion carries.

4.) Strawtown Koteewi Park Indoor Archery Facility Funding Update

Director Stice stated that he has requested an additional appropriation from the Hamilton County Council. He added that the county has recently updated its approval process and now requires capital project funding requests to go through the Finance and Major Projects committees before reaching the council itself.

Director Stice stated that he previously presented the Department's capital projects to these committees, so most members are already familiar with them, though new committee staff will need to be brought up to speed. He added that he is scheduled to meet with the Finance and Major Projects committee the following morning at 10:00 a.m.

Director Stice stated that the Department has received an updated agreement for an additional \$1.2 million dollars of reimbursement from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). He added that the Department has enough funds available through appropriations to fund the entirety of the project.

Director Stice stated that the Department may not receive the full remainder of funds awarded through IDNR's 3rd-party shooting range grant. He added that discussions are ongoing regarding possible options to receive as much of this funding as possible.

5.) Williams House Status and Upcoming Projects

Director Stice stated that the board packet has images and renderings of the ongoing projects at Coxhall Gardens. He added that the board approved the funding request necessary to complete these projects earlier in the meeting.

6.) Penny Policy

Director Stice stated that the Federal government is no longer producing the penny, and as such the Department is part of ongoing conversations with the rest of the county to ensure a countywide agreement on the issue. He added that the Department will formally present a policy pertaining to pennies to the Board once a countywide consensus is reached.

7.) Bur Oak Bend Trails, Coxhall Gardens Centerpiece, Seven Streams, and Geist Park BOT Scoping

Director Stice stated that the Bur Oak and Coxhall BOTs are being completed by Smock Fansler Corporation, and the Seven Streams and Geist BOTs are being completed by Fredericks, Inc. He added that in speaking with both companies, there will be no fees accrued during the scoping phases.

Director Stice stated that he is seeking approval for these four scoping BOTs, pending legal review and edits.

Ms. Pauker made a motion to approve the Bur Oak Bend Trails, Coxhall Gardens Centerpiece, Seven Streams, and Geist Park BOT agreements, pending legal review and edits. Mr. McCauley seconded this motion.

Yea: Mr. Andrews; Mr. Roudebush; Ms. Pauker; Ms. Peterson; Mr. McCauley; Mr. Clover.

Nay: None.

Motion carries.

8.) Project Updates

Director Stice read the project updates.

Potter's Bridge – Bathroom mural painting will begin later this year.

Bray Family Homestead – The lean-to structure to store remaining steel from the Bell Ford Bridge is under construction.

Geist Park – Scoping of the lighting and security system for the Bell Ford Bridge is ongoing.

Cool Creek Nature Center – Bathroom renovations have begun.

Prather Park – Additional exercise equipment has been purchased with grant funding; installation of this equipment is contingent on favorable weather conditions.

Koteewi Archery – The Department is awaiting an additional appropriation from the Hamilton County Council to bring the project's available funding up to the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) established by BW Construction under the BOT agreement.

Seven Streams – Paving of the parking lot will be completed by May.

White River Greenway Trail Paving – Paving will begin at Potter's Bridge and head west along the tree line. Work will begin as soon as weather permits.

Morse Beach – Work on the exterior of the Osprey Pointe Pavilion is ongoing.

Director Stice stated that the Department was able to renegotiate the contract with the Friends of Central Pool, which operates the beach at Morse Park. He stated that the original terms of the agreement included a starting annual payment of \$18,000 with a 3.5% annual increase to cover part-time wages.

Director Stice stated that through discussions with the Friends of Central Pool, the Department was able to reduce the starting annual payment from \$18,000 to \$16,000, with the same 3.5% annual increase.

Director Stice added that the original agreement also included a \$2,500 annual maintenance investment requirement. He stated that the Department negotiated to remove this provision from the agreement, noting that the Department already maintains the facility and has invested approximately \$6,000 in recent improvements, including the replacement of shade curtains. He added that while the Department is no longer legally bound to the \$2,500 annual requirement, it will continue to ensure the facility is properly maintained.

I.) New Business:

None.

J.) Director's Report:

None.

K.) Deputy Director's Report:

None.

L.) Additions and Announcements:

None.

M.) Adjournment:

Mr. Roudebush made a motion to adjourn. Mr. McCauley seconded this motion. Hamilton County Parks and Recreation's March 16th, 2025, Board meeting is adjourned at 6:26PM.

Hamilton County Parks & Recreation Board

/S/ Stephen Andrews
Stephen Andrews, President

/S/ Mark McCauley
Mark McCauley, Secretary

Date: 3/16/26

Appointing Authority Disclosure

Appointing Bodies, Representatives, and Terms

Board of Commissioners	
• Larry Roudebush	1/1/2023 – 1/1/2027
County Council	
• Stephen Andrews	1/1/2023 – 1/1/2027
• Tom Clover	1/1/2025 – 1/1/2029
Circuit Court Judge	
• Dr. Judith Campbell	1/1/2024 – 1/1/2028
• Robyn Pauker	1/1/2026 – 1/1/2030
Soil and Water Conservation District Board	
• Mark McCauley	1/1/2026 – 1/1/2027
County Extension Board	
• Susan Peterson	1/1/2026 – 1/1/2027

Americans with Disabilities Act Notice: Hamilton County is committed to ensuring accessibility for individuals with disabilities. To request a reasonable accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services for a public meeting, please

contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator in the Legal Department – Governance, Risk, and Compliance Division at (317) 770-1976 at least two (2) business days in advance.