



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 8, 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, Jeri Thompson and Mike Weaver 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; Hal Bossingham, Columbus Model Railroad; and Peggy Racke, Indiana Live Steamers.

Roll call was taken of those in attendance.

Dan Cartwright moved and Mike Weaver seconded that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Dannette Morgan moved and Jeri Thompson seconded that the April 3, 2025 minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Claims for May were presented for approval. **Jeri Thompson moved and Mike Weaver seconded to approve the April claims, as presented for \$54,759.86. Motion carried.**

Legal Report:

- John informed the Board that the Commissioners did not think the bleacher pad would work due to some drainage issues. The Board discussed other options.
- John confirmed with the Commissioners that the Park has authority over the roads in the Park in regard to ATV and off-road vehicles.
- Filming was done at the Park for a dog series. John reviewed all the legal documents and made sure everything was in order.

Christy Howe's Recreation Director Report:

- The Fox 59 segment went well that Christy and Kevin were on.
- The Vintage Camper Rally went well despite the weather and had a good turnout. Jeri Thompson commented on how well the event went. The Board discussed the possibility of involving the CVT more with Park events.
- Grillers donated \$450 as a sponsor for Park events.
- The Golf Cart 500 will be on May 17th at 3p.m.
- The Pours in the Park event will be held on May 31st. There is currently 7 vendors but Christy is seeking more.
- Christy asked the Board to waive the vendor fee for an Ice Cream Social held at Independence Park on July 19th. The event will be held by Jamie Olson Special Needs Disabilities Community. **Dan Cartwright moved and Jeri Thompson seconded waiving the fee for the event. Motion carried.**
- The Renaissance Fair Will have around 60-70 vendors and requested for vendors to have the option to tent camp at their vendor site. **Dan Cartwright moved and Jeri Thompson seconded allowing the vendors for the Renaissance Fair to tent camp. Motion carried.**
- Christy and the Board discussed Reindeer options for the Park's Christmas event. Silly Safari is one company that Christy has already spoken to.

Brad Wiser's Assistant Superintendent Report:

- The new barns at the Horse Park are complete and being used this weekend. Seed and straw was just applied to the surrounding area. The only part left to complete is the addition of gutters on the adjacent barns to the new ones.



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- April ended up having four instead of five horse shows. One show had to cancel due to weather. Brad is working with the show to find an alternative date. Every other show in April went well.
- May has 7 events at the Horse Park. This weekend is Barrels for Badges. It was one of the larger shows at the Park and has already sold out every stall including the 68 new ones. There is a good possibility this show could host the most horses that has been to the Horse Park in a single weekend.
- Brad and Kevin met with Princess Lakes to discuss options on lowering the minimum water and sewer payments for the Horse Park. A few different options were discussed. The goal is to lower the cost during winter months when the Horse Park is not heavily utilized. Brad will keep the Board informed once a solution is agreed to.

Kevin Leonard's Superintendent Report:

- Everything is getting moved over from the old office to the new one. Brad and Kevin are working on getting everything for the camp store ordered and stocked.
- Davis Electric will be relocating the electric at the Independence Park gazebo so the shelter can be removed. The new basketball goals at Independence will be installed soon as well.
- We have received pricing for paving work on the basketball court and the trail at Independence Park. Kevin will keep the Board informed if we moved forward with the work.
- Kevin and Brad are working on quotes to replace the gazebo and will keep the Board informed once more information is gathered.
- Signs for the new barns were ordered and decals for the new office were installed today. Spotlight Strategies is working on new designs for the main entry signs for the Park and those will be ordered soon.
- A production company contacted the Park for permission to shoot video for a dog series by Purina dog food. John looked over all legal documents and confirmed everything was good for them to film.
- Kevin requested an increase from the \$5,000 spending limit. Kevin explained that with prices going up over the last few years more and more materials and project exceed the \$5,000 limit. The Board had lots of discussion and decided to look more into what the limit should be and make a decision at a later date.

Presidents Report

- Nothing to report.

From the Floor and More:

- Jeri Thompson recommended adding an additional road to the pull-through sites for easier access out.
- Dan Cartwright asked what ideas the Park had for the old office. The Board discussed possibly putting a committee together on the topic.
- Peggy Racke asked if controller motorized boats could be used on Lake Cottonwood. Kevin Leonard confirmed it was okay.
- Peggy Racke presented a gazebo idea that Indiana Live Steamers would like to build. **Jeri Thompson moved and Shalee Bradley seconded the approval of the gazebo design. Motion carried.**
- Peggy Racke requested permission for Indiana Live Steamers to build another building for storing trains. The building would be 40'x22'x6'. The Board requested a site plan for the project before making any decisions.

Jeri Thompson moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:24 p.m. Dan Cartwright seconded. Motion carried.

Penny Lee, Secretary