



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, January 4, 2024

The regular meeting of the Johnson County Park Board was opened at 6:00p.m by Park Board Attorney, John Young. Michael List, Mike Weaver, Dannette Morgan and Gary Cooper were also in attendance. Park staff and audience in attendance: Kevin Leonard, Superintendent; Brad Wisner, Assistant Superintendent; Christy Howe, Recreation Director; Peggy Racke, Indiana Live Steamers; and George Produkin, Tuesday AA Group. **Roll call was taken of those in attendance.**

The Board decided to table the election of a new Park Board President.

Park Board President, Michael List designated Gary Cooper as interim Secretary.

Dannette Morgan moved and Gary Cooper seconded that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Dannette Morgan moved and Mike Weaver seconded that the December 7, 2023 minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Claims for January were presented for approval. **Gary Cooper moved and Dannette Morgan seconded to approve the January claims, as presented for \$13,115.65. Motion carried.**

John Young's Legal Report:

- John discussed the process the Park needs to take to pursue bids for a new playground in the shelter area and for expanding the current campground playground.
- John informed the Board that Purdue Extension could appoint either an extension agent, or a current member of the Purdue Extension Board to the Park Board.
- State Representative Michelle Davis is working on potential immunity law bill to help open the Gatling Gauntlet. A bill cannot be approved until the fall of 2024.

Christy Howe's Recreation Director Report:

- Christy hosted a First Day Hike at the Park on New Year's Day. The event had a good turnout with fifteen people attending.
- There is currently 27 campsites reserved for the weekend of the eclipse.
- The Vintage Camper Rally has 25 vintage campers registered and 32 campers.
- The musician who performed at the Bingo Event in 2023 requested to perform at the 2024 Bingo Event.
- Christy asked for the Board's approval to use Ramsey Pyro for the fireworks at Sparks in the Park. The price for the fireworks increased \$600, making the total \$12,600. She also asked the Board to approve using Big Bounce for the events in 2024. **Mike Weaver moved and Dannette Morgan seconded to approve both companies pending legal review and Commissioners approval. Motion carried.**

Brad Wisner's Assistant Superintendent Report:

- The Horse Park has 37 events confirmed with a contract or deposit. 11 other events are scheduled and should have a contract in soon.
- January 13 will be the first event of the year at the Horse Park. Central Indiana Little Ropers Association is hosting the event. They have four events scheduled between January and April.
- The audio equipment in Baker Arena was installed. The new system is working great and includes touch screen microphones that can control the system.



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- The demo of the brown building next to the office has been completed. Brad and Kevin will be looking into options on the removal or recycling of the leftover concrete material. The goal is to eventually grade the area and use the site for aggregate storage.
- Brad informed the Board he received the easement agreement from Duke for the new electric campsites at the Horse Park. John Young will review the document so it can then be sent to the Commissioners and the Soil and Water Department for signatures.

Kevin Leonard's Superintendent Report:

- The maintenance staff is adding drywall to the Scout Building in place of the old wood panels. The maintenance staff is also working to update the Truck Shed, B Barn, and the old garage.
- Brad and Kevin met with Jeff from A Security Fence to go over the new fence installation where the brown building was demoed. The fence should be installed by the end of January.
- Kevin requested the Board approve an up to amount of \$13,500 for new flooring updates at the Maples, and the Scout Building. Burtons Flooring quoted \$13,494.18. Kevin informed the Board he will be seeking additional quotes before moving forward with any company. **Mike Weaver moved and Dannette Morgan seconded the approval of up to \$13,500 for the purchase of new flooring. Motion carried.**
- Several bond projects have been moving forward. Both campsite projects are almost complete. The Road for the new campsites was widened to 22 ft. Roads were also added to the old side by side sites. All sites will now have their own back in lot.
- Kevin and Brad met with the County and architects about the new office. They hope to have the plan finalized and be sent out for bids by the end of March.
- Kevin updated the Board on the park maps. He has met with a couple companies about updating the maps to include the new campsites and to have a more professional look. Mader Design estimated between \$6,000 and \$7,000 to complete the project. Kevin will keep the Board informed once he has received other prices.
- The user group meeting for 2024 will be on January 18th at 2pm.
- Kevin asked the Board's thoughts on changing the Park's policy on converted campers. The current policy does not allow for converted campers. There was discussion on different options for the policy. Gary Cooper recommended requiring the camper to provide the Title provided by the state showing it has legally been converted.
- Kevin requested the Board to approve allowing the Brazilian Untied Soccer Club to utilize the Park for a camp in the summer. The camp requested space and permission. The club provides all the coaches and equipment and the Park would receive \$10 per registered camper. **Gary Cooper moved and Mike Weaver seconded the approval of the camp. Motion carried.** Kevin said he would present this at the next Commissioner Meeting for their approval also.
- Brad and Kevin will be attending the Indiana Green Expo in Indianapolis on January 18th.
- Kevin requested approval from the Board to close the office to attend the funeral for Jim Kirkham if the time takes place during office hours. **Dannette Morgan moved and Gary Cooper seconded to approve closing the office if needed. Motion carried.**
- Kevin informed the Board that the Park would like to honor Jim Kirkham in some way. Kevin will keep the Board informed on different options.

President's Report:

- Nothing to report.

From the Floor and More:

- George Produkin requested the Board to lower the weekly cost to host AA events at the park. The current policy is all groups approved by the Board pay 25% of the current rate. The current rate for AA is \$30 which is an increase from \$25 in 2023. The Board discussed the matter and decided to not take any action on the request.

Mike Weaver moved the meeting be adjourned at 6:50 p.m. Gary Cooper seconded. Motion carried.

Gary Cooper, Interim Secretary



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