



## **TIMELINE**

### **Parks Board Issues with ITM**

**December 20, 2017**

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The Noblesville Parks Board has struggled with the Indiana Transportation Museum over the several decades ITM has leased its ground within Forest Park. While many face-to-face interactions have taken place about cleaning up the property, the following highlights were taken from official Parks Board minutes dating back to the 1990s. These highlights shed light on the ITM's inability to follow through on much needed improvements.

- 2/19/1998: Park Board requested cleanup of property of ITM and established deadline. If not completed Park would do the work and bill the museum.
- 3/9/1998: ITM requests extension of 90 days for cleanup deadline. ITM also had a \$220,000 loan from Port Authority and an additional \$50,000 loan for operating expenses. Board questioned the benefit to keeping the rails. ITM was asked to Pare down the inventory and also requested extension for 8<sup>th</sup> street cleanup.
- 7/23/1998: ITM is still trying to move cars to scrap them from 8<sup>th</sup> street, but improvements made.
- 9/24/1998: ITM hoped to clean up bridge over White River. Operational loans paid off.
- 10/22/1998: ITM still had not gotten area cleaned up.
- 11/19/1998: No updates, but would come to December meeting to address. ITM failed to appear at the Park Board until March 1, 1999 in which they discussed some improvements made such as removing two cars, etc.
- 9/6/1999: Board requested ITM appear at next meeting.
- 9/23/1999: Board told ITM they needed an updated contract by the end of the year and also to clean up the old cars at the north end of the park in preparation for a trail to be installed.
- 11/18/1999: Discussion of old equipment on SR 19 and by the ball fields that still look bad. Contract also discussed and ITM would work on it with Park Director in the near future.
- 5/1/2000: Discussed the need to remove some rolling stock because they have too much of it. ITM stated they wanted to improve their situation and how they can look better to the public and how they can look better within the park.
- 4/2/2001: Board reported they had received complaints about the cars at the north end of the park by the new trail. Were supposed to move them in 1999, two years prior, but never did.
- 12/2/2001: Concerns of noise from ITM neighbors about train engine running all night and disturbing sleep of the neighbors for a week and a half.

- 7/8/2003: Park Board again asks for the museum to clean up their grounds.
- 2/7/2005: Board again asks ITM to clean up and questioned their housekeeping.
- 3/7/2005: Park Director met with ITM and said he didn't believe city would support funding a grant from Feds due to the appearance of the facility. Director told them it was time to quit moving stuff around, but to put it in a dumpster and haul it away. Park Board would provide the dumpster. Piles had been there for decades and was time to go, but the ITM Chairman didn't know what belonged to who on the property. Pat Reed requested an inspection in June or July with two options: clean it up or be evicted.
- 4/11/2005: ITM showed some progress, but was asked to continue cleanup.
- 5/2/2005: ITM was supposed to provide Park Director with some updates, but he did not.
- 9/6/2005: ITM inspection scheduled for next meeting. Also reported by the board that the derelict train cars that had been previously removed had been moved back to the property.
- 10/2/2006: ITM report moved to next meeting.
- 11/6/2006: ITM to be discussed at Park Board retreat in February, however no minutes from this Board retreat exist.
- 8/6/2007: Board asked for a report in writing from ITM since they haven't heard anything since the board retreat in February.
- 11/5/2007: A new lease with Benchmarks was being worked on. ITM was asked to have it back in December so it could be formalized in January. No contract was provided in December or January as requested.
- 2/4/2008: Proposed contract reviewed by staff, but due to ITM's failure to provide board with information such as its strategic business plan, collections policy and inventory, the contract was not ready. This information was requested 14 months ago. Board president told ITM to clean it up or get off the property.
- 3/3/2008: Board appointed a member to transportation committee.
- 7/7/2008: Board member to attend ITM meeting to discuss cleanup.
- 8/4/2008: ITM concerned with not having a contract, but they have yet to provide the information requested 20 months ago. Pat Reed, Park Board Member, attended the ITM meeting and reported that they appeared to just keep moving junk around. Park Board asked ITM to tag anything they wanted to keep and trash the rest.
- 12/1/2008: Lease was presented with increased insurance requirement.
- 8/6/2012: More dumpsters were provided by the Park Board for ITM cleanup.
- 2/4/2015: Better job with appearance, and a new lease was signed. ITM wanted to come back to Board to coordinate calendars but has yet to do so.

**The time has come to embrace a new operator for the Nickel Plate Railroad – and to give them the chance to show our community what a truly valuable, clean and safe railroad experience within Forest Park can be for residents and visitors alike.**