

(These minutes are not approved until the next Commission meeting.)

**City of West Branch Park & Recreation Commission Meeting**  
*October 20, 2016*  
*West Branch City Council Chambers, 110 North Poplar Street*

Commission Chair, Shane Staker opened the regular meeting of the Park & Recreation Commission at 6:30 p.m. welcoming the audience, Commission Members Beth Noe, Angie Miller, Douglas Klein, Mike Fryauf, and Nick Goodweiler were present. Commission member Liz Seydel was absent. Park and Recreation Director Melissa Russell was present. In the audience were City Administrator Matt Muckler, Mayor Roger Laughlin and Nate Kass of Fehr Graham.

**Approve minutes from the June 16, 2016 Park & Recreation Commission Meeting.**

Motion by Miller with second by Goodweiler to approve minutes. Motion passed by voice vote.

**Open Forum comments:**

**Director Melissa Russell – West Branch Phase 1 Park Space Updates**

Playground at Wapsi is completed. The center pole at Berenek Park still needs to be replaced. Alliant will not be able to replace the pole. The estimate from Dan Haub from Oasis Electric will be about \$2200.

Director Russell is waiting to send the extra lights ordered for Beranek until the lights are installed.

Restroom is scheduled to arrive at Lions Field on November 15, 2016.

Commissioner Klein questioned the Lions Field creek restoration project and the funding. Funding for the Lions Field Creek Restoration is not part of the LOST funding. Nate Kass of Fehr Graham addressed future coordination at with HBK regarding creek restoration. City Administrator Matt Muckler addressed the funding. Lions Field Creek restoration will be funded by the Storm Water Utility. Scope of the project area is larger than originally known. Main concern is to decrease erosion on the creek. Residents will be required to move sheds and fences. Commissioner Klein questioned whether this is managed as one project or separate projects (Pedersen Park Space, Lions Field, and NPS). He expressed the need to communicate. Muckler agreed that coordination is essential between the entities.

Staker questioned other culverts. IDOT cleared culverts south of town several years ago, and they still look to be in good shape.

**Director Melissa Russell—Park Space at Pedersen Valley Discussion**

Nate Kass discussed the concept drawing. Drawing 1 is closest to the original concept plan. Gates would be placed in Center Field and Left Field so pipeline can access the field. Klein questioned responsibility in the pipeline identifying their pipelines. Kass pointed out that the youth field and adult field locations were swapped. Earthwork is less than the anticipated but still around ¾ million dollars in earthwork. Much of the dirt would need to be trucked in. Soil borings were taken. No concerns with

the soil. Future road will be a challenge due to its proximity to the water way. Volume studies have not been done in regards to the creek. The improvements made will not make flooding downstream worse.

Option 2- Soil would not need to be trucked in. Staker discussed the purchase of the farm land to the north. He felt purchasing the land, even at \$40,000 an acre would still be a cost savings. Goodweiler voiced his concern. Once land is purchased for \$40,000 an acre, that will be the going rate for land. Goodweiler suggested making the third field a "temporary field" and when a pool is ready to be built, the "temporary field" gets removed for the pool. Muckler restated the importance of the swimming pool. Any concept of the new park needs to have a pool option. Multiple concerns were brought up by Commissioner Klein regarding the creek. Kass will continue to research, but the drawings that have been presented are preliminary concepts.

A joint meeting with the West Branch City Council and the Park and Recreation Commission meeting will be scheduled to discuss which design to proceed with.

#### **Director Melissa Russell – Halloween Event Discussion**

Director Russell will ask for volunteers at the High School.

#### **Director Melissa Russell –**

Director Russell mentioned that the Beranek Parking lot will not be funded in the general fund. The project is on hold until funding is available.

#### **Adjourn**

Fryauf moved to adjourn, seconded by Miller, carried on a voice vote. Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.