



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.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Johnson County Park Board of Directors
Johnson County Park Department
Thursday, May 7, 2026

- A.** The regular meeting of the Johnson County Park Board was opened at 6:00p.m. by Park Board President, Dan Cartwright. Gary Cooper, Penny Lee, Scott Jamieson, and Jeri Thompson were also in attendance. Park staff in attendance: Kevin Leonard, Superintendent; Brad Wiser, Assistant Superintendent; Christy Howe, Recreation Director; and John Young, Park Attorney.
- B. Roll call: Kevin Leonard took roll call of those in attendance.**
- C. Minutes: Jeri Thompson moved and Gary Cooper seconded that April 2, 2026 minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.**
- D. Legal Report: John Young**
- John and Brad informed the Board of an individual who was asked not to attend any Park or Horse Park events while being charged with crimes that would lead to being on the sex offender registry list. John detailed that the Park has full authority to trespass people and recommended a Board motion to have a policy. The Board discussed the situation. **Gary Cooper Moved and Jeri Thompson seconded that the Park not allow any individual who is charged with crimes that, if convicted, would put the person on the sex offender registry list. Motion carried.**
- E. Other Business: From Floor**
- Ben Cockram with Indiana Live Steamers asked if the group could do a raffle at one of their events. John explained the rules on requiring a gaming license and told the group they should be able to obtain a license and have a raffle.
- F. Financial Report: Kevin Leonard, Scott Jamieson, and Dan Cartwright**
- Kevin presented the claims for May. **Jeri Thompson moved and Gary Cooper seconded to approve the claims in the amount of \$440,085.22. Motion carried.**
 - Kevin presented the Report of Collections to the Board. Kevin confirmed that \$10,000 had been deducted from Duke Commercial's invoice for the Independence Park gazebo project in exchange for naming rights.
 - The Board discussed the account balances of the Park.
- G. Campground Report: Brad Wiser and Jeri Thompson**
- Brad informed the Board that the new shelter is complete. The Park will be replacing water lines in the area in the fall.
 - It is still planned to add a golf cart trail to the Park. The staff still needs to add proper signage and update park policies before it is official.
 - The Board discussed adding lights to the shelters and having scheduled electrical panel inspections.
- H. Hoosier Horse Park: Brad Wiser and Gary Cooper**
- April had 5 shows, and all of them went well. The National Drive went smoothly and had great weather. There were several comments on how well the Park looked.
 - May has 10 horse shows scheduled. Four of these shows took place last weekend. The staff did well handling all the shows at the same time.
 - This coming weekend is Barrels for Badges. This show sells out all campsites and horse stalls.
 - IEA is at the end of the month. This is a very large show that utilizes several different parts of the Park.
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- The Aggravator attachment was delivered this morning. The Horse Park has received \$9,500 in donations to help replenish the funds used for the purchase.
- Brad and Gary informed the Board that the 5-year plan meeting went well for the Horse Park. They discussed having set hours to train individuals who are helping profile arenas. Gary informed the Board that footing improvements was one of the main topics brought up during the meeting. Gary stated the expense is high for improvements, but the return is also high.

I. Independence Park: Kevin Leonard, Brad Wiser and Penny Lee

- Dan Cartwright stated that Independence Park looks good.
- Brad informed the Board that the gazebo, landscaping, and trail are all complete. The Park maintenance staff has been very busy making improvements to the Park such as landscaping, planting trees, replacing picnic tables, replacing parking bumpers and more. Brad stated that Independence Park should be back to more routine maintenance items since all the projects have been completed.
- Kevin informed the Board that the posts for the gazebo are being wrapped to match the same material as the ceiling.

J. Programs: Christy Howe and Jeri Thompson

- Christy went over details she is working on for the Independence Park Re-dedication Ceremony. There was a lot of discussion amongst the Board on the event.
- The Military Appreciation Day event has moved to September 12th. There was discussion about details of the event.
- The Board discussed marketing options for the Park. Penny Lee recommended having large poster boards for events to advertise for future events. Dan Cartwright discussed the need for a marketing employee. Gary Cooper recommended utilizing Chat GPT when it is an option.
- The Golf Cart 500 is scheduled for May 16th.
- Currently the Park has received \$660 in sponsorships and \$3,000 in vendor fees in 2026.
- Festival Country awarded the Park \$7,500 for the 1-day skating rink fee for Deck the Stalls.
- There are 25 vintage campers attending the Vintage Camper Rally event. The camping fees for the event add up to \$4,044.60.
- Scott Jamieson recommended the Park do a music bingo event because it does not require a gaming license.
- Christy asked the Board to approve a request from Mike Amos to keep a storage container at the Maintenance area to hold material for the Renaissance faire. **Scott Jamieson moved and Penny Lee seconded to approve Mike Amos storage a container at the Park. Motion carried.**
- There was a lot of discussion amongst the Board on volunteers.

K. Capital Improvements: Kevin Leonard, Brad Wiser, and Dan Cartwright

- Brad presented numbers and information on what it would cost the Park to install a dog park. The Board discussed holding off for now with the possibility of adding one later.
- The dock at the lake is in the process of being manufactured.
- Kevin informed the Board that the contracts have been signed for the new sports complex and construction will hopefully happen in July.
- The Board and staff discussed the possibility of the new banquet hall.
- The kayak rental contract has been signed and should be installed by mid-summer.



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L. Superintendent Report: Kevin Leonard

- Kevin provided, at the Board's request, a list of items he could have pre-approval of, rather than needing Board Approval at every request. **Jeri Thompson moved and Scott Jamieson seconded to Kevin authority to give refunds at his discretion. Motion carried.**
- Kevin informed the Board that he has been working with Blair from Soil & Water District to schedule Invasive Species Strike Team dates.
- Kevin discussed the 5-year plan stakeholder meetings with the Board and plans to have a formal 5-year plan ready at the June Board meeting.
- Kevin asked for approval to work with an organization wanting to host an event at Independence Park. The organization is requesting shelters and possibly a bounce house. **Gary Cooper moved and Jeri Thompson seconded to approve giving Kevin Leonard authority to coordinate the event with the group and approve the event, pending legal. Motion carried.**

M. President's Report: Dan Cartwright

- Dan shared with the Board a layout for cabins around the lake. He informed them that it is estimated to be two million dollars to prepare all the infrastructure. Dan requested the Board adopt the plan at the next Board meeting in June.
- Dan presented an architectural design for the Amphitheater. Dan recommended the Board approve moving forward with MS Consulting to put together a conceptual design and infrastructure plan in the amount of \$26,160. **Gary Cooper moved and Scott Jamieson seconded moving forward with MS Consulting for \$26,160. Motion carried.**

Gary Cooper moved the meeting to be adjourned at 8:26 p.m. Motion carried.

Penny Lee, Secretary