



*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, December 4, 2025

The regular meeting of the Johnson County Park Board was opened at 6:00p.m. by Park Board Vice President, Dannette Morgan. Penny Lee, Dan Cartwright, Mike Weaver, and Jeri Thompson 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; and Peggy Racke, Indiana Live Steamers.

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

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

**Dannette Morgan moved and Jeri Thompson seconded that the November 6, 2025 minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

Claims for December were presented for approval. **Jeri Thompson moved and Dan Cartwright seconded to approve the December claims, as presented for \$51,473.81. Motion carried.**

**Legal Report:**

- John informed the Board that the Convention, Visitor, & Tourism Board would like him to move forward with trying to get legislation passed to help the Gatling Gauntlet open. John stated that Commissioner Baird was interested in re-opening the course and said the County Attorney could help with the endeavor.
- John discussed his contract renewal with the Board and stated there was no changes in the contract from the previous year. The Board decided to wait until the January Board meeting to review the contract.
- The Board discussed the timeline of the Gatling Gauntlet and how long they should keep pursuing to re-open it. The Board discussed how the event planning was going.

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

- Christy said IPRA went well and she is looking forward to attending next year.
- Meijer and Dehart Tree Farm will be donating trees next week.
- Christy is continuing to work on set up, volunteers, donations, skating, and stall decorations for Deck the Stalls.
- Belight World LLC will finish putting lights up at the Horse Park on Sunday. The lights they have already installed look really nice.
- White River Broadcasting will be promoting the Deck the Stalls event.
- Christy gave Merry Prairie Passports to the Board and explained how they work. The Park donated skating tickets and is listed as a participating business.
- Christy asked the Board for permission to pursue a gaming license for 50/50 raffle tickets. **Dan Cartwright moved and Jeri Thompson seconded the approval of pursuing a gaming license. Motion carried.**
- MidWest Festival would like Johnson County Park to be its home base and continue to have the Renaissance Faire at the Park. They would also like to have a storage unit on the grounds to store items between events. The Board discussed details, and the best way to move forward with this. The Board agreed that staff should discuss contract guidelines with MidWest and present the terms at the next Board meeting.
- Dan Cartwright confirmed event dates and details for Deck the Stalls.

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

- The last three shows at the Horse Park had to be cancelled due to organizations pulling sanctions. This happened in many states due to a horse virus that was detected at a show in Oklahoma at the beginning of November. The steps were taken to prevent other horses from catching the virus.



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- Brad gave the Board an updated 2025 invoice spreadsheet. This included numbers dating back to 2019. Brad explained how there was large growth from the 2022 year through the 2023 year, and have had a gradual increase since. The 2025 season was on a good track prior to the unforeseen cancellation of shows in November. Brad informed the Board he has a goal to improve these numbers by 10% to 15% in 2026.
- Brad gave the Board an updated 2026 Horse Park schedule and informed the Board that the schedule is on track to being full, and having a good season.
- We have been looking into extending the road on the North side of the full hook-up sites. Brad shared a quote to give them an idea of what the project would cost. Brad stated he would continue getting at least three quotes. There was discussion amongst the Board and they were ultimately in favor of the project and pursuing more quotes.
- Brad updated the Board on the RC Flyers parking lot expansion project. Weddle Excavating plans to start the project on or after the 15<sup>th</sup> of December.
- Brad and Kevin are continuing discussion on where to have the ATM installed and plan to have it in the office before the 2026 camping season starts.
- Brad asked John Young if he could review a facility agreement contract and an insurance form from the Bureau of Land Management. They will be hosting an event at the Park in 2026 and require their own forms to be signed.

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

- Kevin opened bids for the gazebo project. White Oak Construction gave a base quote of \$135,021.00 and their alternate price was \$9,315.00. Duke Commercial gave a base quote of \$95,750.00 and their alternate price was \$30,000. John Young went over next steps with the Board on the project. Dan stated that the quotes would be reviewed by himself and Wes Harrison. Dan will make a recommendation to the Board at the January Board meeting. There was discussion on how to move forward with payment and which account to pull from. The Board decided to make this decision at the January or February meeting.
- Kevin asked the Board for approval to pay any utilities or other bills that may come in before the end of the month. Kevin informed them this is done every December. **Jeri Thompson moved and Mike Weaver seconded the approval to pay any bills the Park receives in December. Motion carried.**
- The County Council plans to make their appointments on the 8<sup>th</sup> for the Park Board and the County Commissioners will be making theirs on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Kevin asked if the Board wished to move the January Board meeting back to January 8<sup>th</sup>. **Jeri Thompson moved and Dan Cartwright seconded to move the January Board meeting to the 8<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried.**
- Kevin and Brad met with an asset management company called OpenGov. Kevin stated that a service of this software may be useful in the future but is very expensive and not necessary yet. There was discussion amongst the Board.
- Kevin informed the Board of a gas line that was hit by Park staff earlier in the week while repairing a water line. Staff has been thoroughly reminded of being careful and to always call 811.
- Dan clarified landscaping and bollard details for gazebo project at Independence Park.

#### **President's Report**

- Nothing to report.

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

- Penny Lee stated the Park staff had a great year. The Board thanked each other for the work done in 2025.

**Jeri Thompson moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:21 p.m. Motion carried.**

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Penny Lee, Secretary

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