



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, November 6, 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, Mike Weaver, Shalee Bradley, 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; Mike Dawson, President of Indiana Dressage Society; Peggy Racke, Indiana Live Steamers, and Dennis Hoggatt, RC Flyers.

Roll call was taken of those in attendance.

Penny Lee moved and Dan Cartwright seconded that the agenda be approved and to remove the Indiana Live Steamers report from the agenda. Motion carried.

Jeri Thompson moved and Dannette Morgan seconded that the October 2, 2025 minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Claims for November were presented for approval. **Jeri Thompson moved and Mike Weaver seconded to approve the November claims, as presented for \$59,415.16. Motion carried.**

Legal Report:

- John explained to the Board of a land swap option for the old Park office. John explained that when the cell tower was placed on Park property, a land swap was done for the project to be approved by the National Park Service. John explained how the land swap would work and that he had discussed the option with Commissioner Baird and Sheriff Burgess. There was lots of discussion on the topic and how the Board should move forward. The Board decided to have John draft a letter to be send to NPS and to the Sheriff's Department going over the guidelines of the use of the old Park office which will be called the Park Security Building. The Board stated they wanted to review the letter before it is sent.
- John updated the Board on the new gazebo project. John stated he had received formal bid information from Wes Harrison. John said everything in the documents looked good and the only change was changing bids to quotes in the forms. Dan Cartwright also updated the Board with information on the project. **Jeri Thompson moved and Dannette Morgan seconded to approve the Park to move forward in seeking quotes for the new gazebo at Independence and to open the received quotes at the December Board meeting. Motion carried.** Dan verified that all received quotes would be received at the Park Office, date stamped by staff, and given to Kevin or Brad.

Christy Howe's Recreation Director Report:

- Christy thanked Dan Cartwright and Jeri Thompson for their help with previous events.
- The Movie in the Park event at Independence Park went well and had a good turnout. Camp-O-Ween at Johnson County Park had a good amount of people attend and went well.
- Christy attended a trick or treating event at Indiana Creek to pass out candy.
- Carni-Fall went well and lots of candy was passed out. Penny Lee recommended for Christy to contact the Indian Creek PTO to be involved with certain events. Christy said she has reached out to them before and would continue to do so.
- Christy and Brad met with Maverick Lawn Care to seek a quote for installing lighting for the Deck the Stalls event. They will be providing 2 separate quotes, one with us supplying the lights, and one with them supplying the lights.
- Kevin and Christy will be attending the IPRA Conference next week.



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- Meijer will be donating two trees to the Park for the Sparks in the Park event. DeHart Farm will also be donating two trees for the event. Christy stated she is still seeking donations. There was discussion amongst the Board for donation possibilities.
- The first private skate party was booked for the ice skating rink coming to the Park in December.

Brad Wiser's Assistant Superintendent Report:

- October had two events at the Horse Park. The National Drive was the first event of the month and went well. There was a lot of good compliments on how well the facilities and grounds are kept. Dave Sadler, the show organizer, has been great to work with and always gives helpful feedback at the end of their events. The show had a total of 982 stall rentals.
- November has 4 events. In the past there has not been many shows after October so it is good to see the growth at the Horse Park. The first event of November was this past weekend. This was the shows first time being at the Horse Park and many of the contestants had not showed at the Park before. It was good to hear their compliments on how nice the Park is.
- Brad provided the Board with updated invoice numbers. An updated 2026 HHP schedule was also in the packet. The current expectation is 52 events, filling 40 weekends in 2026. Considering the arenas are not heated, December through February will always be a challenge to fill with shows.
- Brad informed the Board on an option to have an ATM at the Park. Brad shared information he received from Cole Phillips on what the benefits would be and what the deal would look like. The Board collectively agreed with the need for an ATM and to have Brad and Kevin work out the details on having an ATM on site.

Kevin Leonard's Superintendent Report:

- The County Commissioners and the Soil and Water District approved the new building project for the Indiana Live Steamers.
- Kevin presented information to the Board about a project the RC Flyers and the Park are looking to achieve together. The drainage around the building has been a concern. The RC Flyers are looking to address the drainage, add two carports, and expand the gravel lot. The Park received a quote from Weddle Excavating for \$10,000 to complete the project. Kevin requested approval to work with the RC Flyers and move forward with the Project. **Jeri Thompson moved and Mike Weaver seconded the approval of the quote and for the Park to work with the RC Flyers on completing the project. Motion carried.**
- Kevin informed the Board that he and Brad are continuing to work with the County Commissioners on future bond projects. We are also looking at a new dock for the lake, a shelter by the lake, a new playground in the shelter area, and the new gazebo at Independence. There was discussion on Park project priorities amongst the Board.
- Kevin asked the Board, considering the Board will be changing in 2026, do they want to move the January meeting from the first week to the second week. **Dannette Morgan moved and Jeri Thompson seconded to move the January Board Meeting from January 8, 2026 to January 15, 2026. Motion Carried.**

Presidents Report

- Gary informed the Board that he will not be able to attend the December Board Meeting. Gary also thanked the Board for serving.

From the Floor and More:

- Peggy Racke asked the Board if the National Parks Service needs to be contacted for their new building. John Young stated they did not need to be notified since it is a recreational building. Peggy also asked who would be responsible for paying Duke for a new transformer. Brad told Peggy to keep him informed and he would be happy to meet with Duke over the location of the transformer and they could discuss payment after meeting with Duke since payment is not always necessary for a transformer.

Shalee Bradley moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:16 p.m. Motion carried.

Penny Lee, Secretary



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