



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, April 4, 2024

The regular meeting of the Johnson County Park Board was opened at 6:03p.m by Park Board President, Michael List. Dannette Morgan, Shalee Bradley, Penny Lee, Mike Weaver and Gary Cooper were also in attendance. Park staff and audience in attendance: Kevin Leonard, Superintendent; Brad Wiser, Assistant Superintendent; Christy Howe, Recreation Director; Dan Goins, Indiana Live Steamers and Hal Bossingham, Columbus Model Railroad. **Roll call was taken of those in attendance.**

Dannette Morgan moved and Mike Weaver seconded that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Dannette Morgan moved and Shalee Bradley seconded that the March 7, 2024 minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Claims for April were presented for approval. **Gary Cooper moved and Mike Weaver seconded to approve the April claims, as presented for \$83,541.41. Motion carried.**

Legal Report:

- John Young informed the Board that he was able to speak with someone from the National Parks Service about the Parks campground expansions and the Indiana Live Steamers contract. They said they would look into locating the contract provided to them for the Indiana Live Steamers and said to keep them informed with the campground plans. They did not seem to have any issues with the office.
- John confirmed with Kevin that there was no issues with political candidates campaigning at the Park and for Church organizations to pass out flyers for their events. John stated organizations had the right to pass information out to people at the park as long as they adhered to the rules of the Park.

Christy Howe's Recreation Director Report:

- The Scrambled Eggs event will be this Saturday at 6 pm. The registration list is full with 150 people. There will be 2,000 eggs hidden for the event.
- All entertainment has been confirmed for the eclipse weekend. Christy was able to obtain two security officers from Alliance Security to work the events. Almost all RV sites have been reserved and 12 tent sites.

Brad Wiser's Assistant Superintendent Report:

- The HVAC system in Dunn was replaced this week. New ductwork was installed to heat and air the entry way of the building.
 - The individual who damaged a Horse Park campsite will be paying the Park back to cover the replacement cost.
 - The new full hookup sites at the main campground are now open for use. Duke was able to complete their work this month. The Horse Park sites are still waiting to have the transformer installed by Duke.
 - This past weekend was the first barrel show of the year. The show had close to 200 horses. The new speaker system seemed to work well with no issues.
 - This coming weekend there will be a Central Indiana Ropers show. The coordinator of the event said they plan to have everyone out early on Sunday to avoid any possible traffic due to the eclipse.
 - The Horse Park has 4 more shows in April followed by 8 shows in June.
 - Brad handed out a spread sheet to the Board members to show how the schedule of the events and numbers that are tracked. There was discussion on what kind of events utilized the Park.
 - Brad informed the Board that the Park is still looking to hire at least one more part-time employee and to let him know if they knew of anyone who may be interested.
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Kevin Leonard's Superintendent Report:

- All the new part-time employees started this month. The Maintenance staff has been busy trying to catch up on mowing after all the rain.
- The DOC crew started this week.
- The Tuesday AA group has found a different location to host their meetings.
- Kevin informed the Board that John Young did not see any issues with Antique Machinery blocking off their drag strip.
- Kevin asked the Boards opinion on requiring Scout groups to pay a damage deposit if they rent facilities. Currently they are not required. There was discussion amongst the Board on the topic. Gary Cooper stated they should table the decision to the May Board meeting.
- Kevin asked the Boards thoughts on how to offer credits for the any cancelations on the eclipse weekend. The pricing is doubled during the event weekend. Kevin stated he thinks it should be based on the number of nights not the price since this was a special event rate. Kevin said the Park could still internally allow people to use the RV credits to rental rooms or shelters. Kevin said he was okay giving RV credits for tent campers since we don't normally allow tent camping. After discussion, the Board decided to give credits based on nights reserved.
- SWCD will be using the Maples building at the Park as a location for trainings on invasive species removal on September 23rd. Kevin asked if the Board would allow him to waive the fee for them to use the space. **Gary Cooper moved and Dannette Morgan seconded waiving the fee for the group. Motion carried.**
- Kevin asked for approval to update the trespass rule for the 2024 season since there are new camp hosts. The Park needs to remove Mike and Stacy Lingenfelter and add Joe and Paula Swift. **Mike Weaver moved and Gary Cooper seconded to update the trespass rule. Motion carried.**
- Kevin has been in discussion with John Young over bid specifications and how to pay for the potential playground project. Kevin stated the Park does not have enough budgeted this year to fund the entire project but has enough budgets to do a lease option. Kevin said the Park has enough in cash balance but prefers not to go that route. Kevin has looked at three different playground installation companies and they all provide finance options. John said if the two playgrounds were separated then they would not need sealed bids. Penny Lee stated she could look into possible grant options later in the summer. No decisions were made on how to move forward. Kevin said he would continue to have discussions with John and look at other options.
- Kevin informed the Board he had the latest drawings for the new office and camp store if they Board wanted to look at them after the meeting.
- Mike Weaver asked how the new Park maps was going. Kevin said there were just a few tweaks to be worked on before they are all complete and he could email the Board the maps to look over.

President's Report:

- Nothing to report.

From the Floor and More:

- Dan Goins introduced himself to the new members of the Park Board
- Hal Bossingham asked if Columbus Model Railroad could screw information signs to the entry door of their room. Brad told Hal he would meet with him for other options and that he prefers not put screws in any doors.
- Hal asked the Board if the Park would be willing to pay for new lights for their show room and for new flooring in their work room if the group took care of the installation. Kevin Leonard stated he would keep an eye on the budget towards the end of the year and if funds were available it may be possible.

Mike Weaver moved the meeting be adjourned at 6:48 p.m. Shalee Bradley seconded. Motion carried.

Gary Cooper, Interim Secretary



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