



*Johnson County Parks & Recreation Department will develop, operate and maintain parks that enrich the quality of life for residents and visitors alike, and preserve greenspace for future generations.*

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
**Johnson County Park Board of Directors**  
**Johnson County Park Department**  
Thursday, August 8, 2025

The regular meeting of the Johnson County Park Board was opened at 6:00p.m. by Park Board President, Gary Cooper. Dannette Morgan, Penny Lee, Dan Cartwright, Jeri Thompson and Mike Weaver were also in attendance. Park staff and audience in attendance: Kevin Leonard, Superintendent; Brad Wiser, Assistant Superintendent; Christy Howe, Recreation Director; John Young, Park Board Attorney; Mike Dawson, Indiana Dressage Society; Ben Cockrum, Indiana Live Steamers and Brad Meyer.

**Roll call was taken of those in attendance.**

**Dannette Morgan moved and Jeri Thompson seconded that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**Jeri Thompson moved and Mike Weaver seconded that the July 3, 2025 minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

Claims for August were presented for approval. **Dannette Morgan moved and Mike Weaver seconded to approve the August claims, as presented for \$58,779.23. Motion carried.**

**Legal Report:**

- John Young informed the Board that term limits for members will now be added to the agenda to meet new Indiana statutes.

**Christy Howe's Recreation Director Report:**

- Christmas in July was cancelled due to chance of storms. Christy still was able to have some games and activities for people camping that weekend.
- RecFest was slow but steady. The weather was very hot during the event. The zipline seemed to be everyone's favorite activity at the event.
- The Ice Cream Social event at Independence Park was cancelled but will be rescheduled.
- Christy and Kevin went to Fox59 on Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup> to promote events for the Park. It will air on August 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Penny Lee recommended the Park start keeping track of weather during events to measure the effect it has on attendance. John Young recommended asking the CVT Board to assist with tracking people during Park events.

**Brad Wiser's Assistant Superintendent Report:**

- The Horse Park hosted six events in July and they all went well. August also has six events. IEA was the first show for August. IEA usually has large events and grew this year from 2024.
- Brad met with IEA Board members during the event to discuss volunteer efforts and maintenance of the Cross Country Course. IEA agreed to have more of their members volunteer for maintenance of the course. The focus being a few weeks before each event and immediately after each event. The hope is that equestrian cross country events will continue to get larger with better maintenance of the course and footing.
- Brad asked for the Board approval to move forward with a quote from Midwest Rancher for the price of \$13,258.03. The quote is to add heavy duty corral panels on the exterior of Baker arena to accommodate the growing number of request for rodeo shows and to help protect Baker Arena footing during those events. The price reflects a 10% discount given by the company in exchange for hanging one of their banners on the panels. There was discussion amongst the Board. **Jeri Thompson moved and Penny Lee seconded the approval of the Midwest Ranchers quote for the amount of \$1,328.03. Motion carried.**



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- Brad and Kevin met with Prince's Lakes Water Department this week to discuss the sewer cost at the Horse Park. They will no longer be charging sewer from the main meter but instead will read individual meters located in each restroom utility room. This should dramatically lower sewer cost considering how much water is used outside of the restroom facilities.

#### **Kevin Leonard's Superintendent Report:**

- On July 11<sup>th</sup>, volunteers from Mibor Realty Association came to do some work at the Park. On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, JC REMC will be coming to volunteer at Independence Park.
- The Eagle Scout project will be taking place soon at Independence Park. Sam has begun to build the benches and should have them completed soon. Kevin and Brad met him at Independence to discuss locations of the benches.
- Kevin asked for Board approval to spend up to \$30,000 on a used tractor for the Park. Brad and Kevin have been looking into them to help with the growing need for them at the Horse Park and for general grounds maintenance. The funds would come from 1179 miscellaneous equipment. **Dan Cartwright moved and Jeri Thompson seconded for the Park to move forward with the purchase of a used tractor for no more than \$30,000. Motion carried.**
- Kevin informed the Board that they are looking at leasing another skid steer. This will come out of the 1157 equipment lease line.
- Kevin presented the Park's submitted 2026 budget to the Board. Kevin informed them that not too many changes were made. There was lots of discussion amongst the Board. Dan Cartwright requested to see the budgets sooner. Kevin stated he would do that and would send them out as soon as possible. **Dan Cartwright moved and Jeri Thompson seconded the approval of the submitted 2026 budget. Motion carried.**
- The board discussed the possibility of having an ATM in the Park.
- Kevin informed the Board that he was contacted by Brad Meyer to have an ICE protest. Kevin gave him all the proper paperwork for hosting a special event at the Park. Brad Meyer turned all necessary documents in and answered all of the Parks questions. The event will be held on August 24<sup>th</sup> from 2p.m. to 4p.m. Brad will be here before and after the event for set up and clean up afterwards. The Commissioners have all of the information as well and have no concerns. Kevin requested the Board approval for the event. There was several questions posed by the Board and lots of discussion. **Dannette Morgan moved and Penny Lee seconded the approval of the event. Dan Cartwright and Jeri Thompson voted no. Motion carried.**

#### **Presidents Report**

- Nothing to report.

#### **From the Floor and More:**

- Dan Cartwright discussed the proposal from Crossroad Engineers for the gazebo project at Independence Park. The Board discussed options on what to do with the gazebo.
- Penny Lee recommended looking into grants for Native Flowers for the Park.

**Penny Lee moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:42 p.m. Motion carried.**

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Penny Lee, Secretary